

**The World Bank**

Adaptation Fund: Increasing Climate Resilience & Enhancing Sustainable Land Management in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province (P125804)

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REPORT NO.: RES33487

RESTRUCTURING PAPER  
ON A  
PROPOSED PROJECT RESTRUCTURING  
OF  
ADAPTATION FUND: INCREASING CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE  
SOUTHWEST OF THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE  
APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2013  
TO  
THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Regional Vice President:	Jorge Familiar
Country Director:	Jesko S. Hentschel
Senior Global Practice Director:	Karin Erika Kemper
Practice Manager/Manager:	Valerie Hickey
Task Team Leader:	Tuuli Johanna Bernardini



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### ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

GoA	Government of Argentina
IP	Implementation Progress
MAYDS	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
PDO	Project Development Objective
OPDS	Provincial Agency for Sustainable Development
PT	Project Team (prior Project Implementation Unit, PIU)
SAYDS	Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development
SGAYDS	Government Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development



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### BASIC DATA

#### Product Information

Project ID P125804	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing
Original EA Category Partial Assessment (B)	Current EA Category Partial Assessment (B)
Approval Date 20-Sep-2013	Current Closing Date 30-Dec-2018

#### Organizations

Borrower The Argentine Republic, Ministry of Treasury	Responsible Agency Government Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development
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#### Financing (in USD Million)

#### SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	3.96
Total Financing	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

#### DETAILS

#### Project Development Objective (PDO)

Original PDO

The PDO is to contribute to reducing climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province by increasing adaptive capacity of key local institutions and actors and piloting and disseminating climate resilient and sustainable land management practices.



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### Summary Status of Financing

TF	Approval	Signing	Effectiveness	Closing	Net		
					Commitment	Disbursed	Undisbursed
TF-15041	18-Mar-2014	18-Mar-2014	27-May-2014	30-Dec-2018	3.96	3.49	.47

### Policy Waiver(s)

Does this restructuring trigger the need for any policy waiver(s)?

No

## I. PROJECT STATUS AND RATIONALE FOR RESTRUCTURING

### A. Project Status

1. The US\$3.96 million Adaptation Fund grant was approved by the World Bank (Bank) in September 2013 and declared effective in May 2014. As of December 2018, disbursements account for 88 percent of the grant proceeds. The current closing date of the Project is December 30, 2018.
2. Project implementation suffered initially from significant delays as the first disbursement took place a year after effectiveness, and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), current Project Team (PT) became legally operational only in July 2016, two years after effectiveness. These delays were due to slow bureaucratic processes coupled with issues related to the change of the responsible authorities within the then Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS) in December 2014.
3. After the slow start, the PT consolidated the Project performance until the mid-term review in April 2017 with committed contributions by personnel of the then Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS), when the rating of overall Implementation Progress was increased to Satisfactory. The Project Development Objective (PDO) rating was then increased to Satisfactory in May 2018 due to strong results on the ground, significant progress towards the achievement of the PDO indicators, and with pioneering inter-institutional collaboration that is expected to continue after the Project closure. Over the last few months, the PT has worked on the preparation of a 9-month extension of the closing date, defining a strategic planning for the remaining Project resources and implementation period, which will focus on systemizing and disseminating the experience piloted and the key lessons learnt.
4. The Project's overall fiduciary risk is rated Moderate. The 2017 audit report by the Argentine Supreme Audit Institution (AGN) was outstanding for more than five months and belated the present restructuring. The Bank received the audit report on December 6, 2018 and it was deemed satisfactory. Implementation of safeguards has been rated Satisfactory throughout Project implementation.

### B. Rationale for Restructuring

5. The need for restructuring emerged during the mid-term review conducted in April 2017. In August 2017, the GoA sent a formal request for a restructuring of the Project that covered (i) simplification of the Project design by dropping two minor outputs that are not considered cost-effective at the current situation in the Project area, (ii) adjustments to the Results Framework; (iii) revision of the implementation arrangements regarding the degree of participation of the Provincial Agency for Sustainable



Development (OPDS, for the Spanish acronym); and (iv) reallocation of grant proceeds among Disbursement Categories. As the related exchange with the Adaptation Fund (AF) got belated, the Bank and GoA agreed to proceed with a phased restructuring: (i) an urgent reallocation of funds and an accompanying update of the disbursement estimates was completed in January 2018, while (ii) the second and present restructuring on the other changes was postponed until agreement was reached with the AF. In late May 2018, the AF agreed with the proposed adjustments that it considered not to imply “material” changes to the Project design. The GoA complemented its earlier restructuring request with a Project closing date extension of 9 months in July. The Bank consulted with the AF that approved the extension, but the restructuring remained belated until December 2018 due to the delayed audit report.

6. Due to the proximity of the Project closing date, the present restructuring will materialize through two legal documents: (i) a Notice of Extension that becomes effective by the date of its signature by the Bank, and (ii) an Amendment Letter to the Grant Agreement that becomes effective upon the receipt by the Bank of a countersigned original of the Amendment Letter.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES

7. **Results Framework:** An overall, yet still a minor-scale revision of the Results Framework is proposed to: (i) strengthen the logical results chain from outputs to intermediate result and PDO indicators up to outcomes in terms of monitoring progress towards achieving the PDO; (ii) remove some indicators e.g. due to dropping of two outputs (1.1.3: Regional Consultative Observatory of Public Policies on Climate Change and Desertification and 1.2.2: Teacher training program for environmental education specifically designed for the zone). This decision was taken at the mid-term review to focus the execution efforts cost-efficiently across varied work fronts to achieve maximum outcomes of the PDO: The Observatory was dropped to allow the project to concentrate available human and other resources in further developing and strengthening the Information and Early-Warning System (IEWS). The teacher training program was dropped as introducing new curricular content within the public-school system requires completion of demanding administrative processes that take more time than the Project was able and willing to invest; and (iii) adjust some of the indicator write-ups and/or definitions/scope to improve their being SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) as well as end targets. Annex 1 presents the proposed adjustments in detail, reflecting a mapping exercise to concretize on which expected PDO outcome(s) each PDO indicator contributes, and on which PDO indicator(s) each intermediate results indicator contributes.
8. **Grant Closing Date:** The proposed restructuring would extend the Project closing date by 9 months until September 30, 2019, expecting it would allow the GoA to further strengthen the results on the ground and disseminate key lessons learnt to consolidate long-term sustainability. The need for more time to be able to demonstrate solid proof of improved soil quality and rooting of sustainable land management practices at the necessary scale exceeds the proposed 9-month extension of the Project. However, the extension is expected to facilitate a major increase in the quality and actual impact of the Project results. The 9-month extension would allow the PT to further expand the dialogue on replication and scale-up options beyond the direct implementation area, in particularly through active coordination with the Secretary of Agro-Industry and Government Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development (SGAyDS).
9. **Disbursement Estimates:** The revised Disbursement Estimates are presented in the following table by World Bank fiscal years. The proposed numbers reflect the materialized execution through FY17 and the current estimates of the forthcoming disbursements.



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Fiscal Year	Current	Proposed
2014	0.00	0.00
2015	500,000	0.00
2016	0.00	0.00
2017	884,436.00	0.00
2018	1,951,204.00	1,423,455.00
2019	624,560.00	1,152,309.00

10. **Change in Overall Risk Rating:** The Project's overall risk rating is increased from Moderate to Substantial due to the significant fiscal and administrative challenges the Project and its participating institutions face at all levels due to the prevailing fiscal crisis and constraints in Argentina. During 2018, the PT gave significant efforts to overcome these challenges in a satisfactory manner and is prepared to continue with similar efforts in 2019 until the extended closing date. Despite this satisfactory performance during 2018, Substantial overall risk is warranted as the fiscal crisis is expected to continue in 2019 and may impact the course and sustainability of the on-going project activities.
11. **Change in Procurement:** Per a regional Bank decision, the Project's procurement needs to be changed as a part of a restructuring that requires amendment to the grant/loan agreement to replace the use of the Procurement and Consultant Guidelines (January 2011) by the Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing (IPF) Borrowers (July 2016, revised in August 2018). To this end, the PT has prepared a simplified Project Procurement Strategy for Development that results acceptable to the Bank. The document describes the approach for the planned minor activities for the procurement of goods and consultancy services, final procurement arrangements of which will be defined in the Procurement Plan as agreed upon with the Bank.
12. **Implementation Schedule:** The PT has defined a work program for the proposed 9-month extension until September 30, 2019 to consolidate its key results on the ground, strengthen the inter-institutional mechanisms, maximize the use of grant resources and ensure an optimal Project closure.
13. The PT will send to the Bank an updated Procurement Plan and an updated Operational Manual reflecting the changes that are taking place with the present restructuring.

### III. SUMMARY OF CHANGES

	Changed	Not Changed
Results Framework	✓	
Loan Closing Date(s)	✓	
Disbursement Estimates	✓	
Change in Overall Risk Rating	✓	
Procurement	✓	
Implementation Schedule	✓	
Implementing Agency		✓
Project's Development Objectives		✓



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Components and Cost		✓
Cancellations Proposed		✓
Additional Financing Proposed		✓
Reallocation between Disbursement Categories		✓
Disbursements Arrangements		✓
Safeguard Policies Triggered		✓
EA category		✓
Legal Covenants		✓
Institutional Arrangements		✓
Financial Management		✓
Other Change(s)		✓

### IV. DETAILED CHANGE(S)

#### RESULTS FRAMEWORK

##### Project Development Objective Indicators

Targeted institutions that the Project has prompted to attend adaptation needs in their structures, HR composition, work programs etc. to increase their capacity to address climate-related challenges

Unit of Measure: Number

Indicator Type: Custom

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	9.00	10.00	Revised
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

Productive agroecosystems in the pilot sites maintained or improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change

Unit of Measure: Number

Indicator Type: Custom

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	13.00	10.00	No Change
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	



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Relevant threat and hazard information generated and disseminated to farmers and other stakeholders on a timely basis

Unit of Measure: Yes/No

Indicator Type: Custom

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Revised
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology

Unit of Measure: Number

Indicator Type: Corporate

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	410.00	408.00	New
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology - Female

Unit of Measure: Number

Indicator Type: Corporate Supplement

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	39.00	39.00	New

Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology - male

Unit of Measure: Number

Indicator Type: Corporate Supplement

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	369.00	369.00	New

### Intermediate Indicators

Share of beneficiaries satisfied with climate-related information and recommendations generated by the IEWS (disaggregated by gender)

Unit of Measure: Percentage

Indicator Type: Custom



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	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	0.00	75.00	Revised
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	
<b>Targeted local public employees trained (disaggregated by gender)</b>				
Unit of Measure: Percentage				
Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	83.00	60.00	No Change
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	
<b>IEWS developed/operational through inter-institutional cooperation</b>				
Unit of Measure: Yes/No				
Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Marked for Deletion
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Dec-2018	
<b>Active participation of at least the key institutions of the Observatory</b>				
Unit of Measure: Yes/No				
Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	No	No	Yes	Marked for Deletion
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Dec-2018	
<b>Consulted people who report on modification(s) in their Project-related practices (disaggregated by gender)</b>				
Unit of Measure: Percentage				
Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	0.00	60.00	Marked for Deletion
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Dec-2018	
<b>Client days of training provided (number)</b>				
Unit of Measure: Number				
Indicator Type: Custom				



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	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	103.00	64.00	No Change
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	
Teacher training institutes within SWBA that cooperate with the Project and offer related training Unit of Measure: Number Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	4.00	10.00	Marked for Deletion
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Dec-2018	
Cultural and socio-productive activities carried out in the Project zone jointly with the municipal governments (fairs, exhibitions, etc.) Unit of Measure: Number Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	13.00	28.00	No Change
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	
Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology Unit of Measure: Number Indicator Type: Corporate				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	410.00	1400.00	Marked for Deletion
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Dec-2018	
Clients who adopted an improved agr. technology promoted by project – female Unit of Measure: Number Indicator Type: Custom Breakdown				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	39.00	280.00	Marked for Deletion
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Dec-2018	
Adaptation/sustainable land management (SLM) technologies identified/verified through local participatory consultations under the Project framework that are demonstrated within the GIAs Unit of Measure: Number				



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Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	13.00	12.00	No Change
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

Number of related articles/programs in the local media				
Unit of Measure: Number				
Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	285.00	22.00	Revised
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

Related articles/programs in the local media in the three municipal Councils of the directly targeted counties				
Unit of Measure: Number				
Indicator Type: Custom Breakdown				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	285.00	18.00	Marked for Deletion
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Dec-2018	

Related political initiatives in the three municipal Councils of the directly targeted counties				
Unit of Measure: Number				
Indicator Type: Custom Breakdown				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	9.00	4.00	Marked for Deletion
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Dec-2018	

KM events with broad stakeholder representation				
Unit of Measure: Number				
Indicator Type: Custom				
	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	3.00	8.00	Revised
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	



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Institutions in charge of the Specific Intervention Sites that carry out the respective activities of monitoring and evaluation

Unit of Measure: Percentage

Indicator Type: Custom

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	0.00	70.00	Revised
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

Assumed institutional commitments for the continuity and sustainability of the Project results per sector and activity

Unit of Measure: Number

Indicator Type: Custom

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	16.00	7.00	Revised
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

Guiding material on possible policies to adapt to climate change produced and disseminated among decision makers

Unit of Measure: Yes/No

Indicator Type: Custom

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Revised
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

Selected biophysical, social or economic attributes in the pilot sites improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability (Index 0-22)

Unit of Measure: Number

Indicator Type: Custom

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
Value	0.00	17.00	18.00	New
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

New or adjusted policies approved to address climate change risks

Unit of Measure: Number

Indicator Type: Custom

	Baseline	Actual (Current)	End Target	Action
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Value	0.00	9.00	4.00	New
Date	22-Jul-2013	04-Dec-2018	30-Sep-2019	

### LOAN CLOSING DATE(S)

TF	Status	Original Closing	Revised Closing(s)	Proposed Closing	Proposed Deadline for Withdrawal Applications
TF-15041	Effective	30-Dec-2018		30-Sep-2019	30-Jan-2020

### DISBURSEMENT ESTIMATES

Change in Disbursement Estimates

Yes

Year	Current	Proposed
0000	0.00	0.00
2014	0.00	0.00
2015	500,000.00	0.00
2016	0.00	0.00
2017	884,436.00	0.00
2018	1,951,204.00	1,423,455.00
2019	624,560.00	1,152,309.00
2020	0.00	0.00
2021	0.00	0.00

### OVERALL RISK RATING

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Current Rating
Overall		● Substantial



**Annex 1: Revised Results Framework**

Original PDO	Changes	Rationale
<p>To contribute to reducing climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province by increasing adaptive capacity of key local institutions and actors and piloting and disseminating climate resilient and sustainable land management practices.</p>	<p>Each indicator in the revised results framework is mapped against the outcomes embedded in the PDO, identified in the next column, as well as against the four PDO indicators: “PDO Ind. 1”, “PDO Ind. 2”, etc.</p>	<p><b>The PDO</b> remains relevant for national, provincial and local level actors. It <b>consists of five outcomes</b> against which indicators in the results framework are mapped (see further on the list of indicators):  <b>(i) contribution to reduction of climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province;</b>  <b>(ii) increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions;</b>  <b>(iii) increased adaptive capacity of key local actors;</b>  <b>(iv) piloted climate resilient and sustainable land management practices; and</b>  <b>(v) dissemination on climate resilient and sustainable land management practices.</b></p>
Original PDO indicators <sup>1</sup> and units of measure as the PAD	Revisions	Rationale
<p><b>PDO Ind. 1:</b>  Number of the targeted institutions that reflect institution-specific adaptation needs in their budget allocations to increase their capacity to address climate-related challenges<sup>AF</sup> (Institution)</p>	<p><b>Revised:</b>  ‘Targeted institutions that the Project has prompted to attend adaptation needs in their structures, HR composition, work programs etc. to increase their capacity to address climate-related challenges (Number)’</p>	<p><b>The revised indicator aligns to the PDO outcome (ii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions.</b></p> <p>The scope of the indicator/the data sources to measure progress is amplified from mere budget documents, as specific budget allocations are not always reflected in the necessary level of detail to allow their direct association to individual actions or programs. Rather, this type of information can be visualized in working documents or other formal institutional documentation, including organization charts, functional/operational structures such as HR and work programs.</p> <p>Consequently: 1) the data source/methodology in the results framework is broadened to include an amplified list of means of verification: budgetary documents, organizational charts, work programs, specific agreements, etc.; 2) under Additional Information about the indicator, the list of targeted institutions is modified to REMOVE the (i) National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification, (ii) Regional Council for development of the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province (PDSO), (iii) School of Agronomy of the University of Buenos Aires (FAUBA),</p>

<sup>1</sup> WB indicates that the indicator is aligned with a World Bank core indicator at the time of Project preparation, and <sup>AF</sup> indicates the indicator is aligned with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework at the time of Project preparation.



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		<p>(iv) Provincial Public Administration Institute (IPAP), (v) National Public Administration Institute (INAP), (vi) Regional School of Bahia Blanca of the National Technological University (UNT), and (vii) Ministry of Provincial Education; and to INCLUDE the (i) Agrarian School Carlos Spegazzini, (ii) National Roads Agency (Vialidad), (iii) National Meteorological Service (SMN), and (iv) Development Corporation of the Colorado River in Bonaerense Valley (CORFO).</p> <p>Consequently, the revised list of the targeted key institutions includes: General Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (GSAyDS), Provincial Agency for Sustainable Development (OPDS), National Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA), particularly Ascasubi and Bordenave Experimental Agricultural Stations (EEA), national Secretariat of Agroindustry, provincial Ministry of Agrarian Affairs (MAA), Municipalities of Puan, Villarino and Patagones, National Southern University (UNS), Center of Renewable Natural Resources in the Semiarid Zone (CERZOS) of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Agrarian School Carlos Spegazzini, National Meteorological Service (SMN), Ministry of Social Development (MDS), National Roads Agency (Vialidad), Development Corporation of the Colorado River in Bonaerense Valley (CORFO), local NGOs, and Provincial Agricultural Services Program (PROSAP).</p> <p>In the PAD, “institution” is marked as the unit of measure of this indicator; the same is corrected to be “Number”.</p>
<p><b>PDO Ind. 2:</b> Productive agroecosystems in the pilot sites maintained or improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change<sup>AF</sup> (Index)</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcome (i) on contribution to reduction of climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province.</b></p> <p>The Project covers three Geographic Intervention Areas (GIA): Semi-arid, Arid and Irrigation GIA, and 11 Specific Intervention Sites (SISs). The methodology to implement the index has been operationalized through a baseline study completed in August 2017 by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The scoring of each SIS will be determined against its baseline and applying a monitoring system to determine the initial soil conservation status and the key variables to monitor the evolvement of soil quality in the three GIAs. The</p>



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		<p>index is measured applying 4–6 variables that allow monitoring the most relevant biophysical aspects of the soil subject to Project activities, and each variable is weighted per its relevance to characterize the state of the types of agroecosystems under analysis (dry, semi-dry and irrigated). The variables are: vegetation coverage, apparent density, organic carbon content, removable phosphor, electric conductivity, and exchangeable sodium percentage. A control study on the baseline results of the selected variables in the three GIAs is being conducted at the end of 2018 by INTA. Until said results are available, reporting on the index value has based on visual observations.</p>
<p><b>PDO Ind. 3:</b> Relevant threat and hazard information generated and disseminated to farmers and other stakeholders on a timely basis<sup>AF</sup> (Yes/No)</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to all the PDO outcomes except of (iv) on piloted climate resilient and sustainable land management practices.</b></p> <p>The focus of the indicator is on monitoring proper functioning of the inter-institutional Information and Early Warning System (IEWs) on climate change and desertification that has been developed jointly with local research and extension institutions and the National Meteorological Service (SMN) to generate and disseminate relevant project-related information on threats and hazards to farmers and other stakeholders through quarterly reports. Many other Project activities equally contribute to timely generation and dissemination of relevant threat and hazard information.</p>
<p><b>PDO Ind. 4:</b> Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology (Number, disaggregated by gender) <sup>WB AF</sup> (People, male and female)</p>	<p><b>New/revised:</b> Upgraded from intermediate level to PDO level and revised wording to that of the World Bank corporate results indicators.</p> <p>The original wording referred to “beneficiaries” and the final target was 1,400 people. At the mid-term review (MTR), the achieved result is 1,632 people: 408 farmers participate in the implementation of the Specific Intervention Sites and the municipal sustainable forage production and reforestation plans, and each farmer represents an average family of 4 persons. The new indicator wording requires adjustment of the final target as it refers directly to “farmers”; based on the original</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to all the PDO outcomes at some level as farmers that adopt improved agricultural technology contribute to all of them. Directly, it aligns to the PDO outcomes (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors and (iv) on piloted climate resilient and sustainable land management practices.</b></p> <p>This indicator focuses on adoption of an improved agricultural technology; the result of which is typically a full process of information dissemination, awareness rising, training, piloting and consolidating of a new technology that, at the end, in case the process has been successful, leads to its adoption. Consequently, the following definition of the applicable process is proposed to the indicator description to consolidate the indicator:</p>



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	<p>way of calculating the beneficiaries, the respective target value (1,400/4) would be 350. However, the revised target is set at 408 to reflect the minimum end target of maintaining the same number of participating farmers as at the MTR.</p>	<p>"Improved agricultural technology adoption" is understood in terms of the "adoption" involving a process that comprises four stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Commitment: verified through the proposal letter of each SIS.</li> <li>2) Implementation: verified in the field through physical investments and interventions associated with the Project activities.</li> <li>3) Management and evaluation: verified through field visits and interviews with farmers.</li> <li>4) Adoption: verified through field visits and interviews with farmers.</li> </ol> <p>Within the limited Project implementation period, the monitoring is feasible in terms of the two first stages of the process. The final Project evaluation will also cover the third stage. Said results will allow to see a trend toward full adoption of the promoted technologies after Project closure.</p> <p>In the PAD, "People, male and female" is marked as the unit of measure of this indicator; the same is corrected to be "Number".</p>
<p><b>Original intermediate results indicators</b></p>		
<p><b>Component 1: Reducing Institutional and Community-level Vulnerability (USD 1.027 M)</b></p>		
<p><b>Intermediate Outcome: Institutional and community level response and prevention capacities developed to reduce land degradation and desertification and local vulnerabilities of the agricultural sector to climate variability and change</b></p>		
<p><b>Intermediate outcome indicator 1.1, Sub-component 1.1, Creating Institutional Tools for Climate Resilience</b></p> <p>% of targeted beneficiaries satisfied with more climate resilient agricultural services (disaggregated by gender)<sup>WB</sup> (Percentage)</p>	<p><b>Revised:</b> 'Share of beneficiaries satisfied with climate-related information and recommendations generated by the IEWS (Percentage, disaggregated by gender)'</p> <p>The end target is revised from 50% to 75% of both male and female participants.</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (ii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions, (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors, and (v) on dissemination on climate resilient and sustainable land management practices, and the PDO Ind. 3 and 4.</b></p> <p>The indicator is sharpened by concretizing "more climate resilient agricultural services" to the information and recommendations produced by the IEWS. The indicator will be measured every six months through a survey sent to the IEWS users. In the logic of the results chain, the indicator measures IEWS users' satisfaction with the service; it contributes to assessing both the relevance and timeliness of the information disseminated through the IEWS.</p>



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<b>Output 1.1.1: Institutional capacity building program directed at local public officers</b>		
Output indicator 1.1.1  % of targeted local public employees trained (Percentage)	No change	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (ii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions and (v) on dissemination on climate resilient and sustainable land management practices, and all the PDO Indicators.</b></p> <p>The % remains measured of the total of relevant public employees in Puan, Villarino and Patagones where the Project works directly. The indicator definition is concretized by noting that the “targeted local public employees” is understood as the members of the secretaries of production, economic development and environment. Further, “training” covers any training activity on Project-related topics facilitated by the Project. Even though specific gender objectives have not been defined for this indicator, participation is monitored by gender.</p>
<b>Output 1.1.2: Information and Early-Warning System (IEWS) on Climate Change and Desertification developed and run through inter-institutional cooperation</b>		
Output indicator 1.1.2  IEWS developed/ operational through inter-institutional cooperation <sup>AF</sup> (Yes/No)	<b>Dropped</b>	This indicator is removed as the IEWS is sufficiently covered by the PDO Ind. 3 and IRI 1. The result has been achieved since the end of 2016.
<b>Output 1.1.3: Regional Consultative Observatory of Public Policies on Climate Change and Desertification in operation</b>		
Output indicator 1.1.3  Active participation of at least the key institutions of the Observatory <sup>AF</sup> (Yes/No)	<b>Dropped together with the respective output</b>	<p>Within the Project framework, the consolidation of the IEWS has been promoted through a multi-institutional agreement that includes many of the institutions that would have been the key institutions to form and operate the Observatory. The IEWS represents institutional arrangements that allow provision of technically robust information for decision making to decrease vulnerability to climate variability and change and addresses causes of land degradation and desertification, based on scientifically solid data and analysis. A consultancy that analyzed the optimal operational set-up of both the IEWS and the Observatory concluded in late 2016 that the relevant local institutions do not present the necessary interest/commitment for the Project to engage in establishing the Observatory. Overall, the Project has many demanding work fronts; at the mid-term review it was considered necessary to focus the limited Project resources and efforts on consolidating the institutional arrangements of the IEWS to secure its sustainability, instead of expanding multi-institutional</p>



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		interaction and activities to another similar initiative with low demand by the key actors.
<p><b>Intermediate outcome indicator 1.2, Sub-component 1.2, Promoting Climate-smart Socio-cultural Approaches to Land Management</b></p> <p>% of consulted people who report on modification(s) in their Project-related practices (disaggregated by gender)<sup>AF</sup> (Percentage)</p>	<b>Dropped</b>	<p>The scope of the indicator was not realistic as it aimed to measure changes in practices of consulted people, taking as the applicable universe the approx. 80,000 habitants of Patagones, Puan and Villarino. Consequently, a baseline was never established for the indicator.</p>
<b>Output 1.2.1: Training program for key local stakeholders, including specifically opinion leaders</b>		
<p>Output indicator 1.2.1</p> <p>Number of beneficiary days of training provided<sup>WB</sup> (Training days)</p>	No change	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (ii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions, (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors, and (v) dissemination on climate resilient and sustainable land management practices, and the PDO Ind. 1-4.</b></p> <p>This indicator measures the number of client days of Project-relevant training provided with Project support, i.e. the number of clients who completed training multiplied by the duration of training expressed in days.</p> <p>In the PAD, “Training days” is marked as the unit of measure of this indicator; the same is corrected to be “Number”.</p>
<b>Output 1.2.2: Teacher training program for environmental education specifically designed for the zone</b>		
<p>Output indicator 1.2.2</p> <p>Number of teacher training institutes within SWBA that cooperate with the Project and offer related training (Teacher training institution)</p>	<b>Dropped together with the respective output</b>	<p>Both the output and indicator are too far-reaching and little cost-efficient in terms of the process it takes to officially introduce new content in teacher training programs developed by commissions coordinated by the provincial Ministry of Education. Further, at the mid-term review it was considered important to consolidate Project efforts to a less number of activities for higher efficiency of the results and to focus on farmers as the primary target group.</p> <p>In every case, the Project continues to contribute to developing skills within the educative sphere as it works with agricultural trainers and future managers</p>



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		<p>of agricultural establishments on the Specific Intervention Sites through agricultural schools, the Center of Renewable Natural Resources in the Semiarid Zone-National Center of Scientific and Technical Research (CERZOS-CONICET) and the National Southern University (UNS). Further, it continues with awareness raising activities with local schools.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.2.3: Gender-sensitive program on appreciation of the local culture and products, the role of farmers and their family in society</b></p>		
<p>Output indicator 1.2.3</p> <p>Number of cultural and socio-productive activities carried out in the Project zone jointly with the municipal governments (fairs, exhibitions, etc.) (Activity)</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcome (v) on dissemination on climate resilient and sustainable land management practices and the PDO Ind. 4.</b></p> <p>Although the indicator itself does not require modifications, the note on gender disaggregation for this indicator, "although no specific gender objectives were defined for this indicator, participation will be monitored by gender" is removed from the column on "Additional Information on the Indicator": based on the experience gained until mid-term review in the Project participation in several fairs in Patagones, Villarino and Puan since 2016, it is not possible to monitor disaggregated participation by gender in open activities where people circulate freely. It is not viable to keep a gender record on people stepping in or passing by a tent or booth, and less to have supporting documentation to prove the registered result.</p> <p>In the PAD, "Activity" is marked as the unit of measure of this indicator; the same is proposed to be officially corrected to be "Number".</p>



Component 2: Implementing Adaptation Measures in Productive Agroecosystems (USD 2.291 M)		
Intermediate Outcome: Concrete adaptation measures to improve climate resilience and sustainability of productive agroecosystems defined and selected based on participatory processes and piloted by local farmers in cooperation with partner organizations		
<p><b>Component 2</b> <b>Intermediate outcome indicator, Implementing Adaptation Measures in Productive Agroecosystems</b></p> <p>Number of beneficiaries who have adopted an improved agricultural technology promoted by the Project (disaggregated by gender) WB AF (People, male and female)</p>	<p><b>Revised:</b> Definition and target values and moved to PDO level.</p>	<p>Please see the comment on the PDO Ind. 4.</p>
	<p><b>New:</b> Selected biophysical, social or economic attributes in the pilot sites<sup>2</sup> improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability (Index 0-22)</p> <p>The end target value is 18.</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (i) on contribution to reduction of climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province, (ii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions, (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors, and (iv) piloted climate resilient and sustainable land management practices, and the PDO Ind. 2 and 3.</b></p> <p>This new intermediate result indicator allows measuring of partial advances towards more climate resilient agroecosystems, including improvements in quality of productive resources like irrigation water and soil profile, increased productivity, and efficiency in the use of resources, among others.</p> <p>For each SIS, the index result can be 0, 1 or 2, where 0 corresponds when none of the two preselected attributes for the SIS are improved, 1 when one improves, and 2 when the two preselected attributes improve.</p>

<sup>2</sup> See the indicators of the 22 selected attributes at the end of the table.



<p><b>Output 2.1: Program of interventions in Geographical Intervention Areas (GIAs), predefined on a participatory basis according to biophysical, economic and social criteria, offering a menu of options related to the management of water resources, crops, cattle and grazing lands</b></p>		
<p>Output indicator 2.1.1</p> <p>Number of adaptation/sustainable land management (SLM) technologies identified/verified through local participatory consultations under the Project framework that are demonstrated within the GIAs<sup>WB AF</sup> (Adaptation/SLM technologies)</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (i) on contribution to reduction of climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province, (ii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions, (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors, and (iv) piloted climate resilient and sustainable land management practices, and the PDO Ind. 2 and 3.</b></p> <p>As in case of the new PDO Ind. 4, it is considered relevant to measure the process leading to the identification/verification of adaptation/SLM technologies. Consequently, the following minimum of two instances is proposed to improve the indicator:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Technology identified/verified, and</li> <li>2) Technology applied/implemented.</li> </ol> <p>A “verified” technology counts with a validation by the relevant institutions that participate in the Project. An “implemented” technology refers to those that have been applied in a Project SIS.</p> <p>In the PAD, “Adaptation/SLM technologies” is marked as the unit of measure of this indicator; the same is corrected to be “Number”.</p>
<p><b>Component 3: Applying a Participatory Approach to Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (USD 0.140 M)</b></p>		
<p><b>Intermediate Outcome: Enhanced local knowledge and capacity for adaptation and response, developed in a participatory manner</b></p>		
<p>Intermediate outcome indicator, Component 3, Applying Participatory Approach to Knowledge Management and Local Capacity Development for Adaptation to Climate Change</p> <p>Number of related articles/programs in the local media and political initiatives in the three municipal Councils of the directly targeted counties<sup>AF</sup> (Media</p>	<p><b>Revised:</b> ‘Number of related articles/programs in the local media’</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcome (v) on dissemination on climate resilient and sustainable land management practices, and the PDO Ind. 4.</b></p> <p>The second part of the indicator is proposed to be eliminated (“...related...political initiatives in the three municipal Councils of the directly targeted counties”) to make the indicator measurable; each indicator should measure only one thing.</p> <p>On the other hand, the removed part is more pertinent to Component 4 than 3 and is thus to be covered by a new indicator under Component 4, related with the sustainability of the Project results and the corresponding policy framework.</p>



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articles/programs and political initiatives)		In the PAD, “Media articles/programs and political initiatives” is marked as the unit of measure of this indicator; the same is corrected to be “Number”.
<b>Output 3.1: Combined consultation, coordination, training, and knowledge sharing at the local level in the three counties of direct Project intervention to develop and validate intervention proposals and work plans</b>		
Output indicator 3.1  Workshops and other KM events meet their targets in terms of participation of different stakeholder groups (Yes/No)	<b>Revised:</b> 'KM events with broad stakeholder representation (Number)'	<b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (i) on contribution to reduction of climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province, (ii) increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions, (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors, and (v) on dissemination on climate resilient and sustainable land management practices and the PDO Ind. 4.</b>  The revised indicator is simpler to measure. “Broad” stakeholder representation requires presence of representatives from a minimum of 3 different stakeholder groups.
<b>Output 3.2: Capacity building for indicator development and measurement plans, systems of continuous improvement, training for local application groups, and mutual knowledge sharing in terms of the proposed activities between and beyond the counties</b>		
Output indicator 3.2  % of targeted beneficiaries who have participated in related training and carry out their own means of M&E and continued improvement related to the measures they have adopted through participation in the Project (disaggregated by gender) <sup>AF</sup> (Percentage)	<b>Revised:</b> 'Institutions in charge of the Specific Intervention Sites that carry out the respective activities of monitoring and evaluation (percentage)'	<b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (ii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions and (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors and the PDO Ind. 1-3.</b>  For improved appropriateness, the indicator refers to the percentage of the local institutions that participate in the Project; not farmers, taken the referred M&E processes are more institutional than individual in nature and associated with capacity building within the participating organizations rather than in terms of individual beneficiaries.  Consequently, the original target percentages are maintained, but the disaggregation by gender is no longer valid when the indicator refers to institutions.
<b>Component 4: Developing a Sustainability Strategy (USD 0.195 M)</b>		
<b>Intermediate Outcome: Improved local, provincial and national level technical and institutional capacity to sustain, scale up and replicate the Project outcomes</b>		
Intermediate outcome indicator 4.1, Developing a Sustainability Strategy  Number of assumed institutional	<b>Revised:</b> 'Assumed institutional commitments for the continuity and sustainability of the Project results (Number)'	<b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (i) on contribution to reduction of climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province, (ii) increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions, (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors, and (iv) on</b>



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<p>commitments for the continuity and sustainability of the Project results per sector and activity</p>		<p><b>piloted climate resilient and sustainable land management practices, and the PDO Ind. 1.</b></p> <p>The indicator is revised slightly to remove unnecessary complication by “per sector and activity”.</p>
	<p><b>New:</b> ‘New or adjusted policies approved to address climate change risks (Number)’</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (i) on contribution to reduction of climate and man-made vulnerability of the agroecosystems in the Southwest of the Buenos Aires Province, (ii) increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions, and (iii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local actors, and the PDO Ind. 1-3.</b></p> <p>This new indicator is proposed both for its overall relevance under Component 4 as to compensate the reduction in the scope of the intermediate outcome indicator of Component 3.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.1: Creation of a policy framework taking into account regulatory requirements and resources needed to continue the Project’s main activities, and a commitment to disseminate the experiences and lessons learned</b></p>		
<p>Output indicator 4.1.1</p> <p>Guidance material produced on critical pieces of policy framework, piloted adaptation practices, and potential sources of financing to support continued efforts to promote climate resiliency at different administrative levels and facilitate dissemination of Project results (Yes/No)</p>	<p><b>Revised:</b> ‘Guiding material on possible policies to adapt to climate change produced and disseminated among decision makers (Yes/No)’</p>	<p><b>The indicator aligns to the PDO outcomes (ii) on increased adaptive capacity of key local institutions and (v) on dissemination on climate resilient and sustainable land management practices, and the PDO Ind. 1.</b></p> <p>The original “Yes/No” indicator does not provide useful means to measure advances as it addresses too many different aspects. The proposed revision focuses on measuring "production" and "dissemination" of the referred material.</p>

**The list of the two biophysical, social or economic attributes selected for measurement across the 11 Specific Intervention Sites (SISs) across the three Geographic Intervention Areas (GIAs)**

**Semi-arid GIA**

**1) Naposta-UNS:** students with skills developed for management of sustainable production (number of participants in the field courses who report having gained new knowledge for practical application in the matter) and producers that adopted diversification practices promoted by the Project (number);

**2) Naposta-CERZOS-CONICET:** diversity of natural pastures (number of natural pastures per batch) and aerial biomass (kg of dry



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matter/batch);

**3) Agroecological Unit Bordenave-San German:** diversity of legume species with attributes for production (number of species per ha/batch) and diversity of arthropods (number of species per ha/batch);

**4) Bordenave-San German Dryland:** soil fertility (mg, P and N in kg of soil) and producers with a VERIS study needed to adapt their management plans to specific environmental constraints (number); and

**5) Levalle Dryland:** quality of the forage dry matter (mg, P and N in kg of dry matter) and soil fertility (mg, P and N in kg of soil).

### Arid GIA

**1) San Jose Dryland:** forage productivity (kg/ha/year and roll/ha/year) and depth of the productive soil profile (depth measured by penetrometer);

**2) Patagones Rangelands Monte Biome:** Pasture surface under conservation and/or recovery (ha) and production of dry matter (kg/ha/year);

**3) Apiarian Patagones:** producers/students of the school with capacity developed to carry out plans of productive diversification (number of participants in the field courses who report being better equipped to apply the achieved knowledge in productive diversification) and local socio-productive structure strengthened with improved infrastructure (socio-productive agreement put into practice for the efficient use of the installed infrastructure); and

**4) Agrarian School Carlos Spegazzini:** producers/students of the school with capacity developed to carry out plans of productive diversification (number of participants in the field courses who report being better equipped to apply the achieved knowledge in productive diversification) and producers that adopted practices promoted by the Project (number).

### Irrigation GIA

**1) Pradere Irrigation:** efficiency of water management (liter of irrigation water/ha) and quality of irrigation water (saline concentration mg/l); and

**2) Ascasubi Irrigation:** efficiency of water management (liter of irrigation water/ha) and availability of irrigation water (days with water available for irrigation per week/year).