

COMMENTS OF THE CSOs FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS OF THE LDN FUND

- Latin America and the Caribbean CSOs welcome the proposed social and environmental standards for the LDN Fund as they consider aspects that are relevant to the financing of large-scale projects.
- We believe, however, that an independent and transparent mechanism is needed to ensure the implementation and monitoring of these standards, in order to ensure that the projects to be financed will not affect local communities and small producers.
- To date, we do not see that the governance scheme initially proposed for the LDN Fund includes an independent and transparent mechanism for evaluating and monitoring compliance with those standards. In that sense, there is a great concern from the CSOs of the region.
- We hope that representatives of CSOs accredited to the UNCCD will be able to participate directly in the mechanism that would be in charge of evaluating the compliance of standards by the projects submitted to the LDN Fund.
- We request that, for future consultations regarding the LDN Fund, the documents are at least in the three main languages of the official communications of the UNCCD (English, French and Spanish).
- Finally, we have some general recommendations regarding the LDN Fund that we hope will be taken into consideration:
 - As the LDN Fund will be composed of several impact investors under financial business models, we recommend clarifying what kind of investors will be called for transparency purposes.
 - LDN Fund should ensure that projects to be funded implement best practices in sustainable land management and consider the sharing of experiences and technical assistance to local people, especially for projects to be developed in drylands;
 - LDN Fund calls for projects must be public and allow proposals to be submitted in languages other than English.