

10th SPAIN – LAC WATER DIALOGUES

Water resilience in cities Challenge

Challenge Guidelines

1. INTRODUCTION

The climate crisis is fundamentally a water crisis. Water-related disasters have doubled in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) since the 1980s. Half of the world's aquifers are depleting, and 35% of wetlands have been lost. Climate change and the water crisis are closely linked, particularly impacting urban systems whereby water-related disasters exacerbated by Climate Change (droughts and floods) pose challenges and uncertainty for the society, the economy, and the environment.

Water resilience, a crucial concept for urban water management, requires a systemic approach to address the complexity of global water challenges. It encompasses the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from water-related challenges and crises. This systemic approach is essential to navigate the interconnected issues of water scarcity, climate change, and urban development.

Cities play a pivotal role in addressing water challenges. A city is considered resilient when it efficiently manages water and sanitation services, and has the capacity to address water shortages, excesses, contamination, aquifer over-exploitation, sea-level rise, and impacts from other natural disasters. The challenges for cities are thus economic, social, and environmental, but they also present opportunities for local action and innovation.

While water resilience has begun gaining recognition for its undeniable importance, it must be addressed within the broader context of other climate objectives. Green infrastructure is fundamental to water resilience due to its multifunctional nature. Nature-based solutions (NBS) are essential for providing more integrated and sustainable responses, complementing, or combined with traditional gray infrastructure.

2. CHALLENGE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this challenge is to promote and reward the presentation of project profiles that enhance water resilience in urban settings through innovative and practical solutions incorporating a systemic approach to address water-related challenges (floods, droughts, and water contamination) through actions that protect the population, infrastructure, and environment.

3. CHALLENGE CATEGORIES

Projects should focus on one or more of the following areas:

- a. **Urban Flood Management:** Solutions to prevent, mitigate, or manage floods in urban areas.
- b. **Water Efficiency:** Initiatives to improve rational use and demand management of water resources at the urban level.

- c. **Drought Management:** Proposals to ensure and reduce the vulnerability of water supply during periods of scarcity or drought.
- d. **Water Quality:** Solutions to protect and improve water quality in urban areas, ensuring its safety and availability for various uses.
- e. **Nature-Based Solutions:** A cross-cutting category highlighting the use of NBS to enhance water resilience.
- f. **Technology and Innovation:** A cross-cutting category proposing solutions to modernize the management of the integral water cycle processes (automation, sensing, data analysis and management, digital infrastructure, among others).

4. ELEGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

The challenge is open to teams from:

- Public sector: national, regional, municipal governments, and public enterprises.
- Civil society organizations: NGOs, foundations, community organizations, and similar entities.
- Private sector.
- Academic and research institutions: universities and research centers.

5. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants can submit proposals in Spanish, English, or Portuguese. The proposal shall be, at most, a maximum length of 10 pages. Use Arial font, size 11, with 1.5 line spacing, and maintain the form's margins.

If necessary, any supporting materials for the proposal, such as plans or technical diagrams relevant to the project implementation, photos, videos, weblinks, geographic data, infographics, or similar, may be included as an annex.

The proposal and the supporting materials should be compiled into a single document. The presentation format will be PDF with a maximum size of 10 MB.

Only proposals that are applicable in CAF member countries will be accepted.

Appendix 1 contains the Guide to completing the Project Profile form.

6. PROPOSAL EVALUATION

6.1. *Elegibility criteria*

The project must align with public policies, plans, or strategies for urban water resilience at the national, regional, or municipal levels.

6.2. Evaluation criteria

The table below shows the evaluation criteria that will be considered, along with the weight of each. The maximum score is 100 points.

CRITERION	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT
Proposal clarity	The proposal must be clear and coherent. This includes maintaining the requested profile structure, making the information easy to understand, and clearly presenting the objectives, activities, and expected results.	10%
Innovation	Originality and novelty of the proposed solution, whether technological, financial, environmental, or social, among others. The incorporation of nature-based solutions will be valued.	30%
Impact	The project's potential to generate positive outcomes and improve urban water resilience	30%
Sustainability, replicability, and scalability	The long-term viability of the project, including financial, technical, and management aspects, and its ability to be adapted or replicated in other cities or contexts.	30%

6.3. Evaluation Committee

Each submitted profile will be evaluated based on the described criteria and graded, assessing the project's capacity to offer innovative, sustainable solutions aligned with national, regional, or municipal needs and policies.

A **Multidisciplinary Committee** comprising relevant actors from the considered challenge categories will evaluate the proposals.

7. AWARDS

Awards will be presented at the 10th Spain – LAC Water Dialogues event, which will take place on October 17 in Madrid, Spain. A representative from each of the three best-evaluated proposals will attend the event to receive the award. Additionally, each award will be recognized with:

- a. **First Prize:** A technical visit to a similar project implemented in a CAF member country, covering travel and accommodation expenses for up to 2 team members. A certificate of recognition and promotion on social media.

- b. Second Prize:** A technical visit to a similar project implemented in a CAF member country, covering travel and accommodation expenses for up to 2 team members. A certificate of recognition and promotion on social media.
- c. Third Prize:** A certificate of recognition and promotion on social media.

Note: Each winning representative is responsible for obtaining the necessary visa for travel if required.

8. CHALLENGE TIMELINE

Challenge launch:	July 15, 2024.
Proposal submission deadline:	September 6, 2024.
Winners' announcement:	September 25, 2024.

9. REGISTRATION PROCESS

The registration process will be conducted online by completing and submitting the proposed form.

10. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The CAF Organizing Committee reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel or suspend this challenge and disqualify any participant at its discretion. Before the winner's selection, it is crucial to understand that the ideas, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in the projects submitted are the sole responsibility of their authors and do not in any way compromise CAF, its representatives, or member countries.

The eligibility of participating teams will be verified. If any team or its members refuse to comply with these Guidelines, they will lose their finalist or winner status without compensation.

By participating, each contestant agrees to abide by these Guidelines and the irrevocable decision of the Multidisciplinary Committee, which cannot be appealed.

11. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

Participating in this challenge fully and unreservedly accepts these terms and conditions.

11.1. Confidential Information

"Confidential Information" means any information related to CAF and participants made available directly or indirectly to the other Party in verbal, written, graphic, or electronic form. In particular, "Confidential Information" includes any information, process, technique, algorithm, software program (including source code), design, drawing, formula, or test data related to any research project, ongoing work, creation, engineering, marketing, services, financing, or personnel matters related to each Party, their current or future products, sales, suppliers, customers, employees, investors, or business among others.

The term "Confidential Information" does not include information that CAF or participants can reasonably demonstrate:

- a) is currently or as of the date of publication of these Guidelines publicly known or available without any act or omission by the other Party;
- b) is known by the other Party at the time of receiving such information;
- c) has been legally and unrestrictedly provided to the other Party by a third person as of the date of publication of these Guidelines;
- d) is subject to written permission for disclosure provided by either Party or
- e) has been independently generated by one of the Parties without using the "Confidential Information."

11.2. Other provisions

Intellectual property rights: Intellectual property rights related to project profiles will remain the property of each participant and will remain so after submission to this challenge.

Submission of original work: Indemnity: By entering the challenge, participants individually and jointly guarantee the originality of their works/projects, ensuring that they are not derived from total or partial transformations and/or modifications of any other work, and agree to accept CAF's decisions. Participants also guarantee that their proposals in concept, design, implementation, or final result do not infringe upon or violate third-party intellectual property rights and expressly agree to hold CAF harmless from any claim, action, complaint, or demand, including but not limited to professional legal defense costs required to defend CAF against such situations.

Ideas belong to participants: The ideas, concepts, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in the projects submitted to the challenge are the sole responsibility of their authors and cannot be attributed to CAF, its representatives, or member countries.

Publicity: Except where prohibited, winners agree to grant CAF express authorization to use their name, image, voice, opinions, and/or hometown and state for promotional purposes by virtue of their participation in the challenge. This authorization will extend to any media modality and worldwide. Participants agree that this authorization will not generate any payment or consideration from CAF or any related entity.

APPENDIX 1. PROJECT PROFILE GUIDE

1. PROJECT TITLE

Indicate the project title

2. PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATION/ENTITY INFORMATION

Provide the following information:

- *Name of the participating organization/entity*
- *Names of participants*
- *Nationality*

3. JUSTIFICATION AND SCOPE OF THE PROJECT FOR URBAN WATER RESILIENCE

This section shall justify the project's need and present, at least, a description of the specific water problems and challenges of the selected territorial context and the scope and relevance of the project to address these challenges.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

In this section, specify the following points:

- a. *Objectives: Present the project's general and specific objectives.*
- b. *Area of implementation: Indicate the geographic area where the project is proposed to be carried out, justifying its selection.*
- c. *Estimated investment amount in USD.*
- d. *Area(s) of focus:*
 - Urban flood management.*
 - Water efficiency and demand management.*
 - Drought management.*
 - Water resource quality.*
 - Nature-based solutions.*
 - Technology and innovation.*
- e. *Indicate the reasons for the above selection.*

5. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEME AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

This section will present and detail the proposed implementation scheme to achieve the above project scope and objectives. It should include, at least, the planned activities. It is suggested to include a timeline.

6. ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL, REGIONAL, OR MUNICIPAL POLICIES, PLANS, AND/OR STRATEGIES

Is the project aligned with local, national, or international policies or strategies on water resilience?

- Yes
- No

If yes, mention the national, regional, and/or municipal policies, plans, and/or strategies identified.

7. PROJECT ALLIES

Does the project have allies at the national or local government level?

- Yes
- No

If yes, mention the identified allies.

8. INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE ANALYSIS

The key institutions and stakeholders involved in all phases of the project (conception, design, execution, operation, and maintenance, among others) should be identified, including technical, environmental, and financial areas, to understand the project's systemic approach.

In addition, this section identifies the coordination mechanisms between institutions, roles, specific responsibilities, and the project's lead entity.

9. RISK ANALYSIS

Identify potential risks that could affect the project's success and outline actions to mitigate each identified risk. The risks identified may be financial, technical, environmental, social, institutional, or others as deemed appropriate.

10. INNOVATION

Briefly mention the innovative characteristics of the proposed solution (technological, social, financial, environmental, or other).

In case the project considers NBS, describe the main characteristics of the project.

11. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

Specify which SDG 6 targets this solution addresses (maximum 3):

- SDG 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.*
- SDG 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.*
- SDG 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.*
- SDG 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.*
- SDG 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.*
- SDG 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes.*
- SDG 6.a: By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling, and reuse technologies.*
- SDG 6.b: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.*

Additionally, indicate the complementary SDGs that this solution addresses (maximum 3):

- SDG 1: No Poverty*
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger*
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being*
- SDG 4: Quality Education*
- SDG 5: Gender Equality*
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy*
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth*
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure*
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities*
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities*
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production*
- SDG 13: Climate Action*
- SDG 14: Life Below Water*
- SDG 15: Life on Land*
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions*

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Indicate additionally:

- *Key social impact (gender, diversity, and inclusion); what are the solution's key social impacts?*
- *Key environmental impact (climate change: mitigation and adaptation): what are the key environmental impacts of the presented solution?*

12. LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Based on the previous sections and specifically on the risks identified, please describe how the project's benefits will be maintained in the long term after its initial implementation.

Additionally, indicate whether the solution is replicable and scalable, mentioning the reasons that support this statement.

13. SUPPORTING MATERIAL

This section is not required, but if available, any supporting material for the proposal may be included, such as plans or technical diagrams relevant to the project's implementation, photos, videos, weblinks, geographic data, infographics, or similar.

This material shall be delivered compiled in a single document in PDF format, with a maximum size of 10 MB.