



LIFE-AR HIGH-LEVEL GLOBAL THEORY OF CHANGE



CLIMATE-RESILIENT
PEOPLE



CLIMATE-RESILIENT
ECONOMIES



CLIMATE-RESILIENT
LANDSCAPES

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ACRONYMS

CoP	community of practice
FRCs	frontrunner countries
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LIFE-AR	Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience
LUCCC	LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change
MEL	monitoring, evaluation and learning
NAPs	national adaptation plans
NDCs	nationally determined contributions

GLOSSARY

Assumption	Any factor that is considered to be true, real or certain without empirical proof or demonstration.
Delivery mechanism	The governance, planning and financial channels, structures and systems that support implementation of the LDC 2050 Vision. A LIFE-AR delivery mechanism can be public or private, and can help build climate-resilient people, economies or ecosystems – or a mixture of all three.
Change pathway	A set of change processes that collectively lead to the planned outcomes and impacts.
Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	46 unique countries from across diverse continents and landscapes that face significant challenges in their efforts to develop a sustainable and self-supporting economy. These countries – which range from land-locked regions in Africa to small island states in the Caribbean and Asia Pacific – are especially vulnerable to climate change but have done the least to cause the problem.
Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR)	An LDC-led and LDC-owned initiative that aims to support a shift away from business-as-usual approaches to a more effective, more ambitious climate response that ensures support reaches the most vulnerable countries and communities, with no one left behind.
LIFE-AR Platform	A collaborative platform for cross-LDC learning and dialogue with development partners to be set up by the LDC Group, with the LDC board as its decision-making body.
Theory of change	A description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context.
Risk	An uncertain event or set of events which, should it or they occur, will affect the achievement of objectives. We measure risk through a combination of the probability of a perceived threat or opportunity occurring and the magnitude of its impact on objectives.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document explains how the Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) will contribute to a fundamental shift in how countries plan, implement, coordinate, fund and prioritise climate action. It sets out a range of change pathways that deliver coordinated action around five key outputs, which in turn contribute to a set of outcomes. It situates the contribution of LIFE-AR action within wider national climate infrastructure and will inform the development of a monitoring, evaluation and learning plan – with indicators and plans for regular reviews of the theory of change – that will sit alongside this document.

This document is aimed at current and future LIFE-AR stakeholders, who should read it alongside the LIFE-AR strategy document, the LDC 2050 Vision document and the LIFE-AR Partnership Compact.

1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change disproportionately impacts the lives and livelihoods of the world's poorest people, who have done the least to cause it. Together, the 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) emit less than 1% of global carbon dioxide emissions, but the people and communities in LDCs are among the first and worst affected by climate change.

The Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) aims to support a shift away from business-as-usual approaches to a more effective, more ambitious climate response that ensures support reaches the most vulnerable countries and communities, with no one left behind.

LDC 2050 Vision and the role of LIFE-AR

LIFE-AR is an LDC-led, LDC-owned initiative, which serves as one of the primary vehicles for delivering the LDC 2050 Vision for a climate-resilient future. The LDC 2050 Vision is for LDCs to deliver climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 to ensure societies, economies and ecosystems thrive.

This vision unites and draws on the knowledge, resources and work of three LDC long-term initiatives – the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), the LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development, and LIFE-AR – and informs LDCs' national work on long-term strategies. As well as learning from and supporting each other while building climate resilience, LDCs seek to redefine relationships with each other, their development partners and the wider international community, so they can strengthen their own delivery systems.

The LDC 2050 Vision aims to achieve:

- Climate-resilient people living in just, inclusive, happy, poverty-free societies
- Climate-resilient economies that are net zero and prosperous, with vibrant and sustainable growth within ecological limits, and

- Climate-resilient landscapes and ecosystems that are sustainably managed, less vulnerable to climate shocks and stresses, and use nature-based solutions.

LIFE-AR offers, asks and principles

LIFE-AR sets out five LDC offers, asks and partnership principles. The offers outline how the group intends to deliver the LDC 2050 Vision by taking forward more effective approaches to ensure support reaches the most vulnerable communities (Table 1). Recognising that achieving the LDC Vision will require strong, equitable partnership on both sides, the asks invite development partners to engage with LDCs under a shared vision, working together in new ways, aiming to achieve shifts from business-as-usual to business-unusual approaches. The asks and offers are supported by a set of shared partnership principles – on inclusion, participation, justice, equity and leaving no one behind.

LIFE-AR within the wider global climate infrastructure

The LDC 2050 Vision will help LDCs develop long-term climate strategies under Article 4, paragraph 19 of the Paris Agreement, and articulate ambitious leadership on climate action. It will help LDCs better address the long-term impacts of a changing climate and further define, update and align adaptation priorities in their national adaptation plans (NAPs) and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with national development goals for climate resilience and poverty eradication. By complementing existing adaptation planning, LIFE-AR will help LDCs develop crosscutting, climate-resilient development strategies up to 2050. For more information on links to NDCs and NAPs, see the LIFE-AR Global Evidence Review.




The climate finance landscape is complex. The following set of unique LIFE-AR attributes ensure it adds value and will deliver results:

- **LDC-focused.** It has a strong or exclusive focus on supporting LDCs, in light of their specific vulnerabilities to climate change as identified in the Paris Agreement.

- **Long-term investments to build an institutional legacy.** It builds LDC capabilities, institutions and structures to deliver short-, medium- and long-term climate finance that can cut across conventional categories of actors and sectors.
- **Reshaping power dynamics for LDCs.** It supports LDCs to redefine their relationships with other development partners to determine their own climate priorities and use their own systems to address them.
- **Subsidiarity of decisions.** It helps devolve decision making to the lowest appropriate level and seeks community participation in decision making.
- **Adaptation-focused.** It is focused on adaptation needs, recognising the acute needs for adaptation finance in LDCs and the recent recommendation by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Standing Committee on Finance for "developed countries and climate finance providers to ... consider policies to balance funding for adaptation and mitigation".

Table 1. Summary of LDC 2050 Vision, offers, asks and joint principles of the Partnership Compact

LDC 2050 Vision: for all Least Developed Countries to be on climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and deliver net-zero emissions by 2050 to ensure our societies, economies and ecosystems thrive.

	 CLIMATE-RESILIENT PEOPLE	 CLIMATE-RESILIENT ECONOMIES	 CLIMATE-RESILIENT LANDSCAPES
	LDC offers from LDC governments	LDC asks of the international community	Joint principles of the LIFE-AR Partnership Compact
Coordination	We will work with the whole of society to achieve a low-carbon, climate-resilient future	Work together to reduce transaction costs and ensure mutual accountability behind LDC leadership	Work together jointly on a shared and equal platform
Finance	We will develop strong climate finance architecture, with at least 70% of flows supporting local-level action by 2030	Provide high-quality, predictable and accessible finance and support the LDCs' intention of at least 70% of finance flows supporting local-level action by 2030	Commit to a shared goal of 70% of finance flows supporting action on the ground in LDCs by 2030
Planning	We will integrate adaptation, mitigation and resilience into our national and local development objectives	Develop your own ambitious strategies for 1.5°C low-carbon climate-resilient pathways by 2020	Invest behind integrated, holistic and ambitious climate planning across the whole of society
Capabilities	We will strengthen our climate capabilities, institutions, knowledge, skills and learning	Work with us in the long term to strengthen our national and local institutional capabilities	Work at the pace of individual LDCs, aiming to build long-term national and local institutions, systems, structures and capabilities
Governance	We will create more inclusive governance of climate decisions that are centred on gender transformation and social justice	Invest in our inclusive climate-resilient net-zero economies and technology	Leave no country and no one behind

2. THE LIFE-AR HIGH-LEVEL THEORY OF CHANGE

This chapter outlines our high-level theory of change, the problems we seek to address, the impact we seek to achieve, and the changes and conditions required to make that change a reality. For a more detailed explanation of the context, evidence and activities within LIFE-AR, see the LIFE-AR Strategy.

What is a theory of change?

A theory of change is a description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It starts by describing the problem the initiative seeks to influence and then uses 'backwards' mapping to set out a series of conditions, assumptions and actions required to achieve the desired change. We can base a theory of change on evidence of what we know works in a given context, or it can set out a range of experimental actions to test and discover what works.

Within a theory of change, a change pathway sets out the processes that collectively lead to desired outcomes and impacts. In this document, we share three key pathways and articulate a range of assumptions that we will track via the LIFE-AR global monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan.

Theories of change recognise that change is often non-linear. Despite basing the theory around evidence and an exploration of assumptions, contexts can undergo unexpected change, so it is important to regularly review results achieved against results expected. This allows us to adjust the theory of change as needed. The LIFE-AR theory of change represents changes expected to 2030, and we will review it regularly to make necessary adjustments. As part of this regular review, we will also review and adjust our MEL plan.

Linking global and national theories of change

This paper focuses on the global theory of change. We expect each country to develop its own national-level theory of change based on its own priorities and plans. Ideally, national theories of change will mirror the global

theory of change's framing of the problem statement, intermediate outcome and output level, contextualising them to country circumstances. This will enable aggregate reporting on progress towards achieving the LDC 2050 Vision.

The problems LIFE-AR seeks to address

Business as usual for climate action in LDCs is not working. When climate action is not driven by and for LDCs, responses are externally driven and top-down, and as a result, they fail to build long-term LDC institutional capabilities, structures and systems.

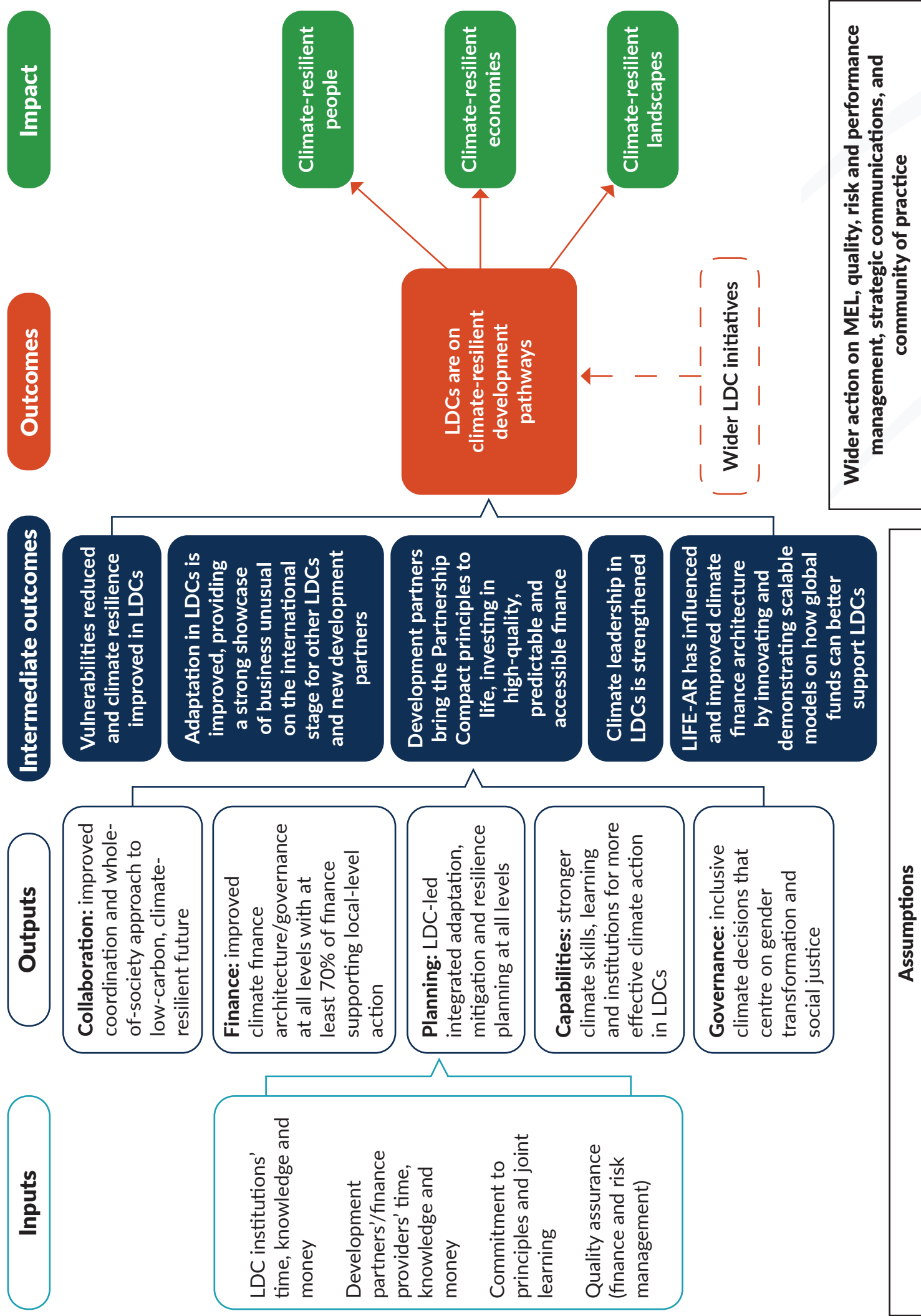
Climate finance architecture for adaptation and resilience is insufficient and unpredictable, and often takes a low-risk approach. The barriers to accessing finance are significant: only 18% of finance reaches LDCs; and globally, only 10% reaches the local level. But critical challenges remain in getting climate finance to local levels, as local government structures, systems and capacities are not ready to manage the volume and quality of finance flows needed.

As a result, long-term cross-sectoral and multilevel responses to the impacts of climate change are not being delivered, vulnerable communities are not benefitting from climate action, and gender and social inclusion factors are being ignored.

Our global theory of change

Figure 1 and Box 1 set out a high-level illustration of the steps required to contribute to the LDC 2050 Vision and a short summary of our high-level theory of change.

Figure 1. The LIFE-AR high-level theory of change



Box 1. Short summary of the LIFE-AR high-level theory of change

If...

LDCs and the international community **work collaboratively** to integrate climate resilience and adaptation in a coordinated whole-of-society approach,

At least 70% of finance is invested in local-level action,¹

LDCs lead integrated planning processes,

Climate capabilities are strengthened in LDCs, and

Governance is established to ensure climate decisions are inclusive and led by local actors,

Then...

Climate investment will reach the **most vulnerable** in LDCs and **climate resilience** will improve,

LDCs will be on **climate-resilient development pathways** delivering net zero emissions to ensure our societies and ecosystems thrive, which

Will lead to **climate-resilient people, economies and landscapes**.

If LIFE-AR is successful and we achieve business unusual, it will **catalyse positive changes in national-level policies, procedures and statutory systems** that allow LDCs to deliver against the outputs above. It will involve changes in attitudes, behaviours and power dynamics – between development partners and LDCs and within LDCs, between national and local governments and across the whole of society (Figure 2).

Key outputs of LIFE-AR

Collective efforts across all stakeholders involved in LIFE-AR aim to deliver the outputs outlined in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Key outputs of LIFE-AR

Outputs

Collaboration: improved coordination and whole-of-society approach to low-carbon, climate-resilient future

Finance: improved climate finance architecture/governance at all levels with at least 70% of finance supporting local-level action

Planning: LDC-led integrated adaptation, mitigation and resilience planning at all levels

Capabilities: stronger climate skills, learning and institutions for more effective climate action in LDCs

Governance: inclusive climate decisions that centre on gender transformation and social justice

Figure 2. Changes we seek to catalyse with LIFE-AR

Structures and systems

Laws and regulations

Climate finance

National to local government planning

Power and attitudes

Between LDCs and development partners

Within LDCs and across the whole of society at national, regional and local levels

Across ministries in LDCs

Assumptions

When creating a theory of change, it is important to outline external influencing factors and assumptions made, as these play an important role in successfully delivering the change. Box 2 outlines the assumptions made in the LIFE-AR theory of change. The MEL plan will track the context around these assumptions. Annex I outlines the risks associated with the LIFE-AR theory of change.

Box 2. Assumptions in the LIFE-AR theory of change

Assumption 1. Once they receive LIFE-AR finance, national LDC governments will make **transformational changes** to their practice, drawing on cross-government learning around business-unusual climate finance and making the necessary reforms to scale up this financing model in the future.

Assumption 2. The international climate finance institutions will recognise the enhanced capabilities of frontrunner countries (FRCs) as strong foundations for meeting the requirements for **accreditation**. If they have the political will to do so, LIFE-AR partners can catalyse this process and successfully influence multilateral donor institutions, including the Global Environment Facility's LDC Fund, the Green Climate Fund, World Bank and development banks.

Assumption 3. International donor institutions, climate funds and multilateral development banks will **reform** and implement international climate finance architecture and create a more enabling environment, which is necessary to give LDCs better and direct access to increased levels of 'high-quality' climate finance. As a result, FRCs will secure higher-quality, more predictable and accessible finance, allowing them to channel at least 70% of this to support local climate action on their own terms by 2030.

Assumption 4. Investment in home-grown **innovation** will increase, building and transferring green skills, knowledge, inclusive technology and infrastructure. These investments will revitalise ecosystems through nature-based solutions, building on FRCs' knowledge and capabilities. FRCs will also scale national delivery systems and institutional arrangements delivering high-quality, predictable and accessible finance.

LIFE-AR's three change pathways

LIFE-AR seeks to address the problems noted in the previous sections and deliver the **offers**, led by LDCs, and the **asks**, led by our development partners who are part of the Partnership Compact, through three distinct but interrelated change pathways. These are supported by crosscutting actions on the partnership principles set out in the Partnership Compact.

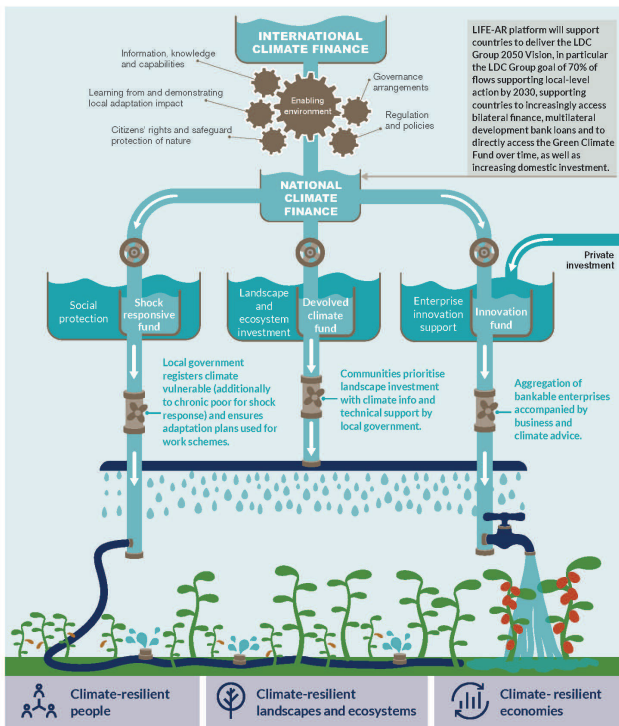
Change Pathway 1. Countries develop LIFE-AR delivery mechanisms for climate finance

The delivery mechanisms are the **governance, planning and financial channels, structures and systems** that help us implement the LDC 2050 Vision. LIFE-AR delivery mechanisms, which can be public or private, can support the building of climate-resilient people, economies or ecosystems – or a mixture of the three. Each country decides on a mechanism that suits its own context, based on financing, capacity and technology needs and outlines channels for delivery, building on its existing core development mechanisms (Figure 4). The LIFE-AR Global Evidence Review identifies various types of delivery mechanism, including:

- **Integrating climate risk management into existing national social protection instruments**, to build climate-resilient people by helping the most vulnerable populations overcome the climate crisis
- **Using decentralised planning and financial delivery systems** so that local authorities and local communities can create integrated management approaches to restore damaged ecosystems and invest in public goods to build climate-resilient landscapes and ecosystems, and
- **Working with small- and medium-sized enterprises to develop climate-resilient value chains** to build climate-resilient economies.

Six FRCs – **Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Malawi and Uganda** – have committed to taking the LDC 2050 Vision forward in-country and turning the LDC offer into a reality. Many of these have already contributed significant time and resources to build political buy-in and support across government and beyond. Over ten years, these six FRCs will test, deliver and share lessons on what works, with a second wave of

Figure 4. LIFE-AR delivery mechanisms

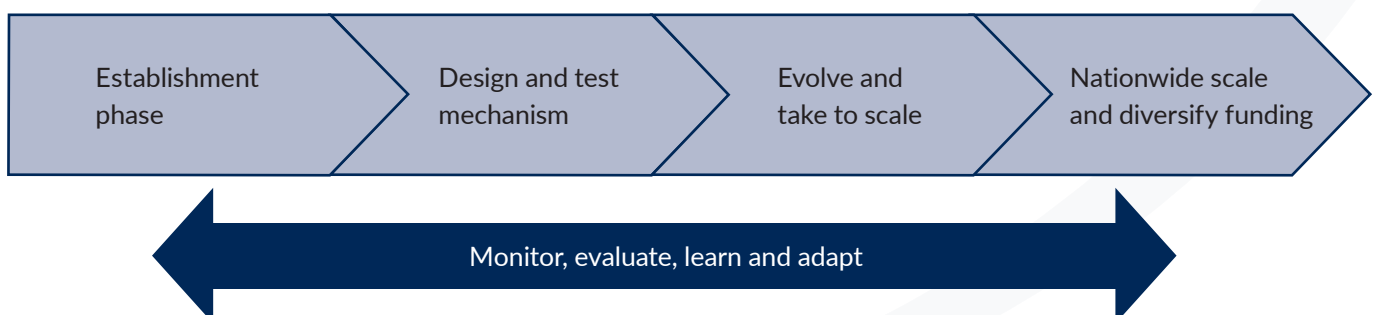


countries expected to join in the future (linking to Change Pathway 3).

At national level, FRCs will develop roadmaps setting out the steps to achieving their objectives under LIFE-AR, designing mechanisms that build on existing core development interventions to ensure climate advice and finance reach local levels across societies (linking to Change Pathway 2). This will eventually give them the track record and proof of concept to enable them to get direct access to international climate finance and development bank loans (LDC ask 1).²

Task teams (made up of whole-of-government and non-state actors) will lead participatory processes to develop their long-term vision, building on existing architecture – such as NDCs, the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience and NAP processes – where possible.

Figure 5. LIFE-AR implementation phases



Expected results from Change Pathway 1

Coordination: establish whole-of-society responses to achieve a low-carbon, climate-resilient future, with responses integrated vertically from national to local levels and horizontally across sectors and society (LDC offer 1).

Finance: develop a coherent architecture for devolving climate finance by 2030, with 70% of climate finance invested in local priorities for low-emission and climate-resilient development (LDC ask 1, offer 2).

Planning: integrate adaptation, resilience and mitigation at national and local levels across FRCs for the long term (to 2050), with commitment to addressing gender, social inclusion and public accountability (LDC offer 3).

Capabilities: build in-country capabilities, demonstrated by FRCs directly accessing global climate finance by 2030 with a proven track record and the strong and effective national and local institutions and systems required (LDC ask 3, offer 4).

MEL: set up effective monitoring systems, by strengthening national systems for learning what works and improving national- and international-level reporting.

Change Pathway 2. LIFE-AR Platform for LDC-led governance and learning

Change Pathway 2 will develop LIFE-AR governance arrangements at the international level, ensuring that it continues to be LDC-led, providing effective governance and support to FRCs, engaging development partners and influencing the international climate finance architecture to better support LDCs. This pathway will establish the LIFE-AR Platform, a collaborative platform for cross-LDC learning and dialogue with development partners.

With the LIFE-AR board as its decision-making body, the LIFE-AR Platform will provide an LDC-led governance

structure for a pooled fund that FRCs can draw down from. It will also collate and share learning between LDCs and with wider climate initiatives. The objective is for the LIFE-AR Platform to be short-lived: it will no longer be needed once LDCs have developed national institutions that can work effectively together to deliver the LDC 2050 Vision and, with development partner support, reform international climate finance so flows are effective, efficient and equitable.

Change Pathway 2 will set up and run the necessary systems and procedures, audits and reporting for the LIFE-AR Platform as well as quality-assuring FRC financial management and reporting.

Drawing on FRC experiences, the platform will inform LDC engagement with development partners and climate funds to influence the reform of climate finance to make it easier for all LDCs to access longer-term, more strategic and more accessible support for climate action, including readiness support. It will facilitate continued regular dialogues between the LDCs and development partners, in line with the principles of the Partnership Compact, to use their experiences under LIFE-AR to improve the global climate architecture, funding systems and procedures, “to reduce transaction costs and ensure mutual accountability behind LDC leadership” (LDC ask 2).

The platform will also support FRC peer-to-peer learning processes, sharing learning with wider LDC and international processes (connecting to Change Pathway 3). It will also support access to international technical assistance when needed (connecting to Change Pathway 1).

Expected results of Change Pathway 2

Governance: support FRCs and serve as an LDC-led and LDC-wide governance structure for LIFE-AR, bringing

together LDCs and development partners in line with principles of the Partnership Compact (LDC ask 2).

Finance: support a LIFE-AR financial mechanism to operate effectively as a pooled fund with low transaction costs and strong fiduciary management to finance LIFE-AR governance structures and communities of practice (CoPs) until LDCs can access climate finance directly (LDC ask 2, offer 2).

Accountability: oversee FRCs and any subsequent cohorts to ensure there are strong systems of accountability with meaningful representation of women, youth, disabled people and other disadvantaged groups in decision making, and inclusive and transparent MEL systems (LDC offer 5).

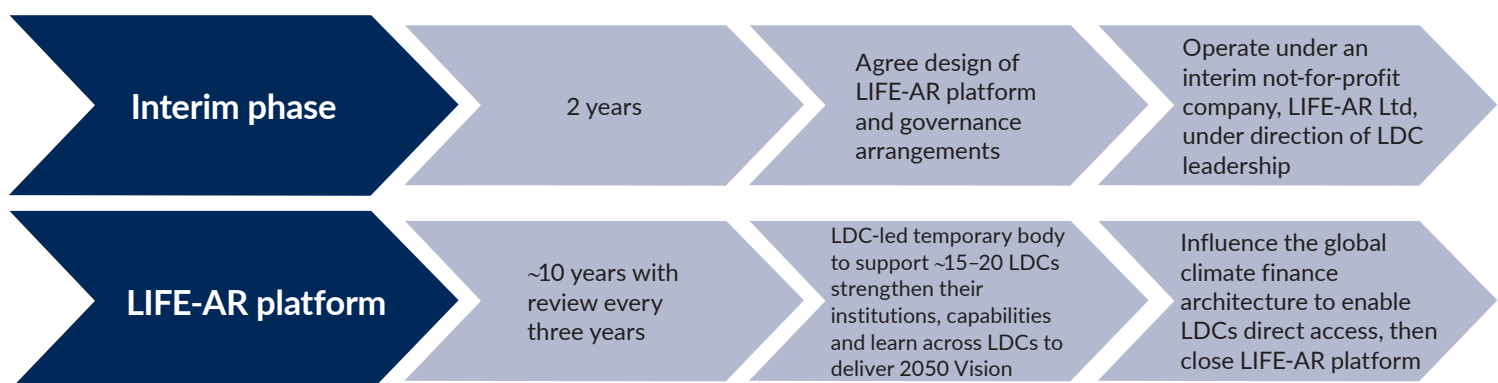
Reform: influence the global climate finance architecture to reform climate funds and enable LDC direct access to support their needs and priorities (LDC ask 1).

Oversight: establish a LIFE-AR board that meets regularly and oversees LIFE-AR Platform reporting and quality assurance mechanisms.

Change Pathway 3. LDC communities of practice and good practice guidance

This pathway focuses on establishing LDC-led CoPs. As well as national and thematic CoPs, there will be a LIFE-AR Platform CoP. The CoPs will promote South-to-South peer learning among LIFE-AR practitioners and other FRC and LDC stakeholders. The platform-level CoP will distil good practice through cross-learning on similar delivery mechanisms and approaches, and promote LDC-wide learning aligned to existing networks including the LUCCC, the NDC Partnership, NAP Global Network and other CoPs and will share learning with – and learn from – other networks with similar interests. The CoPs will also support adaptive management by generating

Figure 6. Evolution of LIFE-AR and LIFE-AR Platform



evidence and lessons in-country to inform approaches and standards across countries, and effectively support the LIFE-AR board and national delivery governance structures. The CoPs will be a critical mechanism for ensuring that no one and no country is left behind.

Working with LUCCC members, the FRCs will continue to engage with wider LDC experts to develop a strong CoP that generates an evidence base to help FRCs understand what works, share experience and provide support. The CoPs will seek to draw in and engage with existing global initiatives, such as the LDC Expert Group’s NAP guidance, the NDC Partnership and the NAP Global Network. They will use opportunities to engage and collaborate through existing regional processes to share LIFE-AR experience and learning through these platforms and to learn and benefit from other country initiatives.

The CoP will develop strategic communications anchored in a communications strategy that will cover all change pathways.

Expected results of Change Pathway 3

Good practice: national and thematic CoPs and the LIFE-AR Platform CoP will distil LDC-wide learning and

develop guidance and peer support, with a focus on engaging LDCs that are often left behind.

Outreach: CoP evidence and learning will help identify a second group of LDCs as the next cohort to deliver the LDC 2050 Vision.

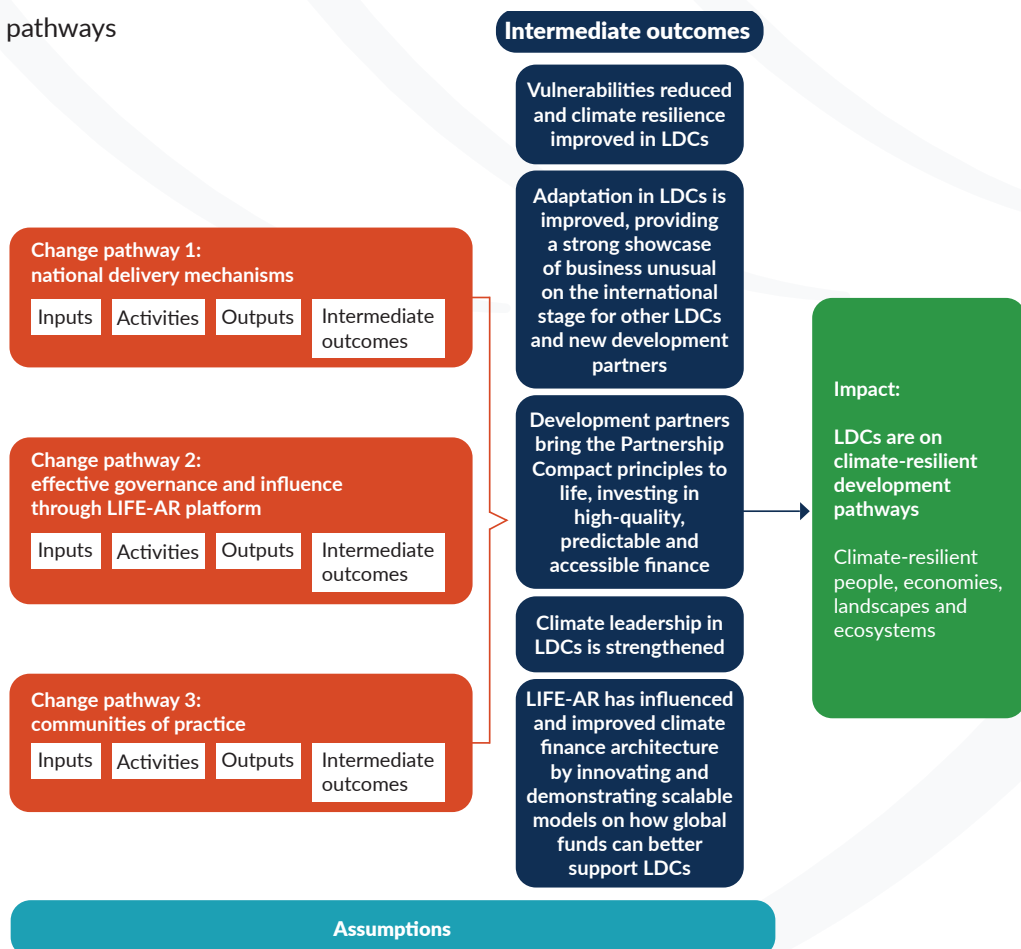
Adaptive management: the CoPs will generate learning for adaptive management in-country and help set LIFE-AR standards across countries to effectively support the LIFE-AR Board and national delivery mechanisms.

Independent evaluations: LIFE-AR will share independent evaluations widely to inform international good practice and the future phases of LIFE-AR.

Coherence: by promoting coherence between climate change and national development priorities, LIFE-AR will contribute to LDC national and international climate priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Knowledge management: LIFE-AR will produce effective knowledge products that lift learning from the CoPs and use them to instigate dialogue with stakeholders across change pathways and beyond LIFE-AR.

Figure 7. Change pathways



3. DELIVERING THE LDC 2050 VISION

LIFE-AR has invited the international community to join the LIFE-AR Partnership Compact, support delivery of the shared LDC 2050 Vision and commit to and demonstrate alignment with the LIFE-AR partnership principles of inclusion, participation, justice, equity and leaving no one behind by mobilising coherent delivery mechanisms aligned with LDCs' national priorities. If LDCs deliver their offers, the international community delivers the LDC asks, and both adopt the partnership principles, LIFE-AR could transform the lives of the most vulnerable people in LDCs.

By committing to following the partnership principles and sharing progress and learning on how it is helping achieve the LDC 2050 Vision, the international community is supporting a historic shift towards a more effective and ambitious global climate response.

Signatories of the LIFE-AR Partnership Compact are developing ambitious strategies for low-carbon, climate-

resilient pathways. LIFE-AR anticipates that greenhouse gas emissions will substantially reduce globally, and this will have climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience co-benefits.

Ultimately, LIFE-AR will contribute to the LDC 2050 Vision where LDCs will deliver climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 to ensure our societies and ecosystems thrive. In LDCs, people and communities will be climate-resilient, living in just, inclusive, happy and poverty-free societies. With climate-resilient economies and net zero emissions, they will enjoy prosperous, vibrant and sustainable growth within ecological limits. And because their landscapes and ecosystems will be sustainably managed, they will be less vulnerable to climate shocks and stresses.

ANNEX I. RISKS

This annex lists the risks associated with the LIFE-AR theory of change. Each pathway will develop a more detailed risk analysis, with mitigation plans to manage the risks and a MEL plan to track risks as LIFE-AR evolves, signalling when any change in approach is required.

Table 1. Risks associated with the LIFE-AR theory of change

Risk
Accumulation and retention of climate change expertise and capabilities within FRCs: high staff turnover in governments and institutions will undermine the accumulation and retention of expertise and capabilities.
Institutional capabilities within national and local FRC governments: gaps in capacity in national and local governments will limit LIFE-AR's ability to strengthen institutions.
Inclusion: without targeted action or plans, LIFE-AR interventions and benefits will overlook disabled people, leaving them behind in the process of development.
Finance management: development partners will withdraw committed funding if existing systems in FRCs are not strong enough to channel the money through.
Sustaining political will in FRC governments through transitions: changes in governments or leadership within government – such as ministerial reshuffles – will undermine political will and momentum in support of LIFE-AR.
Mismatch between FRC climate finance readiness and funding cycles: existing development partners could drop off, with others not prepared to fill the gaps needed to continue operationalising LIFE-AR activities.
Underinvestment: development partners continue to underinvest in scaling up climate finance for adaptation.
Accessibility: global and multilateral institutions do not respond to evidence of the need to make their funds more accessible.

NOTES

- 1 Locally led adaptation can be more effective than top-down adaptation interventions because local actors are aware of the nuanced contexts in which they operate. Devolving power to local actors increases their awareness of and investment in adaptation, which can lead to longer-term and more effective adaptation outcomes. Also, given that households and communities are the biggest spenders on adaptation, local actors know how to address problems at lower costs and greater speeds.
- 2 Experience shows that, even in a country like Kenya with its well-established County Climate Action Funds, getting a multilateral development bank loan for national scale-up of a country-driven mechanism to the local level can take years. Nine years after starting the process, Kenya is still in the process of accessing the Green Climate Fund.



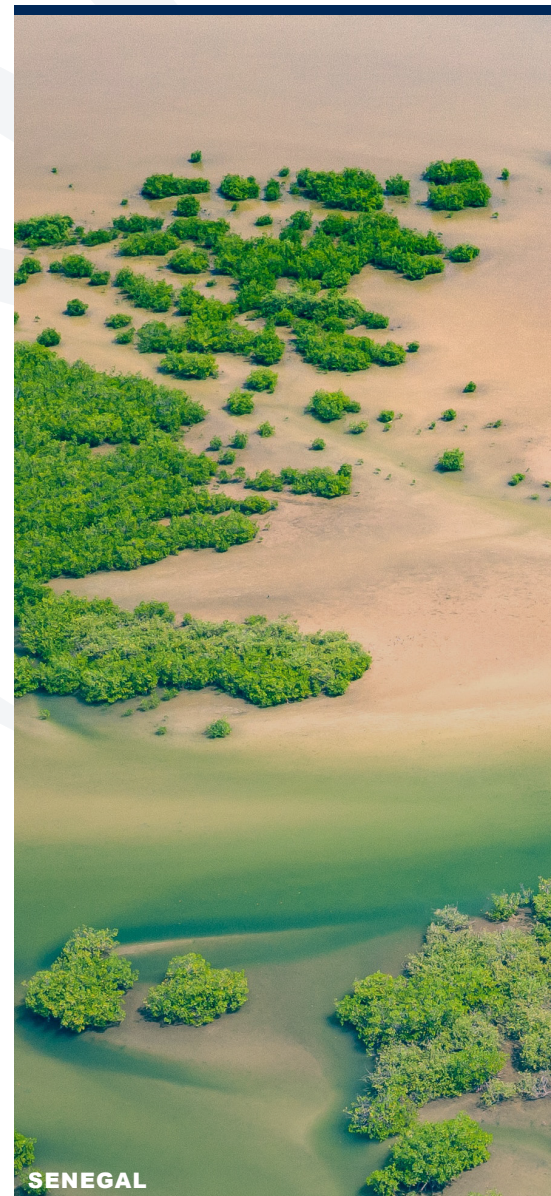
The LDC Group on Climate Change brings together the work and vision of the Least Developed Countries at the intergovernmental negotiations, under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

About LIFE-AR

The Least Developed Countries (LDC) Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) is an LDC-led, LDC-owned initiative to develop a long-term vision for delivering a climate-resilient future. LIFE-AR outlines the ambitious commitments that we LDCs are making together to ensure we leave no LDC behind.

Website: www ldc-climate.org

Twitter: [@LDCchairUNFCCC](https://twitter.com/LDCchairUNFCCC)



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