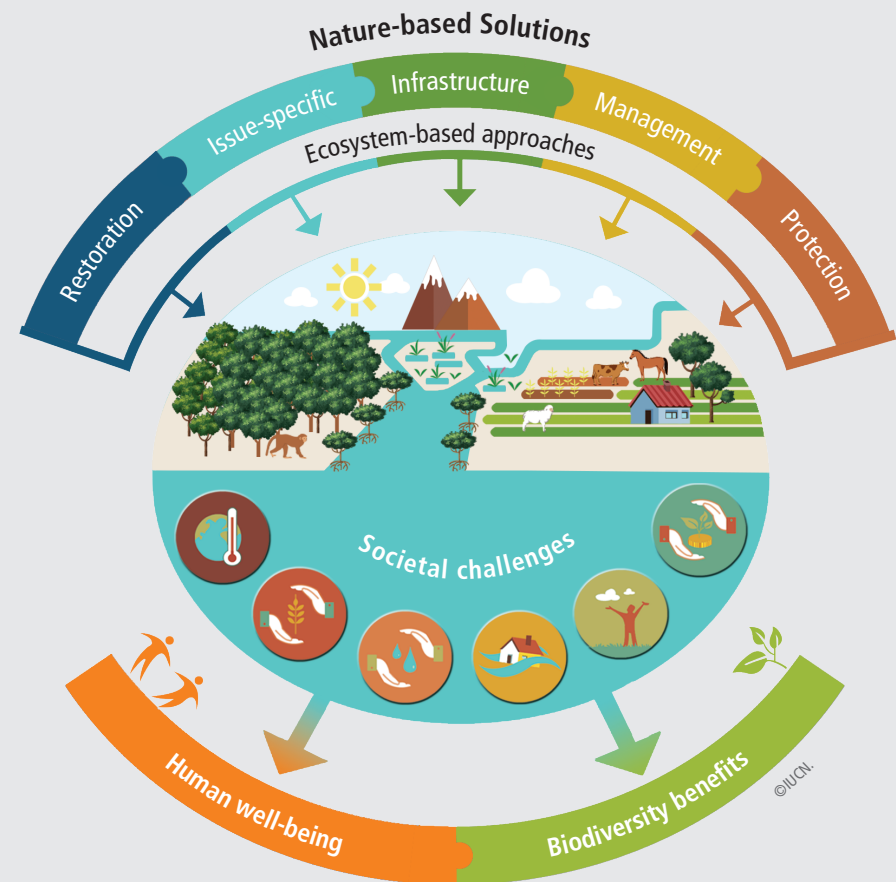


# Nature-based Solutions - NbS

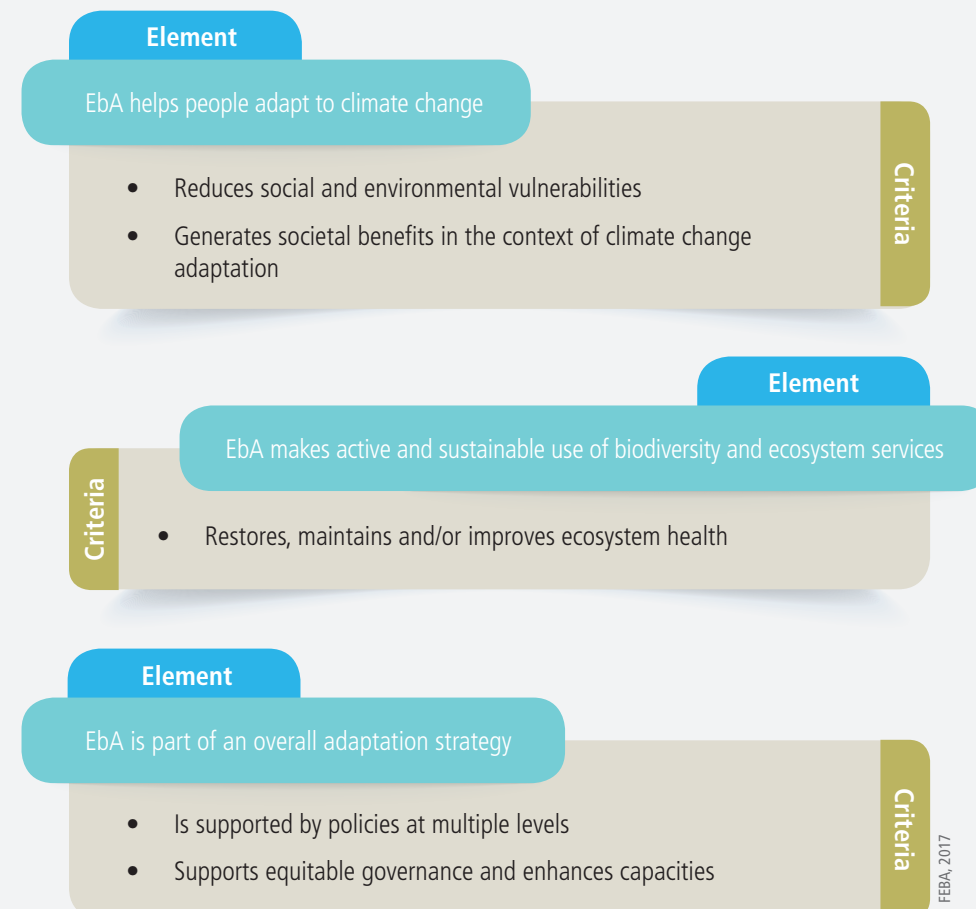
NbS is the use of ecosystems and their services to address societal challenges such as climate change, food security or natural disasters. NbS is defined as "Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits" (IUCN, 2016)



## Ecosystem-based Adaptation

EbA is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. It aims at maintaining and increasing the resilience and reducing the vulnerability of ecosystems and people in the face of the adverse effects of climate change. (CBD, 2009)

## Elements and criteria for Ecosystem-based Adaptation



# Water Funds

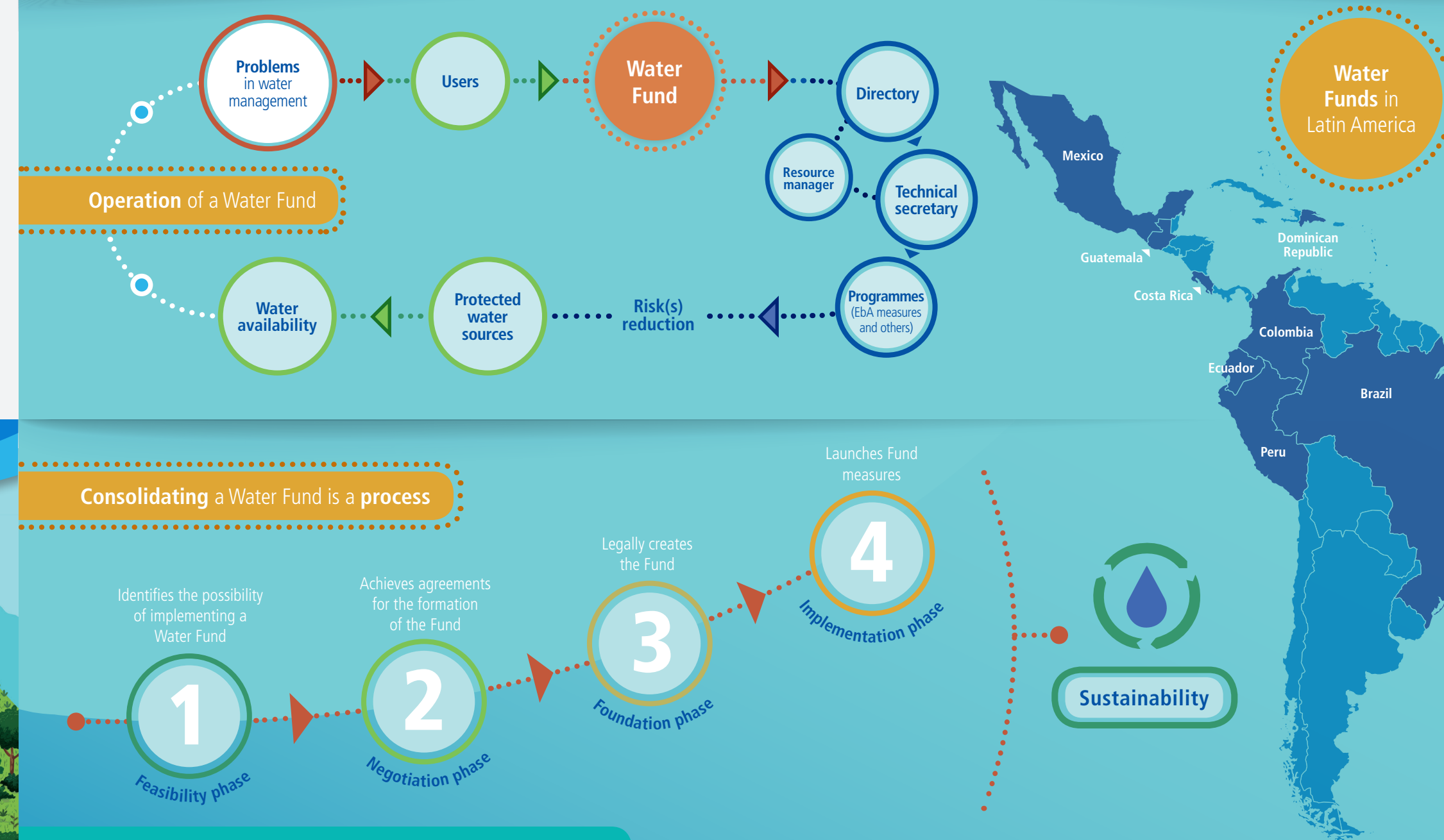
## What are Water Funds?

Water Funds are **stable, transparent and long-term financial mechanisms** that gather a variety of users and actors to **find solutions** to common problems related to hydrological resources. It is based on the use of **natural infrastructure** with an integrated water resources management approach. (AquaNature 2018)

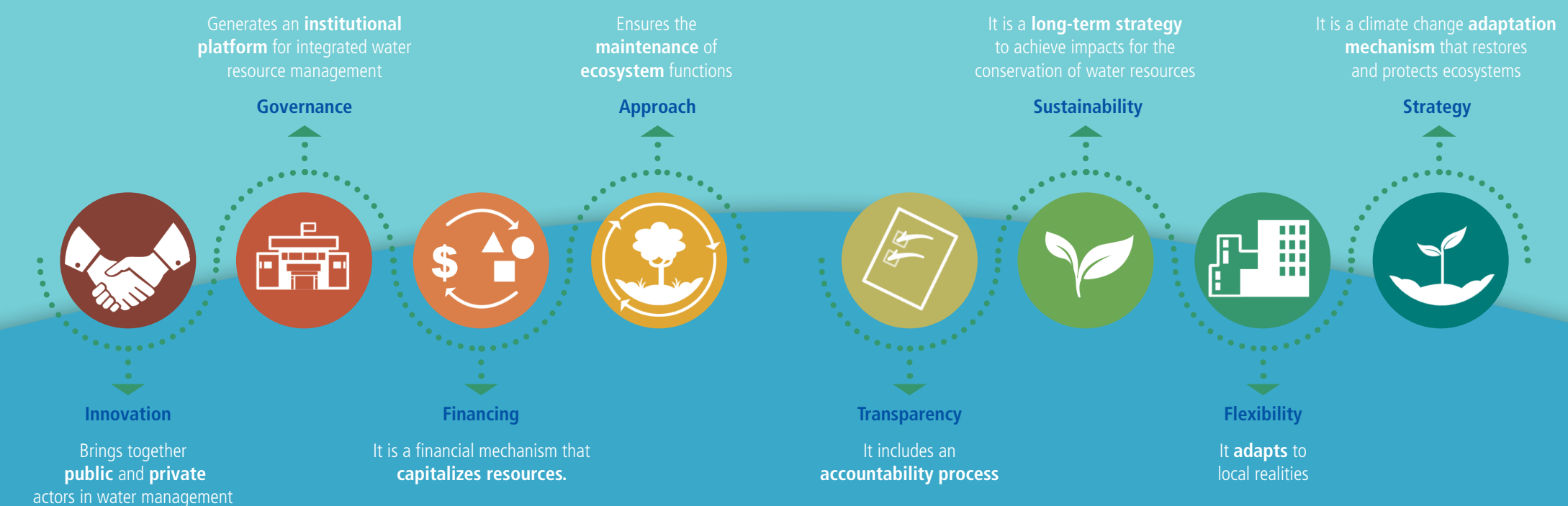
Water Funds emerge from the need to **guarantee continuous and long-term economic resources**, to finance activities that promote **conservation** and maintain the provision of **nature's benefits** related to **water resources**. The fund is a facilitator that provides **technical support**, strengthening and installing local stakeholder's capacities for water care.

## How does a Water Fund work?

A Fund is created with the **financial contributions of water users** who share a problem around this resource. These users become the **constituents** of the Fund and will therefore be responsible for providing guidelines and instructions to a **Technical Secretariat** for its implementation. The Technical Secretariat is the operational unit that finances or implements **Nature-based Solutions** and promotes water management. The financial resources are managed by a third party, usually a **trust**, which provides the guarantees and safeguards so that resources are invested only for the purpose for which the Fund was created.



## Characteristics of a Water Fund



GADeR-ALC is a sector network that promotes environmental management and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a regional platform for cooperation and organised exchange of technical expertise among counterpart professionals, partners and the GIZ.

The network's objective is to boost the effectiveness and quality of development cooperation in the fields of sustainable use of natural resources, rural development and environmental protection.

GADeR-ALC supports the exchange of activities using virtual formats and expands its actions through the promotion of competitive funds that develop innovative ideas. In this context, there is a workstream focused on developing expertise in technical and financial mechanisms to restore water environmental functions as an Ecosystem-based Adaptation measure. These actions are led by Ecuador as well as Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

**AquaNature** is a company with a social vision that pursues an integrated water resource management approach and the conservation of water sources, through the creation of stable, transparent and long-term financial mechanisms. AquaNature supports local processes with a participatory approach, identifying, consolidating and implementing the most suitable mechanism for a basin.

AquaNature has provided technical assistance and support in: Ecuador, Perú, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, México, Dominican Republic. In Latin America, it has established capacity development processes on topics such as: Water Funds, integrated water resource management, green infrastructure, among others.

Web: [www.aqua-nature.com](http://www.aqua-nature.com) | Twitter: @aquanatur3



GADeR-ALC is financed by projects and programs that GIZ carries out on behalf of the German Government.

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36 + 40  
53113 Bonn, Deutschland  
T +49 228 44 60-0  
F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5  
65760 Eschborn, Deutschland  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

**Sector network spokesperson:** Johannes Kissel  
**WS contact:** Aracely Salazar Antón  
E: [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I: [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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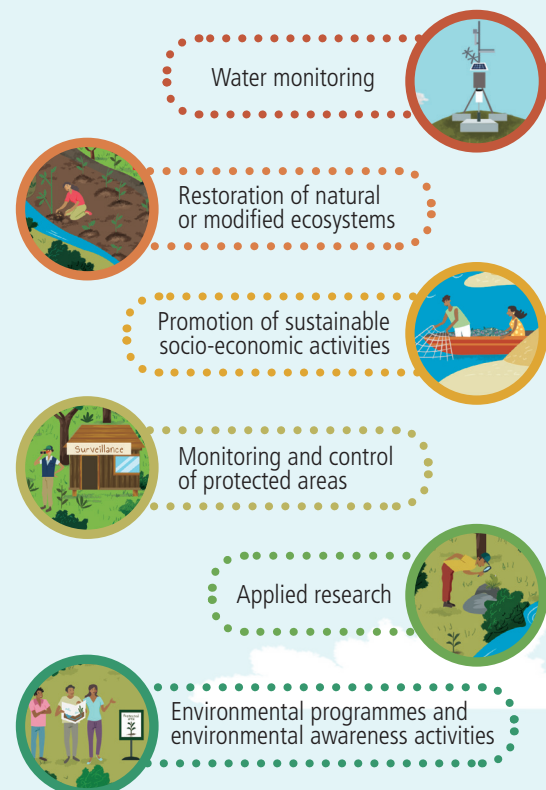
# Water Funds are an option to implement Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures

The  
implementation  
of **EbA** measures links  
biodiversity and ecosystem  
conservation approaches with  
sustainable socio-economic  
development as part of an overall  
strategy to advise helping  
communities to adapt to shocks  
and risks associated with  
climate change.

**Water Funds**  
are financial mechanisms,  
which support the  
conservation efforts of users  
financing measures that  
improve water management  
and offer great potential for  
climate change  
adaptation.

## Measures which could be implemented through Water Funds

Activities implemented through Water Funds are  
innumerable and respond to the particularities of  
the local context in which they are applied. These  
actions can be implemented in the upper, middle  
and lower basin. Some examples are:



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