

## Technical Cooperation Abstract

### I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/IDB
▪ TC Name:	Knowledge for Managing Local Pollution in LAC
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4014
▪ Team Leader/Members:	BLACKMAN, ALLEN (CSD/CSD) Team Leader; ROJAS SANCHEZ, LAURA NATALIA (VPS/VPS) Alternate Team Leader; GOMEZ, JUAN CARLOS (CSD/CCS); HOFFMANN, BRIDGET LYNN (RES/RES); NATALIA ALMEIDA (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	13 Oct 2021
▪ Beneficiary:	LAC environmental policy makers
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$300,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	CSD - Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CSD/CSD - Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector
▪ TC included in Country Strategy:	Yes
▪ TC included in CPD:	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Environmental sustainability

### II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The broad objective of this technical cooperation is to develop the knowledge that IADB and its clients need to develop efficient and effective policies and programs to reduce local pollution and mitigate its effects on human health. The specific objectives are to foster communication and collaboration among research institutions, the IDB and the policy community, and build the knowledge base on which these stakeholders can draw. These specific objectives, in turn, will be accomplished by funding (a) policy-relevant, rigorous research on local pollution and its links to human health by and/or with key LAC research and policy institutions that are expert on this topic, and (b) networking and workshops and other dissemination activities.
- 2.2 Local pollution is the leading cause of premature mortality in low- and middle-income countries (GAHP 2013). It is associated with more than eight million deaths per year—two to three times the number of deaths from AIDs, tuberculosis and malaria combined and more than 10 times the number from war, crime, and other forms of violence (Landrigan et al. 2018). More than 80 percent of deaths associated with pollution are due to air pollution—both indoor and outdoor—and the remainder are associated with water pollution, poor sanitation, and contaminated sites (GAHP 2013).
- 2.3 Pollution-related disease is most prevalent among vulnerable and marginalized populations because they are exposed to more risk factors and have less access to health services (Landrigan et. al. 2018). Women are also disproportionately

affected because they typically have primary responsibility for household activities and therefore are exposed to higher concentrations of indoor pollutants.

- 2.4 As urbanization, industrialization, and commercial agriculture have advanced in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), local pollution has become increasingly severe, often despite advances in environmental regulation. At least 150 million people in LAC live in cities that do not meet World Health Organization guidelines. (However, this figure may be underestimated since only 22 percent of LAC population live in areas with ground level air pollution monitors; Riojas Rodriguez et al., 2016). Air pollution in the region causes more than 170,000 premature deaths per year, five percent of all such deaths. Associated welfare losses exceed two percent of GDP (World Bank/IHME 2016).
- 2.5 Water pollution and sanitation also are significant problems. Roughly a quarter of LAC's water bodies have relatively high concentrations of fecal coliforms (more than 10000 nmp/100ml). These high levels of contamination represent a challenge in both urban and rural areas since approximately 25 million inhabitants of rural areas in LAC are in contact with contaminated surface waters from the cities (UNEP 2016). The region would need to invest more than US\$33 billion to increase the fraction of wastewater treated to just under two-thirds by 2030 (Mejía et al., 2012). Thirty-five percent of the region's population do not have access to safely managed drinking water services and 78 percent do not have access to safely managed sanitation services (World Bank 2019).
- 2.6 Despite these pressing problems, funding for research, policies, and programs focused on local pollution in low- and middle-income countries is limited: most funding concerns global problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss. A recent high-profile international commission on the pollution therefore recommends that multilateral development banks along with bilateral funding agencies and other international organizations, "...elevate pollution prevention within the agendas of international development and global health and substantially increase the resources they devote to pollution, establishing it as a priority in funding mechanisms." (Landrigan et al. 2018, 499)

### III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component 1. Collaborative research on local pollution in LAC.** This component will finance a set of three to seven rigorous research projects on local pollution by and/or with key LAC research and policy institutions that are experts on this topic. To enhance quality of the research and dissemination and to facilitate a bottoms-up approach to identify the topics that are most important and relevant to our client countries, we will select projects via a competitive call for proposals.
- 3.2 **Component 2. Networking and dissemination.** This component will finance additional networking among the research teams, policy makers, and IADB staff, and dissemination of research results to target audiences including local and international policy and academic stakeholders.

### IV. Budget

Indicative Budget (US\$)

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund	Total
Component 1. Collaborative research on local pollution in LAC.	200,000	200,000
Component 2. Networking and dissemination.	100,000	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>

### V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 This operation will be executed by the IDB. The CSD Front Office and the RND Division will coordinate with other Departments and Divisions and establish partnerships with academia and governments.
- 5.2 This operation will be executed by the IDB given the regional coverage of the activities to be performed and possible synergies and complementarities with Bank operations and research.

## **VI. Project Risks and Issues**

- 6.1 The proposed project is expected to contribute to the reduction of environmental and social vulnerabilities by providing information that could be used in the design, implementation and execution of programs and policies. Therefore, the proposed classification is “C”.

## **VII. Environmental and Social Classification**

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is “undefined”.