



**Natura
Tech** LAC

PRIZE

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

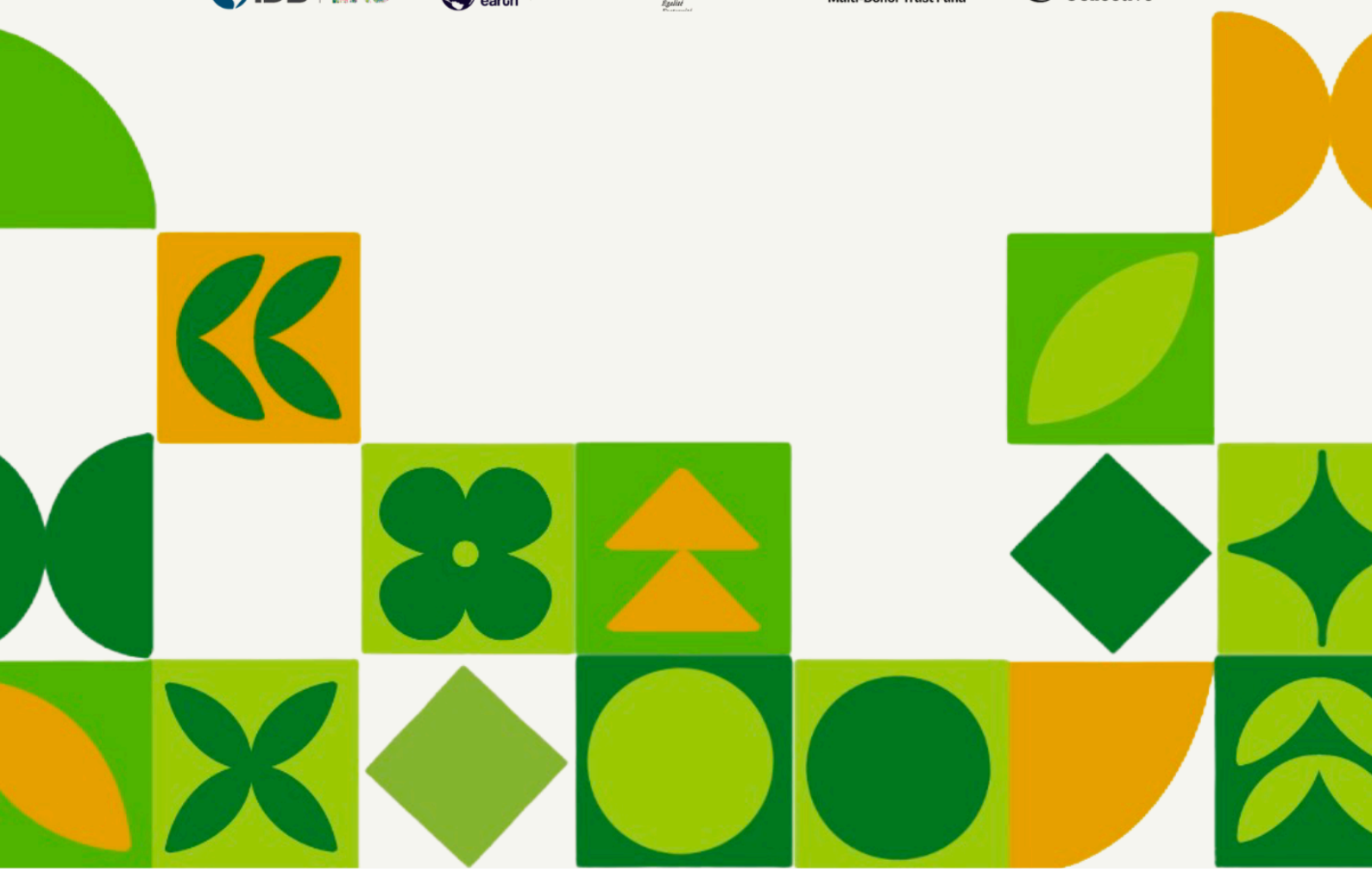
INITIATIVE LED BY



FUNDING PARTNERS



Amazon Bioeconomy
and Forest Management
Multi-Donor Trust Fund





NATURATECH LAC PRIZE

- APPLICATION GUIDELINES-

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objective

The **Inter-American Development Bank**, through its innovation laboratory, **IDB Lab**, with **C Minds**, the support of **Climate Collective**, the **French Government (through IDB's Natural Capital Lab)**, and the **Amazon Bioeconomy and Forests Management Multi Donor Trust Fund (AMDTF)**, launches **a prize for diverse groups working in biodiversity conservation and regeneration** to present innovative proposals that would benefit from technology adoption to help strengthen or scale their work.

Submission of applications

From May 29 to August 15, 2024

Announcement of selected applications

September 30, 2024

Award

- Project Showcase in Cali, Colombia, in the context of the CBD COP16.
- Access to financing.
- Winners will be part of the NaturaTech LAC Studio, an incubator for the adoption of purposeful technologies.
- Access to a Strategic network and visibility.

Geographical Scope

If your organization is located and operating in one of the following countries, you can apply for the prize: **Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.**

- **Organizations outside the eligible countries:** Organizations that are not registered in the eligible countries, but are part of the [rest of IDB's 26 borrowing member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (including: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela) may apply, provided their project is applied in one of the selected countries, and they do so in



partnership with an institution that is located and registered in one or more of the eligible countries.

Application platform: [Younoodle](#)

II. INTRODUCTION

Context

The **Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region** is a biodiversity hotspot, home to an immense variety of ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity. This makes it a critical area for conservation efforts, home to 40% of the world's biodiversity, 30% of its water, and 50% of its tropical forests; it plays a vital role in maintaining global environmental stability and biodiversity.

However, it is estimated that close to one million species in the world are in danger of extinction, many of them in the coming decades¹. In Latin America and the Caribbean the numbers are more worrying: since the 1970s we have lost 94% of the region's wildlife populations². It's in this sense that transformative advancements utilizing a range of new technologies are drawing the interest of those at the forefront of efforts to protect Earth's diverse ecosystems.

Opportunity

The potential of **nature tech** –defined as technologies aimed at addressing significant environmental issues like climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as those that facilitate the enhancement of nature-based solutions (NbS)– stands as a powerful game-changer for preserving our planet's rich biodiversity and tackling the challenges of climate change head-on. These innovations empower us with comprehensive information crucial for making wise decisions in land use planning, management, conservation and restoration. Not only does this make our efforts more environmentally responsible, but

¹

http://www.mari-odu.org/academics/2018su_Leadership/commons/library/Summary%20for%20Policymakers%20IPBES%20Global%20Assessment.pdf

² <https://livingplanet.panda.org/>



the **added transparency and resilience** will also draw in a wave of new investors eager to support sustainable initiatives. As these technologies, such as machine learning, eDNA and genomics, and networked sensors, advance, they hold the promise of accelerating data-based decision-making and effective action in the rapidly evolving field of biodiversity conservation and regeneration.

However, as we navigate this transformative landscape, it becomes evident that challenges loom large to advance these innovations in the region: limited funding and allocation where is needed the most, need for a wide-spread access to context-based tools and technologies, a disconnected ecosystem of collaboration, and inadequate capacity building represent hurdles that must be surmounted for the region to fully take advantage of the nature tech momentum.

Fortunately, the path forward also offers opportunities to unlock this potential: increasing radical and empathetic multi-sector and transboundary collaboration, improving the interoperability of data and technologies to facilitate information sharing, as well as enhancing tech literacy and capacities for large-scale environmental data analysis. It is these challenges and opportunities that **NaturaTech LAC** seeks to address directly.

[NaturaTech LAC](#), a Latin America and Caribbean (LAC)- wide initiative spearheaded by the [IDB Lab](#) as part of its [Green Entrepreneurial Engine approach](#), co-led by [C Minds' Future of Earth Lab](#), and financed by the [French Government](#) (through IDB's Natural Capital Lab), and [Climate Collective](#). The initiative also collaborates with strategic partners like the [Stockholm Resilience Center at Stockholm University](#), [LACCHAIN](#), [Amazon Investor Coalition](#), among others, amplifying its impact across the region; aims to **enhance the effectiveness, scalability, and transparency of biodiversity conservation and regeneration action, as well as innovative and regenerative sustainable finance**. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies and inclusive strategies, the initiative seeks to boost financing, promote nature-centered entrepreneurship, and catalyze transformative inclusion within environmental efforts.

We know the importance of promoting and financing creativity and innovation to respond to the current challenges we face in the field of biodiversity loss and degradation. This is why NaturaTech LAC will launch the **NaturaTech Prize within the framework of COP16**.

www.naturatech.org

III. OBJECTIVE OF THE PRIZE

The **NaturaTech LAC initiative** aims to recognize, fund and support innovative proposals that can benefit from technology adoption in a purposeful and contextual way to help strengthen and accelerate their work in biodiversity conservation and regeneration. We are specifically looking to support the development of inclusive projects and/or solutions that leverage:

- the **opportunities offered by the responsible and contextual use of emerging technologies** (such as Artificial Intelligence, web3, IoT, and sensors, environmental DNA, digital tokens, among others) to solve previously identified challenges;
- **Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)**; and
- **inclusive governance** schemes with shared benefits, among others.



IV. TIMELINE

- **May 29, 2024:** Prize Launch
- **May 29 - August 15, 2024:** Submit applications
- **August 15, 2024:** Deadline to submit applications
- **August 15, 2024 - September 05, 2024:** Review by NaturaTech LAC technical team



- **September 05, 2024 - September 20, 2024:** Due diligence and interviews with finalists
- **September 30, 2024:** Notification to winners
- **October 23, 2024:** Winners publicly announced in Cali, Colombia, in the context of COP16

V. GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

- **Eligible countries:** If your organization is located and operating in one of the following countries, you can apply for the prize: **Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.**
- **Organizations outside the eligible countries:** Institutions that are not registered in the eligible countries, but are part of the [rest of IDB's 26 borrowing member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (including: *Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela*) may apply, provided their project is applied in one of the eligible countries, and they do so in partnership with an institution that is located and registered in one or more of the eligible countries.

VI. GROUPS AND TOPIC TRACKS

Groups

For this prize, NaturaTech LAC seeks to support applicants that meet the following characteristics:

Projects or solutions located and operating in eligible countries that are led by NGOs, new companies (or startups), social enterprises, community organizations, indigenous organizations/groups; and others, who wish to explore explore explore, strengthen, scale, or accelerate the use of emerging technologies, in combination with local, ancestral, cultural or traditional knowledge, in order to improve BNS for biodiversity conservation in the LAC region.

Topic Tracks

TOPIC	CONTEXT	EXAMPLES OF SOLUTIONS
<p>Forests</p>	<p>The LAC region has experienced a significant loss of forest cover over the past 30 years. Forest cover in the region has declined steadily from 53% to 46% of its land area between 1990 and 2020, and the total loss of forest cover across the region during this time was 138 million hectares. This loss of natural forests is a significant threat to the region's ecological health, as well as the livelihoods of those who depend on forests for their sustenance and income.³</p>	<p>Solutions should aim to explore, strengthen, and/or demonstrate how the use of cutting-edge digital technologies can support effective forestry or agroforestry projects and protect biodiversity through sustainable forest management, avoided deforestation, avoided land degradation, and/or restoration.</p> <p><i>Examples of specific solutions to the following problems, but not limited that can be proposed by applicants:</i></p> <p>Satellite monitoring and sensors are now being deployed in many parts of the world to scale the battle against deforestation in real-time and prevent it before happening. AI can be adopted to enable better policy decision-making on evidence-based tropical forest management and the automated monitoring of its ecosystemic health.</p> <p>Advanced remote sensing technologies, such as satellite imaging and LiDAR, can provide real-time data on forest cover and changes, aiding in the detection of deforestation and illegal activities. Artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms can analyze this vast amount of data to identify patterns and trends, supporting more informed decision-making and policy formulation.</p>

³ Source: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47152/1/S2100265_en.pdf

		<p>Moreover, Web3 applications can be explored to enable the creation of digital tokens that represent the value of ecosystem services (such as carbon sequestration, clean water, and biodiversity) into financial assets. These tokens can be traded on decentralized exchanges, creating new opportunities for funding conservation efforts. All of this leads to exploring new innovative financing models.</p>
<p>Sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>Large-scale industrial agriculture in LAC uses a significant amount of land and water and generates greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Moreover, the expansion of monoculture cultivation threatens the region's agrobiodiversity, and deforestation is primarily driven by agricultural expansion.</p> <p>Furthermore, agriculture and agri-food systems play a critical role in creating jobs, reducing poverty, safeguarding food security, and preserving ecosystem services. Thus, transitioning to zero deforestation value chains and adopting agroecology can maximize positive outcomes for the region's societies, economies, and ecosystems.⁴</p>	<p>Solutions should aim to explore, strengthen, and/or demonstrate how the use of cutting-edge digital technologies can support more transparent and sustainable agricultural practices and bio-based value chains that reduce habitat destruction.</p> <p><i>Examples of specific solutions to the following problems, but not limited that can be proposed by applicants:</i></p> <p>Adopting technology for zero deforestation value chains and agroecology can take for example, the form of adopting blockchain-based technologies for value chain traceability and trusted information sharing among parties. Also, blockchain technology can enhance supply chain transparency for biobased products, helping consumers make environmentally responsible choices and ensuring fair compensation for local producers. This priority topic includes related bioeconomy applications as well.</p>
<p>Blue economy</p>	<p>The oceans of the world are facing tremendous strain because of human activities. Increasing pollution, acidification, overfishing,</p>	<p>Solutions should aim to explore, strengthen, and/or demonstrate how the use of cutting-edge digital technologies can support the protection of marine</p>

4

See

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/942381591906970569/future-foodscapes-re-imagining-agriculture-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean>

more:

	<p>increased building, poor wastewater treatment, farmland runoff, and population growth are threatening the balance of this global system on which all humanity depends. LAC is considered one of the most important productive areas of the world, home to unique marine biodiversity and the second largest barrier reef of the world, and 25% of the region's population lives on the coast.⁵</p>	<p>ecosystems or other water-based ecosystems while fostering economic opportunities.</p> <p><i>Examples of specific solutions to the following problems, but not limited that can be proposed by applicants:</i></p> <p>New technologies can play an important role in effectively addressing these challenges. For example, enhancing drone capabilities for lower aquaculture costs and surveilling marine protected areas, finding effective "nudges", in the form of digital environmental assets, to influence consumer and fisherman behavior, and improving waste management in coastal communities through AI-enabled decision-making.</p> <p>Given that most of the ocean remains unexplored, exploration efforts such as seafloor mapping and the use of technology like robots are necessary to expand our understanding of this unique ecosystem and its vulnerabilities</p>
<p>Nature based Solutions in the context of cities</p>	<p>Regarding the fourth priority topic "fostering innovation for nature-based solutions for cities," the cities of Latin America are grappling with a multitude of environmental challenges and unplanned growth and the scarce inclusion of environmental issues in urban policies have led to greater vulnerability in the region.</p> <p>Effects such as increased pollution, deforestation, urban heat islands, and biodiversity loss pose significant threats to the</p>	<p>Solutions should aim to explore, strengthen, and/or demonstrate how the use of cutting-edge digital technologies can support nature-positive cities and urban development.</p> <p><i>Examples of specific solutions to the following problems, but not limited that can be proposed by applicants:</i></p> <p>By embracing advancements in digital technology, cities can develop smarter and more effective strategies to integrate nature into their urban planning and management. For instance, implementing AI-powered sensors and monitoring systems can help</p>

⁵ See more: https://blogs.iadb.org/sostenibilidad/en/continent-of-oceans-latin-americas-blue-economy/#_ftnref1

	<p>well-being of urban populations and the environment alike.</p>	<p>assess air and water quality, enabling real-time interventions.</p> <p>Furthermore, utilizing big data analytics can offer valuable insights into urban green spaces' usage patterns, aiding in the optimal design and placement of parks and green corridors</p>
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VII. WHO CAN PRESENT APPLICATIONS?

Organizations from any of the eligible countries can participate, including startups’ solutions, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), NGOs, public innovation agencies, community-led organizations, and others, with demonstrated expertise in one or more of the topic tracks mentioned in [section 06](#).

Who can apply?

- Organizations legally registered and operating in one of the following countries: **Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.**
 - Organizations that submit a project to be implemented in one or more of the eligible countries within the scope of the geographical focus of the prize and are able to demonstrate their impact in one or more of the priority topics.
 - Organizations focused on projects proposed by IPLCs or by institutions in partnership with IPLCs (with demonstrable experience co-creating or collaborating with the community or communities) where the latter are the final owners of the project.
 - Organizations that submit projects that exemplify partnership and collaboration across different sectors, such as government, private sector, academia, and civil society.
- **Organizations outside the eligible countries:** Organizations that are not registered in the eligible countries, but are part of the [rest of IDB's 26 borrowing member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (including: Argentina,



Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela) may apply, **provided their project is applied in one of the selected countries, and they do so in partnership with an organization that is located and registered in one or more of the eligible countries.**

- 50% or more of the founders of the organization must be from a Latin American and Caribbean country.
- More than 70% of the management and operational team must be from a LAC country.
- *Although it is not a precondition for receiving funding, gender equity at the management and operational levels is encouraged.*

VIII. PROCESS

8.1 Award

NaturaTech LAC may consider the Applicants whose applications are selected to receive financing to implement the proposed solutions in one of the eligible countries.

Applicants whose applications are selected will also be included among NaturaTech LAC's network of implementing partners working in LAC to exchange knowledge, experiences, best practices, and may have opportunities to participate in networking events organized by the NaturaTech LAC's partners.

Selected Applicants will receive funding once:

- The proposed solution has been analyzed to obtain evidence of its innovative approach, viability, leadership, and other criteria established below;
- The Applicant's capacity to manage the financial resources and project execution and impact has been evaluated⁶,

⁶Proposals must demonstrate the project **team's comprehensive expertise and leadership capabilities, which are crucial for the successful implementation and sustainability of the project.** The team should consist of individuals with a diverse range of skills, including a deep understanding of environmental and conservation principles, and strong project management and leadership qualities, with a strong



- The Applicant clearly expresses willingness to refine these solutions through collaboration with NaturaTech LAC and other stakeholders, and;
- A legal written agreement between C Minds and the Applicant to receive funding towards the implementation of the selected project has been signed by both parties.

8.2 Evaluation Criteria

NaturaTech LAC is on the lookout for **pioneering nature-guided projects that can redefine the landscape of high integrity, trustworthy, transparent, and accountable biodiversity conservation solutions in the LAC region through the innovative use of purposeful technology, and community-driven approaches.** This can be done in the form of innovative products, services, or solutions.

The applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE
Clear problem identification	Projects must demonstrate a deep understanding of a specific environmental challenge within their region. Selected projects must demonstrate a strong impact on biodiversity protection or regeneration in their area of work. Ideally, the selected projects should also focus on the protection, management of umbrella species, key species for conservation (under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and other local, national, or regional regulations). Innovation is key; proposals introducing novel applications or approaches in their field, along with a well-considered risk management strategy, are desirable.	10%
Impact	Evaluation focuses on the project's potential to create significant environmental improvements,	20%

demonstrated leadership in their regions of operations. The team is not expected to be technical experts, as the support package would include connecting them to technological advisors, providers, and others.

	<p>addressing key issues such as conservation, climate change mitigation, and adaptation efforts in the LAC region.</p> <p>Selected technology or methodologies must be deemed appropriate for the local context, taking into account its technical feasibility, social acceptability, and potential to influence socio-economic dynamics within the community positively.</p> <p>Moreover, the selected projects must catalyze socio-economic improvements, through the direct or indirect creation of new jobs related to the deployment and adoption of nature tech during and after the project.</p>	
Ethical Integration of Technologies and Traditional Knowledge	<p>Projects should exemplify the ethical application of emerging technologies when leveraging TEK and NbS. This entails harnessing innovative technological tools and indigenous practices in ways that respect and amplify local and regional conservation efforts, fostering a harmonious balance between advancement and tradition.</p>	15%
Inclusivity	<p>Assessing the project's dedication to engaging Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and incorporating gender perspectives, aiming for widespread and equitable benefits. Project leaders must indicate the project's implications on human rights and community well-being.</p>	15%
Scalability	<p>The project's ability to expand its reach or be replicated, enhancing its environmental and social impacts across the LAC region.</p>	15%
Team Capacity	<p>Evaluating the project team's ability to successfully implement the proposed solution, supported by external technical skills if needed, experience, and organizational resources.</p>	10%
Viability	<p>Assessing the feasibility and practicality of the project, including an analysis of risks and the likelihood of achieving the desired outcomes</p>	10%

	within the set timeframe.	
Financial Sustainability	Projects are asked to describe the effective use of resources, together with a financial sustainability plan post-funding and the potential for attracting new sources of financial support or investments are important. Moreover, the incorporation of innovative and regenerative finance mechanisms to support long-term sustainability and impact will be highly encouraged.	5%

8.3 Prize Package

1. **Project Showcase in Cali, Colombia**, in the context of the CBD COP16.
2. **Financing:** Each selected project will receive up to **USD \$100,000** for the development or adoption of the technical component and supporting activities. This is intended to provide the necessary resources to implement, expand, or enhance the proposed solutions, ensuring they can achieve tangible results and contribute significantly to their targeted environmental and societal goals.
3. Winners will also become part of the **NaturaTech LAC Studio**, an incubator for the adoption of purposeful technologies that will include activities like **dedicated companionship throughout the project’s lifecycle, specialized expertise, consulting services, access to advanced technology, capacity building, among other resources**. Importantly, the provision of this support will be context-based, addressing the unique needs and challenges of each project⁷.
4. **Access to a Strategic Network and Visibility:** Successful applicants will gain unprecedented access to and support from a robust network of strategic partners associated with NaturaTech LAC and dedicated spotlight.

Applicants will not act as mere recipients, but as partners of NaturaTech LAC in advancing a wider goal of developing a pipeline of successful projects that integrate cutting edge technologies in an ethical manner in NbS that benefit IPLCs and the general public.

⁷ Project leaders are required to clearly identify the specific type of support and assistance they need, ensuring that the assistance provided is directly aligned with their project’s objectives and context.



With this, we seek not only to finance and recognize avant-garde ideas from and for Latin America and the Caribbean but also to inspire new financing and others to action. We emphasize the importance of partnership, co-creation, and the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge with modern technological approaches.

The call encourages bold, creative, and pragmatic proposals that can benefit contextually and meaningfully from technological advancements and are grounded in the region's socio-ecological context.

8.4 Counterpart requirement (in-kind contributions to be provided by the Applicant)

The **in-kind** counterpart is valued at 30% of the total prize amount. This contribution is expected to be fulfilled through dedicated participant involvement in various activities, such as workshops, brainstorming sessions, capacity building exercises, and other collaborative activities. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- **Participation in Workshops and Brainstorming Sessions:** Engaging in structured discussions and idea exchanges to foster innovation.
- **Capacity Building Exercises:** Attending sessions designed to enhance skills and competencies relevant to the project's objectives.
- **Creation of Knowledge Products:** Contributing to the development of tangible outputs such as reports, tools, or methodologies that encapsulate the accrued insights and learnings.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Disseminating valuable insights and practices within the applicant's country and/or region, and to third parties, ensuring a broader impact.

The goal of these contributions is to establish a dynamic platform where winners actively engage in developmental opportunities. This engagement not only enhances individual skills but also significantly contributes to broader community objectives.

8.5 How to Apply

The application will consist of two steps:



1. Complete the online application:

- a. Submit proposals through the [online platform](#) within the timeframe specified in [section 04](#). Applicants will be selected if they fully comply with the evaluation criteria and requirements described in [section 8.2](#).

2. Upload documents:

- a. Letter of commitment of counterpart in kind;
- b. Legal incorporation/incorporation;
- c. 1 minute video;
- d. If co-applicant, letter of support from the co-applicant organization.

8.6 Selection Process

Phase I

After completing the application on the online platform, a NaturaTech LAC expert technical team and financiers will review, analyze, and pre-select the applications.

Phase II

A due diligence process will be conducted to analyze the model of the pre-selected applications. Subject to the outcome of the due diligence, the pre-selected applications will proceed to Phase III. Pre-selected applicants could be contacted to answer questions if any.

Phase III

NaturaTech LAC will select applications according to the evaluation criteria described in [section 8.2](#). Selected applications will be contacted and announced as per timeline in [section 04](#).

XIX. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who is eligible to apply for the NaturaTech LAC Prize?

Organizations legally registered and operating in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru can apply. This includes startups, SMEs, NGOs, public innovation agencies, and others with



expertise in biodiversity conservation, and/or technology, and/or traditional ecological knowledge.

Organizations outside the eligible countries: Institutions that are not registered in the eligible countries, but are part of the rest of [IDB's 26 borrowing member countries](#) in Latin America and the Caribbean (*including: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela*) may apply, provided their project is applied in one of the selected countries, and they do so in partnership with an institution that is located and registered in one or more of the eligible countries.'

2. What types of projects are eligible for the prize?

Projects that leverage or are seeking to leverage emerging technologies (like AI, IoT, eDNA, etc.) and Traditional Ecological Knowledge to solve challenges related to biodiversity conservation and regeneration. Projects should align with the four topic tracks: Forests, Sustainable Agriculture, Blue Economy, and Nature-Positive Cities.

3. If my organization is registered in Europe, Asia, or other regions, and not in Latin America and the Caribbean, can I apply?

No, if your organization is not legally registered in any of the eligible countries, or does not apply as a co-applicant in one of the 26 IDB borrowing countries, you are not eligible for this award.

4. What is the timeline for the application process?

- **May 29, 2024:** Prize Launch
- **May 29 - July 30, 2024:** Submit applications
- **August 15, 2024:** Deadline to submit applications
- **August 15, 2024 - September 05, 2024:** Review by NaturaTech LAC technical team
- **September 05, 2024 - September 20, 2024:** Due diligence and interviews with finalists
- **September 30, 2024:** Notification to winners
- **October 21- November 1, 2024:** Winners publicly announced in Cali, Colombia, in the context of COP16

5. What kind of financing is available?



Selected projects can receive up to USD \$100,000 for the development or adoption of their technical components and supporting activities (with a contract signing as the initiative's partner). This includes financial resources, consulting services, access to advanced technology, capacity building, and more.

6. What are the evaluation criteria for the prize?

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Clear problem identification (10%)
- Impact (20%)
- Ethical integration of technologies and Traditional Knowledge (15%)
- Inclusivity (15%)
- Scalability (15%)
- Team capacity (10%)
- Viability (10%)
- Financial sustainability (5%)

7. Are there any counterpart requirements for applicants?

Yes, applicants must provide in-kind contributions valued at 30% of the total prize amount. This includes participation in workshops, capacity building exercises, and knowledge transfer activities.

8. Can institutions outside the eligible countries apply?

Institutions not registered in the eligible countries but part of IDB's 26 borrowing member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean may apply if their project is implemented in one of the selected countries and done in partnership with an institution located and registered in an eligible country.

9. Do I have to use a specific technology?

No, you can use any type of digital technology, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, IoT, etc.

10. Do I have to be already using technology?

No, you can start using technology with this prize. Just let us know how you'll use it in your proposal.



11. What happens if there's no technological expertise in my team?

The NaturaTech LAC team will be happy to connect you with technical experts to support your project.

12. How can applicants submit their proposals?

Proposals must be submitted through the online platform within the specified timeframe. Applicants must upload documents like legal constitution/incorporation and two letters of support.

13. If I have questions related to my submission, who can I contact?

You can email your questions to naturatech@cminds.co before the final submission deadline. This mailbox will be open until the selected proposals are announced (September 2024). Please note that this mailbox is only for technical issues related to the challenge.

14. In which language can I send the application?

You can submit your application in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. Required attachments (proof of legal registration, bylaws, and audit reports) can also be submitted in these languages.

15. What happens after an application is submitted?

The selection process involves:

- Phase I: Review by NaturaTech LAC expert technical team and financiers.
- Phase II: Due diligence process for pre-selected applications.
- Phase III: Final selection according to evaluation criteria. Selected applications will be contacted and announced as per the timeline.

16. What benefits do selected applicants receive beyond financing?

Selected applicants will be included in NaturaTech LAC's network of implementing partners, gaining access to knowledge exchange, best practices, and networking events organized by NaturaTech LAC's partners.

17. What are the disclaimers and terms of participation?



By participating, applicants agree to terms related to data use and privacy, rights to disqualify, originality and copyright, obligation to maintain decorum, eligibility verification, and final decision-making authority of the contest organizers.

18. When will I know the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by September 15, 2024.

19. Will I receive feedback on the content of my proposal after selected applications are chosen?

No, the NaturaTech LAC team does not provide individual feedback or comments on applications.

20. What information should I complete when submitting the online application?

You can click [here](#) to see what information is required in the guidelines document. However, remember to APPLY ONLINE.

21. What happens to the Intellectual Property of the work/model/solution if my proposal is selected?

The intellectual property is owned by the applicant at all times. If the applicant wishes to sign an NDA for the submission of the application, it can request it by emailing NaturaTech LAC at naturatech@cminds.co.

22. How far advanced should the project be?

No specific level of progress is expected, each initiative will have to identify its particular needs according to the moment in which it is and the decision will be taken depending on this context.

23. How many projects can an entity submit?

There is no limit to the number of initiatives per identity.



X. DISCLAIMERS AND RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

By participating in this contest, applicants agree to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Data Use and Privacy:** All personal data submitted in connection with this prize will be used solely for the purpose of contest administration and winner selection. This data may include, but is not limited to, name, address, and contact information, and will be shared with the contest selection team and committee for evaluation purposes.
- 2. Rights to Disqualify:** The contest organizers reserve the right to disqualify any applicants at their discretion. Reasons for disqualification may include, but are not limited to, non-compliance with contest rules, submission of offensive or inappropriate content, or failure to meet eligibility requirements.
- 3. Public Information Search:** Organizers may seek publicly available information about an applicant to verify the accuracy of contest submissions or eligibility. This may include public records or social media accounts.
- 4. Originality and Copyright:** Applicants attest that all submitted materials are original, and no copyright has been infringed in their creation and submission. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure they hold the rights to use any content involved in their submissions.
- 5. Obligation to Maintain Decorum:** Applicants must ensure that their submissions and any associated communications are free from offensive, defamatory, or otherwise inappropriate content. The contest organizers reserve the right to eliminate any applicant who breaches this requirement.
- 6. Eligibility Verification:** Prize organizers reserve the right to verify the eligibility of any applicant and may disqualify any applicant found to be ineligible under the contest rules.
- 7. No Individual Feedback:** Prize organizers will not provide individual feedback on submissions. Participants should not expect personal critiques or explanations regarding the assessment of their entries.
- 8. Intellectual Property Responsibility:** Prize organizers are not responsible for the intellectual property of submitted proposals. Each applicant is solely responsible for ensuring they have the appropriate rights and permissions for all aspects of their submission.



9. **Final Decisions:** Decisions made by the contest organizers and selection committee are final and may not be appealed. Applicants agree that these decisions are conclusive and binding.

Your participation in this contest constitutes your agreement to these terms and ensures your understanding that these terms are binding.

XI. PRECONDITIONS TO RECEIVE FUNDING

Following the principles of NaturaTech LAC of regenerative justice, respect for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the objectives to support the generation of more institutional capacity of LAC institutions, and the protocols of the initiative's Funders, all projects to be financed by NaturaTech LAC must meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible for funding:

Minimum governance structure

If the project is implemented in territories of Indigenous Peoples and/or with local communities, the project's governance structure must be explicitly developed in collaboration with the community and/or Indigenous people affected by the project.

- Horizontal governance: The local community and/or Indigenous people must have clear representation within the decision-making and leadership committee of the project. In other words, they cannot be merely beneficiaries with a consultative or passive role but must have both voice and vote in the decision-making process. The community must be part of all discussions and work meetings where strategic project decisions are made. The project life cycle must be carried out in collaboration with the local community or Indigenous people (from ideation, planning, development, implementation, impact measurement, and completion).
- The final agreement must be signed by all parties, including the community representative.



Note: this governance model is for the project to be financed, not for the institution that receives the funds or the indigenous community when applies.

Public spokesperson for the project

- As ultimate owners of the job, community leaders are expected to be the public spokesperson of the project.

Distribution of financial resources

If the project is implemented in territories with and for local communities and Indigenous peoples, the distribution of financial resources should be tentatively as follows (with some flexibility to adapt to the project's needs but always under principles of equity and distributed benefits):

- At least 35% of the resources must be allocated and used to directly benefit the local community and/or Indigenous people. For example, but not limited to: fees for their time operating the project, monitoring and measurement efforts, community training and peer activities, travel expenses for participation in meetings and decision-making processes, among other elements the project needs to achieve all the stated goals.
- No more than 15% of the resources should be focused on administrative matters of the operating entity, including direct and indirect administrative expenses of the project.
- No more than 30% of the resources may be granted to an entity or entities (or consultant(s)) not legally registered in Latin America and the Caribbean (such as a technology provider)⁸.

⁸Particular cases that require allocating more than 30% to an entity not registered in Latin America and the Caribbean may be reviewed, provided there is a clear justification for the use of these funds.



- Foreign travel expenses, if applicable, must be minimal and justifiable for the purposes of the project.

Fund receiving entity

Only the following entities are eligible to receive financial funds:

- Institutions legally registered and operating in one of the following countries: **Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Dominican Republic.**
 - Institutions that submit a project to be implemented in one or more of the eligible countries within the scope of the geographical focus of the award and are able to demonstrate its impact on one or more of the priority themes.
 - Institutions focused on projects proposed by Indigenous Peoples or by institutions in association with Indigenous Peoples (with demonstrable experience of co-creation or collaboration with the community or communities) where the latter are the final owners of the project.
 - Institutions that present projects that exemplify partnership and collaboration between different sectors, such as government, the private sector, academia and civil society.
- Institutions outside the eligible countries: Institutions that are not registered in the eligible countries, but are part of the rest of the [26 IDB borrowing member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (including: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela) can apply, as long as their project applies in one of the countries selected, and do so in partnership with an institution that is located and registered in one or more of the eligible countries.
- Institutions that have 50% or more of the institution's founders with a nationality from a Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) country will be prioritized.
- Institutions that have more than 70% of the management and operational team with nationality from a LAC country will be prioritized.
- Although it is not a precondition to receive financing, gender equality is promoted at the management and operational levels.

Requirements to include in the technical proposal

The minimum requirements that this proposal must include⁹:

- Project objectives.
- Project scope.
- Involved and allied population/communities.
- Geographic description of the intervention (examples of information to include: territory characteristics, mobility, travel routes, modes of transportation, travel times, among others).
- Current governance model of the applying entity and its relationship with the involved local communities and/or Indigenous peoples.
- Project management model and its implementation.
- Activities, indicators, deliverables and expected results, estimated execution time (Gantt type with a breakdown of general activities, knowing that they will be detailed more and the action plan will be adjusted according to emerging learnings).
- Risk matrix and how to mitigate them.
- Description of the team and their roles, including the role of allied entities (e.g. technology partner).
- Tentative expected results in environmental, social, economic, and cultural terms and deliverables.
- Final owners of the products.

Code of bioethics

All projects must follow the following code of ethics:

1. Respect and Recognition of Rights

- a. Right to Self-Determination: Recognize and respect the right of Indigenous communities to make decisions about their territories and resources.
- b. For projects in Indigenous territories, the final owners of the products developed through the project will be the Indigenous peoples, having

⁹ There is no minimum or maximum number of words.

self-determination over their use and the decision-making power regarding whether to continue with the support of the accompanying facilities.

- c. Intellectual and Cultural Property: Protect and respect the traditional knowledge and intellectual property of the communities.
- d. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): Ensure that all activities are carried out with the informed consent of the communities, given freely and with full knowledge of the impacts and benefits.

2. Intellectual property

- a. All data collected/generated/monitored by local communities and Indigenous peoples shall belong exclusively to them.
- b. All technological innovations, including but not limited to: i) artificial intelligence models, ii) technological prototypes such as sensors, among others, must be open and accessible to anyone wishing to replicate this model.
- c. If funds are used to create intellectual property, the Organization will place any intellectual property under a Creative Commons license within three (3) months from the date of creation.
- d. Such intellectual property will be freely available and listed in major internet search engines. For any intellectual property rights (including patent rights and trade secrets) that have not been previously licensed, the Organization will place such intellectual property in the public domain.
- e. The Organization will not file any patent applications in relation to intellectual property created with the Funds. Regarding any data created with the funds, such data will be freely available and searchable by major internet search engines, subject to data protection laws and regulations.

3. Identification of Potential Technological Implementation Risks and Mitigation Strategy

- a. An initial impact assessment and periodic evaluations must be conducted to identify, foresee, and manage any risks associated with the implementation of technologies for local communities and the environment, ensuring the respect, well-being, and conservation of all forms of life that could be affected.
- b. A risk mitigation plan must be developed and maintained, including preventive and corrective measures to address any issues that may arise.

- c. Local communities and Indigenous peoples must be informed and actively participate in the identification of risks and the development of mitigation strategies.

4. Protection of the Traditional and Ancestral Knowledge of the Local Community and/or Indigenous People

- a. Traditional and ancestral knowledge must be respected and protected, ensuring it is not exploited without the informed consent of the community.
- b. Any use of traditional knowledge must be previously agreed upon with the community, and the benefits derived from such use must be shared equitably.
- c. Clear mechanisms must be established for the documentation and safeguarding of traditional and ancestral knowledge.

5. Community participation

- a. Communities must actively participate in all stages of the project, from planning to execution and evaluation.
- b. All necessary tools must be provided to ensure that communities fully understand the project's objectives, methods, and potential impacts.
- c. Fair compensation must be guaranteed for the time invested by Indigenous peoples and local communities involved in the project.

6. Transparency and accountability

- a. All processes and decisions related to the projects must be understandable, transparent, and documented in a way that is accessible to the communities.
- b. Clear accountability mechanisms must be established, ensuring that local communities and Indigenous peoples can monitor and evaluate the project's development.

7. Equity and Social Justice

- a. Projects must promote equity and social justice, ensuring that all community members benefit equitably.



- b. Special attention must be given to vulnerable groups within the communities, ensuring that their rights and needs are fully considered and addressed.
- c. Gender equity in decision-making must be prioritized.

8. Environmental and Cultural Sustainability

- a. Projects must be designed and executed in a way that promotes environmental sustainability and the preservation of biodiversity.
- b. The conservation of local culture and traditions must be respected and promoted, avoiding any negative impact on the cultural heritage of the communities.

9. Respect and Dignity

- a. All interactions with local communities and Indigenous peoples must be conducted with the utmost respect for their dignity, rights, and autonomy.
- b. An environment of mutual respect and collaboration must be fostered, where all voices are heard and valued.

10. Shared Benefits and Community Development

- a. The benefits derived from the projects must be shared equitably with local communities.
- b. Initiatives must be developed that contribute to sustainable development and the well-being of the communities, strengthening their capacity to manage their own resources and future.
- c. If the products developed through the project have a commercial purpose, the distribution of profits must be based on principles of equity and justice.

11. Conflict resolution

- a. Mediation Mechanisms: Establish clear and fair procedures for resolving conflicts that may arise during the implementation of the project.
- b. Dialogue and Negotiation: Promote open dialogue and negotiation as means of conflict resolution.



XII. QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN THE APPLICATION FORM_