

Project title (Acronym)	Innovative Local Climate Finance: Integrating Cooperative Energy Systems and Climate Insurance with Nature-based Solutions — The Case of CLIMBS and RECO-OP
LA / CSO (type)	CLIMBS Life and General Insurance Cooperative (Cooperative Federation / Civil Society Organization)
Implementing Partner(s)	RECO-OP Renewable Energy Cooperative Member-owner cooperatives nationwide Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Local Government Units (LGUs) Development and private sector partners
Country/countries, region	Philippines
Budget (specify EU funding amount, if applicable)	
Is it a Global Gateway project?	No, but aligned with Global Gateway priorities on climate resilience, renewable energy, and inclusive local development.
Funding modality	Blended and partnership-based climate financing model integrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cooperative contributions,</li> <li>• insurance-linked financing,</li> <li>• partnership support,</li> <li>• and renewable energy investments.</li> </ul>
Funding sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLIMBS premium allocations</li> <li>• Cooperative counterpart contributions</li> <li>• Development partner support</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Technical assistance initiatives</li> </ul>
Implementation period	2021–present (ongoing expansion)
Thematic development area (5 words)	Community-led climate resilience systems
Short description, including target beneficiaries and their engagement/reactions thus far (300 words)	<p>CLIMBS developed an integrated model of local climate finance combining climate risk insurance, gender-responsive protection, nature-based solutions, and renewable energy systems through cooperative structures.</p> <p>The first innovation was Weather Protect Insurance (WPI), the Philippines’ first cooperative-led parametric insurance designed for climate-exposed farmers and fisherfolk. WPI introduced trigger-based payouts that enabled faster financial recovery after extreme weather events. Over five years, farmer-member coverage expanded from 3,600 to more than 232,000 beneficiaries, while cooperative participation grew from 14 to 446 cooperatives nationwide. Total payouts exceeded ₱24 million, demonstrating the capacity of cooperative systems to localize climate risk financing and deliver rapid support to vulnerable communities. Building on this, CLIMBS developed We Protect Her, the gender lens of WPI, integrating life, health, income, and climate protection for women with support from ILO and IFC In4Women.</p> <p>Recognizing that recovery alone was insufficient without environmental protection, CLIMBS launched Plant a SEED (Sustainability and Ecosystem-based Solutions for Environmental</p>

	<p>Defense), a mangrove restoration initiative linking insurance growth with ecosystem resilience through cooperative action and partnerships with local governments, DENR, NGOs, and development partners. The initiative has already planted more than 216,000 mangrove propagules across 18 provinces and municipalities through 104 cooperative partners.</p> <p>To address energy insecurity, CLIMBS later launched RECO-OP in 2025, a cooperative-led renewable energy initiative supporting solar photovoltaic systems and microgrids for underserved and climate-vulnerable communities. Through cooperative aggregation, RECO-OP improves access to financing, technical support, and renewable energy systems while strengthening local ownership and energy resilience.</p>
<p>Lessons learnt, key messages and results relevant for future EU programming (300 words)</p>	<p>CLIMBS experience demonstrates that climate resilience becomes more effective when financial protection, ecosystem restoration, renewable energy, and inclusive participation are approached as interconnected systems rather than fragmented interventions.</p> <p>One key lesson is that local institutions such as cooperatives can serve not only as beneficiaries of climate finance, but also as implementers, aggregators, and resilience builders. Through WPI, We Protect Her, Plant a SEED, and RECO-OP, cooperatives became channels for localized climate risk financing, community-based ecosystem restoration, gender-responsive resilience, and decentralized renewable energy access.</p> <p>The case also highlights the importance of embedding gender-responsive approaches within climate finance systems. Through We Protect Her, CLIMBS recognized women not only as vulnerable populations, but also as livelihood managers, caregivers, and economic actors essential to community resilience.</p> <p>Another lesson is that nature-based solutions and renewable energy investments strengthen long-term adaptation and operational resilience when combined with community ownership and local participation. Plant a SEED demonstrated how insurance-linked financing can support ecosystem restoration, while RECO-OP showed how renewable energy can improve affordability, continuity, and local energy sovereignty in climate-vulnerable communities.</p> <p>For future EU programming and just transition frameworks, the case demonstrates the importance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● supporting locally led and community-owned climate finance systems;</li> <li>● integrating adaptation, mitigation, recovery, and ecosystem protection;</li> <li>● strengthening partnerships that balance private sector participation with local accountability and social safeguards;</li> <li>● and ensuring that climate investments directly reach frontline and underserved communities.</li> </ul> <p>CLIMBS experience further shows that climate resilience becomes more sustainable when communities participate directly in ownership, governance, and implementation rather than being</p>

	treated solely as recipients of aid or external investments.
Replicability (100 words)	CLIMBS model demonstrates a scalable and replicable approach for climate-vulnerable countries seeking to integrate climate risk financing, gender-responsive protection, ecosystem restoration, and renewable energy through local institutions. Its cooperative aggregation model enables communities to collectively access financing, technical support, insurance protection, and renewable energy systems while maintaining local ownership and accountability. The integration of Weather Protect Insurance, We Protect Her, Plant a SEED, and RECO-OP provides a practical framework for building community-led resilience systems adaptable to other rural, coastal, and underserved regions facing climate, energy, and livelihood vulnerabilities.