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UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIC PATHWAYS FOR GLOBAL GATEWAY FACILITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

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Abstract

This thesis analyzes the European Union's Global Gateway strategy and provides suggestions to support its implementation in Central America. Through a literature review, it explores challenges and sustainable investment opportunities in the region. Recommendations emphasize developing a Central America Green Bond Standard, investing in renewable energy infrastructure, implementing Payments for Ecosystem Services, fostering the blue economy, enhancing eco-tourism, adopting circular economy practices and promoting deforestation-free supply chains. By using lessons learned from successful initiatives and prioritizing high-potential green growth sectors, the project aims to support inclusive and sustainable development while fostering EU strategic autonomy and collaboration.

Keywords: Global Gateway; Central America; Sustainable Investment; Green Transition; Climate Resilience; Sustainable Development.

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1. Introduction

1.1 An Overview of the EU Global Gateway

The European Union's Global Gateway, announced by the European Commission in 2021, is a strategic project created to develop sustainable and trusted relationships worldwide. With an investment target of €300 billion in the period 2021-2027, it aims to improve global connectivity and infrastructure by promoting inclusive and sustainable growth in key sectors including energy, transportation, digitalization, health, and education. In addition to demonstrating the EU's effort to strengthen economic relations, the initiative supports democratic principles and high standards, good governance and transparency, equal partnerships, green and clean, secure infrastructures and boosts private sector investment (European Commission, n.d.).

In this way, this initiative seeks to develop other nations' economies and societies, while creating investment and competitiveness opportunities for the EU private sector, ensuring high environmental, labor, and financial standards. It contributes to decreasing the global investment deficit and promoting EU's strategic autonomy. It refers to the EU's ability to make its own decisions and influence the world through leadership and engagement, defend its principles and interests and reduce its reliance on non-European players in vital sectors (European Commission, n.d.).

Funding is operationalized through a collaborative approach between the EU, its Member States, financial institutions and the private sector, aligning with democratic principles and international standards. The model followed is the Team Europe approach, which includes the European Union, its Member States, their public development banks and implementing agencies, the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and focuses on defining the key priorities that constrains progress in a country or region to guarantee

transformative impacts. The EU identifies potential projects in partnership with third countries, taking into consideration their needs and priorities. This process includes communication to establish the scope and goals of the project. This strategy also stimulates private sector investment and knowledge by using financial tools including guarantees and blended finance to reduce risks and create a more attractive and secure environment for private players. This helps to increase participation in high-risk areas and promote information transfer, encouraging innovation and building or reinforcing international trade networks (European Commission, n.d.).

Projects are selected based on a set of criteria. First, they should be in line with the EU's values and standards and with the Global Gateway goals. Second, they must respect and prioritize social and environmental sustainability, contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Third, they should have the potential to improve development and connectivity, ensuring a lasting effect. And finally, they must be financially viable, demonstrating strong financial management and the capacity to attract additional investments (European Commission, n.d.).

The €300 billion target by 2027 includes public and private sector investment through grants, loans and guarantees. Specific funding mechanism depends on the project's nature and needs. It includes up to €135 billion from the European Fund for Sustainable Development plus (EFSD+); €145 billion from EU countries' development finance institutions facilitated by the EU-level loan guarantees; and €18 billion in grants from EU external assistance programmes (European Commission, n.d.).

Global Gateway projects span Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific; and Sub-Saharan Africa. The first project, the Africa-Europe Investment Package, with an investment of €150 billion, focuses on construct smart, clean, and secure interconnections in the energy, transportation, and digital

sectors, as well as to improve Africa's research, education, and health systems. In Asia and the Pacific, regional and bilateral initiatives support digital and green transition, enhancing the region’s connectivity, stability and prosperity. And in LAC, over €45 billion is allocated to promote 5G expansion to remote regions, green bonds, cleaner hydrogen energy, greener transportation systems and improved health infrastructure.

In 2023, more than 90 projects have started globally in the digital, energy, and transportation areas (European Commission, n.d.).

1.2. The Global Gateway Approach to Internation Aid: A Comparison

The Global Gateway represents a significant change in the approach to international development assistance. Unlike traditional EU models of external aid, often defined by a unilateral donor-recipient dynamic, this EU’s initiative aims to transform the dependencies arisen from the old strategy into fairer relationships and foster balanced growth. Additionally, the EU focuses on stimulating private sector participation through innovative financing alternatives and mutual benefits. This new program seeks to have longer-term impact than emergency relief and direct grants, which have historically dominated foreign aid operations (Heldt, 2023).

In the larger framework of international development, the United States (US) has also played a significant role, using aid to further geopolitical interests and provide humanitarian help (Liao & Lee, 2022). Recent US projects, such as the Build Back Better World (B3W), which aims to align external aid with democratic values and sustainable development, share similarities with the Global Gateway strategy. Conversely, US aid programs face greater criticism than the EU approach due to the lack of cohesion and well-defined implementation plans (Koch, Keijzer & Furness, 2023).

Similarly, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013, offers both opportunities and challenges. It can improve infrastructure connectivity leading to an increase in trade, foreign investment, and living standards in countries. As shown by a World Bank study that it could increase trade between 1.7% and 6.2% for the world, raising global real income by 0.7% to 2.9% (World Bank, 2019). In addition, many countries favor China's non-interference policy and flexible loans, viewing it as a better alternative to Western aid as it does not impose political or economic reforms (Deutsche Welle, 2021). However, this initiative is frequently criticized for promoting dependency through large loans with unclear conditions, expanding China’s geopolitical influence across other countries (Clinci, 2022).

1.3 The Global Gateway: A Critical Assessment

Academic research and think tanks offer in-depth analysis of the strategic implications of the Global Gateway, with views ranging from optimistic to cautious.

Focusing on the potential, the Global Gateway can reshape the EU's contribution to global development, reinforcing its position in international politics and increasing its power to influence through strategic and high-impact investment projects across critical sectors (European Centre for Development Policy Management, 2023). This approach can foster an inclusive and equitable society, being a good opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean. It can improve its partners' social and economic conditions and incentive a green and digital transition (Santillán O'Shea & Talvi, n.d.).

In contrast, it is important to consider the challenges highlighted by some experts. The initiative faces obstacles, especially in its implementation. A significant volume of private investment is necessary to achieve the financial target. This task is not easy as the EU is already struggling to mobilize private resources for existing

international development programmes. Beyond that, care must be taken to ensure that geopolitical benefits do not overshadow traditional development goals, such as social protection, human development and poverty reduction. Thus, it must be managed effectively to ensure the improvement on existing development policies, rather than replace and redirect existing funding (Koch, Keijzer & Furness, 2023).

In conclusion, the EU's initiative represents an ambitious approach to the global development landscape. However, raising funds and balancing geopolitical and developmental goals are two major challenges. Thus, to succeed, the Global Gateway needs a strong strategic direction and an efficient management.

2. Central America and the Global Gateway: Foundations for Action

2.1 Central America: A Regional Overview

Central America, comprising Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, has diverse yet similar economic, social, and environmental characteristics. Rich in biodiversity and natural resources, it holds potential for growth in agriculture, renewable energy, and ecotourism. Despite that, poverty, inequality and vulnerability to climate change persist. Political instability and weak governance in some areas hinder long-term investment and sustainable projects implementation.

Figure 1: Central America countries

Costa Rica, known for its stability and commitment to sustainable development, has a population of 5.2 million, an area of 51.100 km² and a GDP per capita of $16.595 in 2023 (Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación España, 2024). The economy is dominated by the services sector, representing 68% of GDP in 2023, followed by industry (21%) and agriculture (4%). The workforce is distributed with 68% in services, 19% in industry, and 13% in agriculture (World Bank, n.d.). The age dependency ratio was 45% in 2023 (World Bank, n.d.). Despite progress in restoring deforestation, emissions are increasing and 78% of the population remains at high risk of natural disasters. In 2023, the poverty rate was 22%, with a GINI coefficient of 46.7, and high crime rates linked to drug trafficking (World Bank, 2024).

El Salvador, a small dollarized economy, has a population of 6.4 million, an area of 21.040 km² and a GDP per capita of $5.344 in 2023. The primary sector has a relatively low weight due to high urbanization and limited agricultural land caused by dense population (Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación España, 2024). The country's GDP composition is services (60%), industry (25%), and agriculture (5%). The workforce distribution is 15% in agriculture, 23% in industry, and 62% in services (World Bank, n.d.). The age dependency ratio was 50% in 2023 (World Bank, n.d.). With a GINI coefficient of 38.8 in 2022, inequality remained among the lowest in the region. Although gang violence has decreased as result of recent security measures, poverty has increased to 30% in 2023, with 10% of the population living in extreme poverty. Moreover, the country faces high public debt, natural disasters and concerns about institutional governance and the rule of law (World Bank, 2024).

Guatemala has the region’s biggest population and economy, with a population of 17.6 million, an area of 108.899 km² and a GDP per capita of $5.797 in 2023. Poverty and inequality continue among the highest in the region, with a GINI coefficient at 48.3

and 55% living in poverty in 2023. Informal economy represents 49% of the GDP, employing 71% of the workforce (World Bank 2024). The GDP sectors are agriculture (9%), industry (22%), and services (62%), with the workforce primarily engaged in agriculture (27%), industry (22%), and services (51%). (World Bank, n.d.). The age dependency ratio was 58% in 2023 (World Bank, 2022). The substantial informal sector, political instability and dependence on remittances (19% of GDP in 2023) highlights structural challenges. Moreover, environmental risks make societal vulnerabilities much worse (World Bank 2024).

Honduras has a population of 10.6 million, an area of 112.777 km² and a GDP per capita of $3.247. The economy comprises agriculture (12%), industry (26%), and services (57%), with a workforce distribution of 24% in agriculture, 23% in industry, and 52% in services (World Bank, n.d.). The country made progress in reducing poverty, although it is still one of the poorest and most unequal countries in LAC, with a GINI coefficient of 51, 52% of population living in poverty and 14% in extreme poverty in 2023. The age dependency ratio was 52% in 2023 (World Bank, n.d.). High vulnerability to climate change, heavy reliance on remittances and institutional weaknesses hinders governance and economic growth. (World Bank, 2024).

Nicaragua, the largest country in Central America, with a population of 7 million and an area of 130.373,5 km², has the second poorest per capita income in Latin America ($2.530). The GDP is distributed across agriculture (15%), industry (27%), and services (46%), with a workforce distribution of 28% in agriculture, 18% in industry, and 54% in services (World Bank, n.d.). Access to basic services such as electricity, drinking water and sanitation are low and unequal. Poverty affects 45% of the population, with 14% living in extreme poverty and a GINI coefficient of 46.2 (Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación España, 2024). The age

dependency ratio was 53% in 2023 (World Bank, n.d.). Despite increased trade openness, exports are low-complexity products. The country faces a sociopolitical crisis since the 2018 protests, is highly vulnerable to external shocks and natural disasters, and has low human capital and weak infrastructure (World Bank, 2024).

Finally, Panama, the region's most advanced economy and a financial and logistical hub, has been a carbon-negative country since 2021. It has a population of 4.5 million, an area of 78.200 km² and a GDP per capita of $18.661. The GDP sectors are services (68%), industry (27%), and agriculture (2%), with 68% of the workforce in services, 17% in industry, and 15% in agriculture (World Bank, n.d.). The age dependency ratio was 54% in 2023 (World Bank, n.d.). Poverty fell from 48% in 1991 to 13% in 2023 but remains one of the most unequal countries in the world, especially among indigenous and Afro-Panameño communities, with a GINI coefficient of 49.8. Despite economic growth and progress to combat corruption, the country faces climate change challenges as evidenced by recent droughts that restricted Panama Canal operations. And the decision of the Supreme Court to declare the contract with the company Cobre Panamá unconstitutional has economic impacts (World Bank, 2024).

2.2 The European Union and Central America Relations

The European Union and Central America have a multifaceted relationship including development assistance, economic collaboration, and political dialogue. Both have maintained close relations for decades, since the European countries have supported peace processes and democratic transitions in Central America countries in the 1980s. The development and expansion of the bi-regional relationship occurred with the signing of the EU-Central America Association Agreement, in 2013, fully ratified in April 2024, that is based on three pillars - political dialogue, cooperation and

trade, which reinforce each other - and aims to promote political stability, democracy, and economic prosperity (European Commission, n.d.).

The agreement allows the two parties to collaborate on topics of shared interest, including trade, sustainable development, institutional strengthening, digitalization, reforestation, and combating climate change. The first pillar, political dialogue, develops a political cooperation to defend common values, principles, and objectives, as both regions commit to democracy, human rights, and sustainable development. The second pillar, cooperation, promotes sustainable and inclusive development, food security, good governance, transparency, economic opportunities and digital skills. The third pillar, trade, promotes trade and investment, strengthens regional integration, increases commerce, reduces tariffs, and enhances market access while respecting labor and environmental standards (European External Action Service, 2024).

Between 2014 and 2020, the EU contracted €180 million for regional initiatives and gave Central American nations more than €500 million in bilateral cooperation grants. Moreover, between 2019-2021, the EU allocated €44 million in humanitarian assistance to Central America, helping with the consequences of natural disasters, health crisis, violence, food insecurity and forced displacement.

Trade between the two regions grew by 154% since the implementation of the agreement. Trade flows between both was around €22 billion in 2023. In 2021, the EU was the fourth-largest supplier (after the US, China, and Mexico) and the second-largest export destination for Central America, behind the US. More than 60% of Central American exports to the EU are agricultural items, while the main EU exports to Central America are products from the chemical or related industries, machinery and appliances, and transportation equipment (European Commission, n.d.).

Central America represents a strategic partner to Europe in reason of its biodiversity, natural resources, location, trade routes and geopolitical interests.

2.3 Existing Global Gateway Initiatives in Central America

Aligned with deforestation-free and low carbon production and sustainable trade, one Global Gateway project in the region is called “Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica”. This project aims to protect 10 million hectares of forest by 2030. By attracting green investments in the region’s five remaining great forests (covering Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama) it seeks to support forest governance and biodiversity (European Union, 2024).

As part of the digital transformation priority, another Global Gateway initiative is named “Digital Alliance with Latin America and the Caribbean”. It aims to extend the BELLA cable program by constructing secure digital regional connectivity for research and education networks within the EU and the LAC region; improving digital policy and regulatory frameworks through the establishment of structured multi-stakeholder dialogues; and establishing a regional Copernicus strategy to enhance resilience and planning capacities of LAC countries by providing spatial data management. The Alliance creates a strategic framework to foster digital transformation and innovation with human rights and gender perspective (European Union, 2024).

2.4 Challenges and Opportunities: Building the Future

Given existing relations between the two regions, Central America represents a potential for the EU’s Global Gateway initiative due to its strategic location, economic integration processes, and rich biodiversity. However, several challenges must be

addressed to realize the full benefits of it as ongoing economic, governance and structural problems limit further integration and effective project implementation.

The Central American Economic Integration System (SIECA) has the most successful economic integration process in the LAC area, 99% of products traded between the six nations are tax and quota-free and 30% of exports stay inside the region. Despite institutional, cultural, and geographic integration, economic and political inequalities impede full regional integration, as disparities among countries lead to fragmented cooperation (European Commission, 2022). Furthermore, rural-urban disparities in access to services and opportunities, that disproportionately affect indigenous and women, make inclusive development a challenging (ECLAC, 2019).

Political instability and governance issues remain a critical challenge to the region as these lead to an environment of uncertainty. Nicaragua's authoritarian rule and violations of human and civil rights faces criticism and sanctions from around the world. Guatemala struggles with judicial interference, corruption, and a weak rule of law, that undermine public trust in the government. Honduras's capacity to attract foreign investment is compromised by its high rates of violence, corruption, and lack of institutional transparency. El Salvador's strong security measures, deterioration of democratic principles, and concentration of power raise concerns despite its economic progress and a decrease in crime (Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2024).

In addition, governance inefficiencies combined with limited institutional capacity and lack of a consolidated rule of law create obstacles to the implementation of large-scale projects, as well as lead to delays, excessive costs and suboptimal results, further discouraging private sector involvement (UNDP, 2022). In this context, attracting private investment is another key issue. Perceptions of economic volatility and governance weaknesses restrict foreign financing in the region. Moreover, the high

dependence of some countries on remittances increases exposure to global economic fluctuations and lack of adequate infrastructure and bureaucratic barriers create an unfavorable business environment there (Bozmoski, de Ávila & Sadurní, 2021).

As Central America is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, experiencing hurricanes, rising sea levels, drought and flooding, these poses challenges to agricultural production, infrastructure and livelihoods. As sea levels rise, coastal communities face greater threats, which can lead to population displacement and the loss of agricultural land (ECLAC, COMISCA & COSEFIN, 2015). In Panama, in May of this year, indigenous populations were forced to relocate because of the floods (Reuters, 2024). In the Central American Dry Corridor, including parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, prolonged droughts and unpredictable rains are common. Consequently, subsistence farmers are affected, leading to reductions in agricultural productivity and food insecurity (FAO, 2016).

Deforestation is another critical issue, caused by cattle ranching, monoculture plantations, illegal logging, infrastructure development, and forest fires (ECLAC, 2021). Countries like Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua have experienced some of the highest deforestation rates in the region. Between 2001 and 2023, Nicaragua had a decrease of 24% in tree cover since 2000 and 1.01 Gt of CO_2 emissions; Honduras had a decrease of 18% in tree cover and 690 Mt of CO_2 emissions; and Guatemala had a decrease of 23% in tree cover and 830 Mt of CO_2 emissions (Global Forest Watch, n.d.). This deforestation not only increases biodiversity loss, but also generates soil degradation and climate vulnerability (ECLAC, 2021).

Despite these challenges, Central America offers huge possibilities to Global Gateway initiative. The region is essential for trade and logistics due to its location linking North and South America and accessing both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Improving connectivity and reinforcing existing agreements can strengthen partnerships, expand the tourism sector, improve international trade networks and promote regional integration leading to lower transportation costs and economic growth (Cunha and Jaramillo, 2013). So, the creation of effective and sustainable transportation networks across Central America is a crucial area to Global Gateway.

Additionally, Central America is rich in biodiversity and natural resources, representing a potential for impact initiatives. The region has significant ecosystems, including tropical forests and coral reefs, and hosts 7% of the world's biodiversity, showing advantages for climate resilience (ECLAC, COMISCA & COSEFIN, 2015). Projects focus on deforestation-free supply chains and sustainable conservation holds opportunities for sustainable growth and environmental preservation. The sustainable use of these resources can promote ecotourism and help achieve global climate goals.

The region has also the potential to supply 100% of its electricity demands by renewable energy resources, particularly biomass, solar, wind, and geothermal, if the right policies, incentives and support are adopted. Geothermal energy alone can meet about twice the region's expected electricity demand, and the region's projected geothermal power potential is more than 20 times the existing capacity already in place. The current regional wind power facilities utilize less than 1% of the potential of the resources, and most Central American nations have two to three times the yearly sun radiation of global solar energy leaders like Germany and Italy. Bioenergy, waste-to-energy, and small hydropower all have significant regional potential (Dolezal, Majano, Ochs & Palencia, 2013). Costa Rica is a leader in this sector, generating over 98% of its electricity from renewable sources (IRENA, 2022). So, investing in this area to reduce fossil fuel dependence and enhance sustainability is a key factor.

Moreover, agriculture remains an important sector of Central America's economy, contributing to countries' GPD, employment and food security. The main exports from Central America to the EU are agricultural products, like coffee, bananas, pineapples, sugar, and palm oil, which account for over 60% of the total exports. And as the EU, with the Green Deal, the Corporate Sustainability Directive and the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), has established new rules related to the entry of products to the EU market linked to deforestation-free, addressing environmental and social concerns in agricultural production, including deforestation and labor standards, is crucial (World Bank, 2024).

Finally, exploring digitalization and connectivity projects and investing in the expansion of digital infrastructure, especially in rural areas, can help to improve access to information and basic services as healthcare, education, and financial, leading to inclusivity and innovation. This aligns with the EU's goal of promoting inclusive economic growth while creating new markets for European digital technologies.

3. Recommendations

Considering the above analysis, this section provides a set of recommendations to support the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy and its corresponding investment agenda in Central America. The recommendations focus on sustainable investment opportunities in the region, using lessons learned from successful initiatives and prioritizing high-potential green growth sectors.

First, at a regional level, inspired by the EU Green Bond Standard (EU GBS), which enhance transparency and credibility (Badenhoop, 2022), and by the Common Taxonomy for Latin America and the Caribbean, which provide guidance for a harmonized framework for sustainable finance in the region (UNEP, 2023), under the

coordination of SIECA, a **Central America Green Bond Standard** could be developed to establish uniform norms and guarantee compliance with international frameworks, as the Green Bond Principles of the International Capital Market Association. This would create clear definitions for green projects, ensuring transparency, credibility, and accountability, while incorporating regional priorities such renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and disaster resilience (Climate Bonds Initiative, 2022).

By using platforms like Green Bond Transparency Platform developed by the Inter-American Development Bank, governments can improve transparency and attract investor confidence (IDB, 2022). Partnerships are important to financial guarantees and technical support. Learning from Chile's green sovereign bonds provides insights into integrating technical capacity, sustainability metrics, and fiscal incentives (Boitreaud et al., 2021). Each country should prioritize areas that are essential to them. Costa Rica may emphasize green hydrogen and biodiversity conservation; Panama, water resource management and marine biodiversity; Guatemala, reforestation and sustainable farming to benefit rural communities.

In addition, a **Common Sustainable Finance Taxonomy** for the region could also be established, ensuring a cohesive and adaptable system that reflects the specific needs of each country. The development of such a taxonomy would facilitate harmonization across the region, reduce barriers for international investors, and strengthen the national taxonomies already implemented in Costa Rica and Panama. Despite their mid-2024 launch, their alignment with international principles positions them to attract investment and promote sustainable finance (Green Finance, 2024).

Second, as the region has already the Clean Energy Corridor of Central America (CECCA) initiative that seeks to integrate renewable energy sources across its countries, it presents an opportunity to improve regional collaboration and develop

renewable energy infrastructure. The first phase of CECCA target essential measures that need to be taken such capacity building and optimizing the regional grid to improve energy security (European Union, 2023). Strengthening CECCA will reduce dependency on fossil fuels, lower energy costs, enhance cross-border energy trading, optimize energy distribution, and boost system resilience. Considering that the region has an untapped solar and wind energy potential and that these technologies are among the cheapest due to significant advances in technology and economies of scale, this sector represents a strategic one (IRENA, 2022).

In Costa Rica should be prioritized diversifying renewables sources by increasing wind energy in high-potential areas like Guanacaste, reducing hydropower vulnerabilities during dry periods and improving wind power's 15% contribution to the country's electricity (IRENA, 2022). In Honduras, the underutilized solar potential could be explored in the southern region, where solar radiation exceeds 5.5 kWh/m²/day. The wind potential offers opportunities for hybrid systems in certain regions, such as La Paz and Francisco Morazán (IRENA, 2023). In Guatemala, off-grid systems like decentralized solar and small hydropower could be developed in Alta Verapaz, where over 20% of households lack electricity, to reduce dependency on biomass and improve rural livelihoods. In addition, it should be incentivized the development of wind and solar energy, as the country has huge potential that is not explored (IRENA, 2022). In El Salvador, should be explored solar large-scale projects on high solar radiation zones like San Miguel and La Unión. Although onshore wind potential is more limited, coastal areas and mountains regions have wind speeds adequate for small-scale wind farms (IRENA, 2024). In Panama, which relies 60% of its electricity on hydropower, water-saving technologies, such as closed-loop hydropower technologies, should be adopted to face the droughts that affect the Panama Canal. Moreover, solar farms in

Coclé and Los Santos, and offshore wind in coastal areas should be explored in the coastal area (IRENA, 2024). In Nicaragua geothermal potential along the Pacific volcanic belt can be explored to expand its current capacity (IRENA, 2022).

Additionally, Central America countries lack specific policies to incentivize hybrid systems (renewable energy integrate with energy storage). So, **energy storage** is an area that could be explored. By developing energy storage systems to store excess during peak production and release when needed, countries can guarantee energy security, grid flexibility and decarbonization. So, governments should establish **regulatory frameworks**, enabling monetization of services and giving incentives like tax breaks and subsidies to encourage the integration of energy storage with renewable projects. Chile can be an example where regulatory reforms and financial incentives have allowed the construction of battery storage systems alongside solar power plants, improving grid resilience (Graham, Malagón, Viscidi & Yépez, 2021).

Smaller and community-based projects can be developed in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua, especially in rural areas, where electricity is limited, to increase access to energy and women, often marginalized, could be trained to become solar engineer. Furthermore, these countries have high potential to combine mini-grids and renewable energy projects with energy storage projects. It could be developed projects using cost-effective lithium-ion batteries for short-term storage and flow batteries or molten salt systems for longer-duration needs (IRENA, 2023). And, in countries like Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador, where hydropower is more used, it could be developed pumped hydro storage (PHS) to improve hydropower reliability considering climate change (IRENA, 2024). Moreover, **bioenergy initiatives** could be developed, especially in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador, seeking integrate agricultural residues as it has the potential to generate 10-15% of national

energy needs, while reducing emissions and waste. Investing in waste-to-energy infrastructure, it means converting organic waste into biogas and bioenergy, can reduce landfill dependence and support renewable energy production (IRENA, 2024).

As part of a broader strategy to diversify renewable energy applications, Central America represents an ideal opportunity for **green hydrogen production**, especially Costa Rica and Panama, as both countries have renewable energy infrastructure more developed and a National Green Hydrogen Strategy. Green hydrogen, generated from renewable energy, provides the potential to decarbonize sectors that are difficult to electrify, such as heavy industry, cement industry, heavy transportation and shipping (Hydrogen Europe, 2023), as well as can be an export product to European countries, for example, as EU has plans to import up to 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen annually by 2030 as part of its REPowerEU strategy (European Commission, 2024). Costa Rica could use its existing infrastructure and renewable energy capacity surplus to establish initial pilot hydrogen plants and produce cost-effective hydrogen for internal and external market. Panama can use its strategy location and infrastructure to be a green hydrogen producer and establish hydrogen export hubs (Enlit, 2022).

Finally, to expand these efforts, advancing **electric transportation systems** in the region is essential to reduce emissions, improve urban mobility and enhance regional connectivity. In Costa Rica, where transport sector accounts for 67% of greenhouse gas emissions, electric buses could be expanded regionally, beyond the central urban areas. In Panama, in which transport sector represents for 41% of greenhouse gas emissions, electric buses also could be expanded as well as solar panels in port areas and storage areas and autonomous vehicles and electric cranes to improve logistics efficiency. In the other countries, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, where transport sector accounts for 45%, 52%, 50% and 44%

of greenhouse gas emissions, respectively, electric transportation systems should be developed, but to do it, first it’s necessary to improve the renewable energy infrastructure. These measures would enhance sustainability, attract investments, and position the region as a leader in green mobility (Calatayud et al., 2023). The EU's Action Plan for Grids offers a model for developing stronger and interconnected energy infrastructure to facilitate the clean energy transition (European Commission, 2023).

Third, to fight against deforestation, **Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)** programs present a promising opportunity in Central America, particularly in Guatemala (Maya Biosphere Reserve, Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango), Honduras (La Mosquitia), and Nicaragua (Bosawas Biosphere Reserve), which experience high deforestation rates in the region. Instead of trying to force farm communities to conserve forests, it offers financial incentives to local communities for conserving forests, recognizing the ecosystem services they provide, such carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and landscape values. Costa Rica's pioneer PES model, created in the Forest Law of 1996, highlights the potential of such programs as it increased forest coverage from 25% to over 52% of the country's land area in 2021 (Murguia et al., 2022). Furthermore, Mexico's initiative that supported over 2 million hectares of forest demonstrates how strategic targeting and execution can significantly reduce deforestation (World Bank, 2019).

However, some key measures and principles need to be adopted to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of PES programs. It should be established transparent governance structures, clear contractual agreements and a robust monitoring and verification system like those provided by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, to guarantee transparency, accountability and trust (WWF France, 2022). In addition, it should follow additionality, permanence and equitable benefit distribution

principles. Finally, aligning PES with policy frameworks and ensuring financial sustainability supports long-term success (Fripp, 2014).

Fourth, **blue economy** is another relevant area that could be explored. Small-scale actions can generate substantial benefits. The UN's sustainable blue economy framework emphasizes strategic actions as expanding marine protected areas and mangrove restoration projects, promoting sustainable coastal tourism, fostering sustainable aquaculture, to balance environmental protection with economic growth (UNEP, n.d.). In this way, the EU's Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy follows these principles by promoting circular economy actions, marine conservation education and decarbonizing maritime transport (European Commission, 2021). Moreover, the EU highlights the importance of providing training, capacity-building and leveraging technology and data, as the Blue Economy Observatory, for marine monitoring to prevent environmental degradation and promote social equity and economic resilience.

In Costa Rica, the focus could be on enhancing management and supervision of its existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), investing on satellite-based monitoring systems to detect changes in marine and coastal ecosystems and expanding blue carbon initiatives to prevent carbon emissions and build coastal resilience. In Guatemala should be expanded MPAs in collaboration with small-scale fishers and local communities; strengthened institutional capacity together with local universities and research centers to train professionals with knowledge in marine governance and coastal preservation; and developed watershed conservation programs. In Honduras, the priority should be improve and implement wastewater treatment regulations for urban areas and tourist centers, particularly in Roatán and Utila, to control pollution affecting the Mesoamerican Reef; invest in community-led mangrove restoration, especially in the Gulf Fonseca and Caribbean coast, as shrimp farming and urban

sprawl threatens coastal ecosystems and fisher livelihoods; and support low-impact aquaculture techniques like Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) to diversify production and reduce environmental impacts (Gerhardinger et al., 2022).

In Nicaragua should be enhanced the participation of small-scale fishers into the decision-making process; implemented climate-resilient species and community-based aquaculture projects, especially in the Gulf of Fonseca, to mitigate environmental impacts and promote income to families; and improved coastal management and governance. In El Salvador can be developed coastal clean-up programs and small-scale sustainable aquaculture to reduce pollution and provide income for coastal communities. In Panama, could be created clear regulations and management tools for artisanal fishing zones; provide training to for fishers to engage in sport fishing tourism as guides; and developed waste management solutions and sustainable port infrastructure around the Panama Canal (Gerhardinger et al., 2022).

Fifth, **sustainable and eco-tourism** represents an opportunity to investment in the region. Eco-friendly infrastructure, green hotels, marine conservation, and community-based initiatives are key activities to be developed, particularly in Costa Rica and Panama, as tourism has a higher contribution to GDP there than in the other countries. A successful model is the Rewa Eco-Lodge in Guyana, that is a community project that protect endangered species and sustainable fishing while providing economic benefits (UNWTO, 2018). Costa Rica also has some successful projects as the Costa Rica's Certification for Sustainable Tourism (CST) program (United Nations General Assembly, 2023). So, expanding eco-tourism sector can help to create jobs while promoting environmental conservation.

Sixth, **circular economy** projects can be implemented in Central America aiming to promote sustainability, resource efficiency, and green economic growth. The

manufacturing and textile sectors, especially in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, are important economic pillars. Implementing closed-loop manufacturing systems, reducing waste and reusing materials, as Colombia's Telareciclo Program, and promoting energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy integration, inspired by Mexico's Green Maquiladora Program, are initiatives that can decrease the environmental impact, reduce emissions and improve working conditions, helping to improve competitiveness in the international market (UNEP, 2023). In addition, another project that could be developed in the circularity area is enhancing waste management and recycling infrastructure. By investing in recycling facilities, waste separation programs, and composting plants, it could help to reduce landfill dependence and promote resource efficiency (Fazekas, Bataille, & Vogt-Schilb, 2022).

Seventh, fostering **sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains** to meet EU deforestation-free regulations and access high-value EU markets is another key point. Central America is major export to EU of agricultural products like bananas (Guatemala, Panama, and Costa Rica), pineapple (Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Guatemala) coffee (Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and El Salvador) and palm oil (Guatemala and Honduras). However, these commodities are often associated with deforestation, biodiversity loss, and greenhouse gas emissions due to unsustainable agricultural practices (WWF, n.d.). Thus, to meet the standards imposed by European Union's Green Deal, Corporate Sustainability Directive, and the European Deforestation Regulation, new measures need to be implemented in Central America countries, as sustainable certification, traceability, supply chain transparency and implementing digital solutions and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

Adopting **climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and agroforestry** practices have potential to address the region's environmental and socio-economic problems, improve

productivity while guaranteeing deforestation-free production and biodiversity conservation. In Belize, CSA programs have shown that techniques like drip irrigation, conservation tillage, and intercropping can increase resilience against climate change (World Bank, 2018). These measures promote soil health, prevent erosion, and increase water retention, ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability. Moreover, agroforestry systems that combine crops with shade trees have demonstrated good results in increasing biodiversity and stabilizing agricultural landscapes. By combining trees with crops and livestock, agroforestry increases biodiversity, sequesters carbon, and improves soil health, being a good strategy to mitigate deforestation (FAO, 2021).

Similarly, Honduras and Nicaragua have implemented projects that shown long-term sustainable results and benefits (SeedChange, 2018). In Honduras, it was integrated shade trees into coffee cultivation and helped to enhance biodiversity, stabilize soil and improve resilience to climate change. It has also planted avocado nurseries, diversifying agroforestry systems and increasing farmers' income and food security. In Nicaragua, it was developed cooperative fruit tree planting projects, as avocados, bananas, and oranges, in the Dry Corridor, that improved water retention, reduced soil erosion, supported local food security and empowered women in household food production. So, these initiatives could be scaled up in the region, particularly in regions vulnerable to drought and soil degradation, as they provide diversified income for smallholder farmers while reducing deforestation.

Additionally, adopting **climate-smart soil and water management practices** can enhance productivity and resilience. Soil management practices**,** as the one used in Ethiopia’s Green Legacy Initiative (EEA, 2023), such as terracing, contouring and composting, can be used in Central America countries aiming to reduce land degradation and improve agricultural yields. Drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting,

successfully used in Egypt (FAO, 2021), can also be developed in drought areas like the Central American Dry Corridor to improve water security for smallholder farmers. Managing water in closed cycles, through protection of water sources, efficient irrigation, wastewater treatment, and reuse, can optimize water resources and ensure sustainable agricultural production. These strategies are essential to maintaining resilient and deforestation-free agricultural systems in the face of climate change.

Furthermore, **land use monitoring** projects, with satellite data, are essential to ensure compliance with deforestation-free supply chains and protect critical ecosystems. Costa Rica has a pioneering system to monitor and manage land use changes, especially in agricultural areas. The Monitoring of Land Use Change within Production Landscapes was first developed to monitor pineapple cultivation, but then expanded to other products, identifying deforestation linked to agricultural expansion. It is integrated into the National Environmental Information System, ensuring publicity, transparency and informed decision-making (MOCUPP, n.d.). However, the system could be improved by adding AI-driven automation for real-time deforestation detection and predictive analytics. Expanding the scope to monitor multiple crops and smallholder farms would ensure comprehensive coverage and inclusivity.

In Panama, the Reduce Tu Huella National Program offers tools for managing carbon and water footprints (Ministerio de Ambiente Panamá, n.d.). It could be improved by integrating satellite data to monitor land use change. Guatemala, with UNDP and Rainforest Alliance, is developing fully-fledged monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system to monitor agriculture and land use (FAO & UNDP, 2020). Information is essential to evidence-based decision-making, integrating this with public databases can improve transparency and compliance with international standards. It could be developed initiatives on this area in Honduras, Panama, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Finally, enhancing **traceability** is essential to meet the EU's deforestation-free regulations. While Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala have established monitoring programs, further integration of blockchain technology and digital traceability platforms can improve supply chain transparency (Zheng, Xu, & Qiu, 2023). Then, certifications such as Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade, and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) should be pursued to validate the sustainability standards.

4. Conclusion

The Global Gateway represents an innovative approach in international development, aiming for a more integrated, sustainable, and equitable model of global investment. By aligning Central America's priorities and leveraging the EU's technical and financial expertise, the initiative provides an opportunity to promote EU's strategic autonomy and position Central America as an important player in sustainable development. Focusing on impact will emphasize the EU's additional value while offering it real visibility and bringing economic and social progress to Central America.

Central America represents a strategic partner to Europe in reason of its location, trade partnership and rich biodiversity and natural resources. In this regard, strengthening this relation through Global Gateway projects in green bonds, renewable energy infrastructure, Payments for Ecosystem Services, blue economy, sustainable and eco-tourism, circular economy, sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains offer potential to maximizing impact and improve connectivity, and environmental sustainability. Community engagement, strong environmental policies and regulations and quality data and indicators are essential for informed decision-making and long-lasting effects.

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Appendix

List of Acronyms

B3W – Build Back Better World
BRI – Belt and Road Initiative
CECCA – Clean Energy Corridor of Central America
CSA - Climate-smart agriculture
EBRD - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EFSD+ – European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus
EIB – European Investment Bank
EU – European Union
EUDR – European Union Deforestation Regulation
EU GBS - EU Green Bond Standard
GBP - Green Bond Principles
GBTP – Green Bond Transparency Platform
GDP – Gross Domestic Product
GINI – GINI Coefficient (Income Inequality Measure)
ICMA - International Capital Market Association
IDB – Inter-American Development Bank
IMTA – Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture
LAC – Latin America and the Caribbean
MER - Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting
MOCUPP - Monitoring of Land Use Change within Production Landscapes
MPA – Marine Protected Area
PES – Payments for Ecosystem Services
PHS – Pumped Hydro Storage
RTH – Reduce Tu Huella
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SIECA – Central American Economic Integration System
US – United States
WTE – Waste-to-Energy

List of Global Gateway Projects

MIDDLE EAST, ASIA, AND THE PACIFIC		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	**COUNTRY**	**SECTOR**
Contruction of water treatment plant 'Bakheng - phase 3' with Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority, providing clean water for the industry and the urban population.	Cambodia	Climate and Energy
Upgrading of Hydropower plant Tri An by 200MV to increase peak capacities and to allow for integration of variable renewable energy.	Vietnam	Climate and Energy
Upgrading of Laotian National Highway n. 2, a section of Asian Highway 13, which is a key east-west corridor linking Vietnam to Thailand. The project supports the goals of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Master Plan on Connectivity.	Vietnam and Thailand	Transport
Rehabilitation of urban infrastructure with a focus on waste management, climate resilience, accessible public spaces for elderly, women and children, and women's employment, supporting India's Smart Cities Mission and funding metro projects and an Urban Mobility Competence Hub.	India	Climate and Energy
Construction of sustainable transport corridors between Europe and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan	Transport
Support to rural entrepreneurship and trade & integrated sustainable landscape management in Enga province. This project is part of the Green-Blue Alliance for the Pacific and Timor Leste Team Europe Initiative which focuses on climate action, resilience, and sustainable use of natural capital.	Papua New Guinea	Climate and Energy
This initiative aims to develop a secure and sustainable supply of raw materials and refined materials. It also seeks to develop renewable hydrogen and battery value chains to boost the green and digital transformation in both partners' economie	Kazakhstan	Climate and Energy
Construction of solar photovoltaic and hydro power plants in Bhutan, including grid-connecting transmission lines, extension of the Chilime-Trishuli transmission line, and development of the Dudhkoshi Storage Hydroelectric Project in Nepal.	Bhutan and Nepal	Climate and Energy
Construction of the Rogun Dam (hydro-power plant) to double the energy production capacity of the country and greatly advance the decarbonisation of the region.	Tajikistan	Climate and Energy
Rehabilitation of buildings and public infrastructure in Mosul and Basrah, revival of cultural and creative industries via SME support, creating skills and jobs, especially for youth.	Iraq	Education and Research
Support School Education Sector Plan (SESP 2021-2030), focusing on developing school infrastructure and teacher education to enhance educational quality.	Nepal	Education and Research

Invest in training middle to high-level technicians for green and digital jobs, crucial for the short and medium/long-term implementation of the country's industrial policy.	Cambodia	Education and Research
This project includes the rehabilitation of the port of Rabaul, as well as technical assistance to support the Papua New Guinea Ports Corporation in developing an investment plan for greening port infrastructure.	Papua New Guinea	Climate and Energy
Improve international and regional cooperation on the One Health approach in the fight against pandemics, by advancing interoperable digital information systems and promoting technical skills in relevant institutions for improved laboratory services and food safety.	Cambodia	Health
Embrace Nusantara's next-gen digital infrastructure including ultrafast broadband (fixed and 5G), Smart Urban Infrastructure with data-rich Smart Poles, and a comprehensive data and application platform.	Indonesia	Digital
Poverty reduction programme that aims to develop disaster resilient Community Physical Infrastructure (CPI) and provides Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) with Social Mobilisation (SM) as the basis for all the activities.	Pakistan	Transport
Kiwa Initiative - The project aims at strengthening the climate change resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, economies and communities by promoting and supporting Nature-based Solutions (NbS).	Pacific Islands	Climate and Energy
The Just Energy Transition Partnership commits to groundbreaking climate targets, and associated financing, to support Indonesia in an ambitious and just energy transition.	Indonesia	Climate and Energy
Rehabilitate an ASEAN highway linking Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, and develop coffee, tea, and timber value chains for Lao exports to the EU, with a focus on decent work, education, and research, including a segment on green skills and youth employment.	Laos	Climate and Energy
Upgrading of the critical infrastructure of Thailand's main energy operator, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) with smart grid technology, establishing a modern electricity grid with two-way communication between suppliers and consumers for efficient energy management.	Thailand	Digital
The Forest Partnership focuses on protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing Mongolia’s forests, improving governance, enhancing forest-based value chains, preserving and restoring national forests, and reducing deforestation and forest degradation.	Mongolia	Climate and Energy
Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific - In 2023 finalisation of the feasibility study for the Qaliwana	Fiji and Papua New Guinea	Climate and Energy

Hydropower in Fiji; completion of 127km of farm-to-market road maintenance, 5 airstrips and construction and improvement of 2 jetties in Papua New Guinea; €20M top up to the project Protecting Climate Change Resilience of Pacific Islands		
Implementation of integrated, sustainable and energy-efficient metro rail systems in Surat and Ahmedabad to support low-emission, passenger- friendly and integrated mobility solutions for metropolitan areas with a suburban railway system, also expected to provide employment opportunities for women.	India	Transport
The Team Europe Initiative aims to boost green recovery from the pandemic with green growth and jobs. It will support small farmers, the agro-forestry sector, enhance energy access and other vital services such as water supply, sanitation and nutrition services and education.	Nepal	Climate and Energy
The initiative aims at establishing a power system that fulfills the country's energy needs predominantly through renewable sources while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and optimising energy consumption and demand through efficiency measures, in alignment with Global Gateway priorities.	Bangladesh	Climate and Energy
The project aims at achieving climate goals in Indonesia and improving the urban public transport situation in Surabaya metropolitan area, an area with a population of approx.10 million, double tracked upgrading and electrification of suburban train.	Indonesia	Transport
This initiative is part of the Sustainable Connectivity Regional Team Europe Initiative. It aims to scale up service provision from the Copernicus mirror site to all ASEAN countries to provide high-speed internet capacity.	South East Asia	Digital
Development of the Port of Lumut from a bulk to a multi-purpose and container port, and creation of a green industrial and logistics complex around the port specialised in the production of hydrogen, renewable energy and sustainable mid and downstream industry.	Malaysia	Transport
Provide technical assistance for resource classification and mapping, modernise mining and refining, align Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) exploration and production with global standards, and invest in exploring critical and strategic materials.	Central Asia	Climate and Energy
Construction of the Tra Vinh 48 MW nearshore wind farm in Vietnam. The project includes 12 wind turbines located 4 km from shoreline, a 20 km overhead transmission line and substation.	Vietnam	Climate and Energy
Construction of Qaliwana and Vatutokotoko hydro power plants in Viti Levu. The project will contribute to the reduction of Fiji's reliance on fossil fuels and of its greenhouse gas emissions and will help Fiji to meet	Fiji	Climate and Energy

the rising demand for electricity due to economic growth and the electrification of the transport sector.		
Construction of a new energy efficient 250 beds hospital in Darkhan city.	Mongolia	Health
Connectivity Revolution. Bangladesh's government aims to connect the unconnected, focusing on ICT infrastructure to improve livelihoods and protect the environment.	Bangladesh	Digital
Construction of an on-grid hydropower plant in Hunza, off-grid micro plants in Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral, and upgrading of Hunza's electricity lines, and development of community hydro plants and irrigation systems, and 3 TVET Centres in Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab.	Pakistan	Climate and Energy
Choir-Sainshand energy transmission line in Mongolia. The purpose of the transmission line project is to address the need for an upgrade of the power transmission infrastructure in the Choir and Sainshand regions and make it fit for purpose for renewable energy offtake.	Mongolia	Climate and Energy
The initiative Central Asia Digital Connectivity will enhance businesses and citizens' access to secure internet through trusted satellite connectivity. Earth stations and other digital infrastructure will be positioned across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, linking to existing broadband infrastructure.	Central Asia	Digital
Bac Ai pumped hydro storage project in Vietnam. This project aims to support the Vietnamese government to construct a four-unit pumped-storage hydropower system. The new system will have a total capacity of 1,200 megawatts. It will assist Vietnam to reach its commitments on carbon neutrality and the phasing out of coal for energy generation.	Vietnam	Climate and Energy
The Sustainable Connectivity Team Europe Initiative will support ASEAN electric grid interconnections to improve access to renewable energy, invest in digitalisation, including in connectivity via submarine cables, and promote environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable value chains.	ASEAN	Climate and Energy
Restore degraded land in a sustainable way, while promoting agricultural and pastoral livelihoods, improving the health of the population, adapting to climate change and enhancing biodiversity in Karakalpakstan.	Uzbekistan	Climate and Energy
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	**COUNTRY**	**SECTOR**
The project will support the construction of a sanitary landfill, four sewage networks and wastewater treatment plants in Peten.	Guatemala	Health

Water and Sanitation Programme in Paraguay in the Metropolitan Area of Asuncion – Lambare Basin (FONPRODE).	Paraguay	Climate and Energy
Urban Areas Integral Water Management Programme and Water and sanitation programme for rural communities, medium and small cities (FONPRODE).	Bolivia	Health
Enhance community resilience to climate impacts via sustainable city planning, including coastal protection, safeguarding critical infrastructure (water, electricity), rainwater management, and early warning systems.	Colombia	Climate and Energy
Industrial parks, renewable energy, value chains for solar plant development, electric vehicle production, battery manufacturing, and water systems.	Mexico	Climate and Energy
Implementing integrated waste and water management, including the construction of a water treatment plant in Boca Chica and access to sanitation.	Dominican Republic	Climate and Energy
Social Cohesion and Tackling Inequalities in the Caribbean. This project focuses on education and skills development, social inclusion and social cohesion, regional and bi-regional networks on care, and work on just transitions.	Caribbean	Education and Research
The project aims to support the National Water and Sanitation Plan through planning, investment and capacity.	Peru	Health
Promote productive development in the target area with climate-smart technologies, technical support, and financing. This rural development initiative will reduce urban pressure and pollution, benefiting around 30,000 rural families.	Honduras	Climate and Energy
The project aims to support Jamaica's National Energy Policy to achieve 50% of energy production from renewable sources.	Jamaica	Climate and Energy
Structurally improve water management in Barbados by combining water literacy interventions, (design of pipeline and decentralised water treatment plants) and heavy infrastructure investment (upgrade of southern sewage treatment plant).	Barbados	Climate and Energy
Protecting tropical forests, fighting deforestation and achieving sustainable and smart cities in Brazil. Team Europe Brazil Framework for Sustainable Investment Recovery tropical forest w/ pillars on bioeconomy. Deforestation and traceability and sustainable and smart cities.	Brazil	Climate and Energy
Project Paulo Freire II in Brazil. Development of capacities for overcoming rural hunger and extreme poverty.	Brazil	Climate and Energy
The project will promote Green Hydrogen (GH2) in Chile and it aims at supporting the decarbonisation of the Chilean economy, contributing to its national hydrogen strategy, creating green jobs and generating	Chile	Climate and Energy

business opportunities for Chilean and European companies.		
The project aims to propel Colombia's national development plan forward to reach 85% connectivity by 2026. Team Europe's support, built on three robust pillars and sustainable solutions, aligns with the government's vision to extend connectivity to rural areas.	Colombia	Digital
Partnership on manufacturing vaccines, medicines and health technologies and strengthening health systems in Latin America.	LAC	Health
Construction of new wastewater treatment plants and expansion of services to unconnected customers to modernise the water supply and sewage services in the State of Santa Catarina.	Brazil	Health
Financing the Metro line extension in Lima/Callao to enhance efficient local transport, reduce environmental pollution, provide 2.3 million residents with access to work, markets and services, and curb private transport growth.	Peru	Transport
The overall objective of the Amazon Basin TEI and the Amazonia + programme is to improve the capacity of the countries of the Amazon basin to mitigate CO2 emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change, significantly reduce deforestation and forest degradation and improve their biodiversity.	Central America	Climate and Energy
Green Paraguay initiative aims to promote global climate action and the green transition in line with EU's Green Deal. It builds connections for a greener economy to transit to a more sustainable and resilient economic model in Paraguay.	Paraguay	Climate and Energy
Enhance the Amazon with quality digital connectivity to connect 4 million people in 4 years, bridging the digital gap and improving access to education and healthcare, while supporting rainforest preservation efforts.	Brazil	Digital
The Team Europe Global Green Bond Initiative supports the development of green bond markets in partner countries to mobilise capital for financing the sustainable transition and increase and diversify access to finance.	LAC	Climate and Energy
The project aims to develop forest based value chains including access to finance for bio-entrepreneurs and marketing of bio-economy value chains, and to promote trade of products with high environmental, climate and social quality.	Ecuador	Climate and Energy
Planning, expansion, and operation of Lima International Airport, including a new midfield terminal, a second runway, and a tower.	Peru	Transport
Upgrading and extension of Metro Line 2 (additional 7.4 km, 5 new metro stops) in Santo Domingo's to	Dominican Republic	Transport

boost access to jobs and aid in meeting emission reduction goals		
Euroclima is the Global Gateway initiative that builds partnerships between the European Union and the Latin America and Caribbean regions as they lead the green and just transition.	LAC	Climate and Energy
The EU-LAC Digital Alliance creates a strategic framework to foster substantial bi-regional cooperation across the full spectrum of digital and space issues	LAC	Digital
EU-LAC Digital Accelerator in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project will provide: support to more than 100 joint ventures between EU and LAC companies until an investment-ready stage; support to increase digital innovation capacities and facilitate partnerships in areas where the EU has strong interest, expertise and state-of-the-art technology.	LAC	Digital
Establishment of a maritime corridor between the Portuguese Port of Sines and the Mexican Port of Coatzacoalcos and the interoceanic Corridor of Tehuantepec in Mexico. Establishment of a trade route between Mexico and the EU for energy and other products, contributing to diversification of EU's energy providers, clean energy and strengthening of industrial chains.	Mexico	Transport
Establish the first green hydrogen energy storage cell to store solar energy in the Caribbean contributing to renewable energy transition and grid stability.	Barbados	Climate and Energy
Sustainable access to electricity through the extension of grids, construction of mini-grids, implementation of isolated systems powered by renewable sources of energy, and Metro lines extension.	Panama	Climate and Energy
Development of a business model to transform San José's metropolitan transport system, focusing on electric buses, charging infrastructure, and a maintenance and training center	Costa Rica	Transport
Electrification and digitalisation of social infrastructure in remote rural areas with a focus on 2,000 remote schools, and expansion of households' access to digital infrastructure in poorer areas to reduce the digital divide and inequalities.	Colombia	Digital
Ecuador Team Europe Initiative: 'A Green Deal for Ecuador'	Ecuador	Climate and Energy
Construction of drinking water plant and sanitary sewage systems, as well as the construction of pluvial drainage and collection systems in Quito.	Ecuador	Health
Construction of drinking water plant and sanitary sewage systems, as well as the construction of pluvial drainage and collection systems in the Portoviejo municipality of Manabí.	Ecuador	Health
The rollout of the project across the island will provide Jamaica with wide broadband access. Jamaica's	Jamaica	Digital

digital plan includes addressing the digital divide with rural areas, facilitating access to education and also technological innovation for the private sector.		
Digital Interoperability in Central America. This initiative aims to facilitate Central American trade and promote its economic integration.	Central America	Digital
The Digital for Development (D4D) Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) aims to step up the dialogue between the EU and LAC on digital issues by promoting a human-centred digital transformation.	LAC	Digital
Development of Gran Chaco and expansion of the electricity transmission network covering 23 provinces nationwide in Argentina.	Argentina	Climate and Energy
Development of critical raw materials value chains for lithium and copper in Chile and Argentina.	Chile and Argentina	Climate and Energy
Last kilometre connectivity is key for the digital transition and transformation. The Digital 5G wants to expand telecoms networks in the Amazon region and improve access to telecom services. It aims to develop universal access to 5G for education, security, and public health services.	Brazil and Uruguay	Digital
Implement the country's wind strategy with solar power and pilot green hydrogen production. The NewGen plant aims to generate carbon-free hydrogen, fulfilling 20% of an existing ammonia plant's energy needs in Point Lisas.	Trindad and Tobago	Climate and Energy
Electronic Transport Development of a new business mode to develop and test specific financing for the conversion of urban bus fleet to electric: 40 public e-vehicles financed, contributing to a reduction of 5000 CO2 ktons/year.	Costa Rica	Climate and Energy
Construction of a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) school in Haiti. The project aims to better equip the population for labour market demands especially for youth and women.	Haiti	Education and Research
Establishment of a green and digital corridor between the Portuguese Port of Sines and the Brazilian Port of Pecém, Maranhão.	Brazil	Transport
Construction and operation of port infrastructure in Brazil. Construction of the tunnel Santos-Guarajá.	Brazil	Transport
Caribbean Maritime Intra-Regional Transport. A multi-modal ferry connecting Guyana and Suriname to Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, the OECS, and the French overseas territories would significantly help boost cargo transit capacity for manufacturers and traders, as well as citizens.	Caribbean	Transport
The BELLA Programme provides support for the long-term interconnectivity of European and Latin American research and education communities through 'EllaLink', a new 6,000 km submarine cable.	LAC	Digital
The objective of the Amazonia + programme is to improve the capacity of the countries of the Amazon	Amazon Basin (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia,	Climate and Energy

basin to mitigate CO2 emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change, significantly reduce deforestation and forest degradation and improve their biodiversity.	Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela)	
Develop a structured, political, and practical approach to tackle the shared Caribbean-EU challenge of sargassum algae by facilitating stakeholder dialogue, research and investment for commercial solutions.	Caribbean	Climate and Energy
Support Costa Rica in developing, testing, and producing medicines and medical devices by establishing a suitable legal framework, enhancing human talent, e-health capacities, and access to health technologies.	Costa Rica	Health
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	**COUNTRY**	**SECTOR**
Construction of a 594 km double circuit 400 kV line from Pensulo to the Zambia Tanzania Border to enhance regional integration and foster economic development through electricity trade and enhanced security and reliability of electricity supply.	Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya	Climate and Energy
The flagship initiative on Youth Mobility for Africa promotes learning mobility opportunities within Africa and between Africa and the EU. It supports cooperation in higher education and skills development, and promotes Africa as a study destination.	Africa	Education and Research
Establish an innovation platform centered on the Taabo hydroelectric scheme, involving full dam and plant rehabilitation, a 100-200 MW floating solar power plant, and a 50 MWh storage battery installation.	Côte d'Ivoire	Climate and Energy
Leverage investments for inclusive economic growth, social development, and decent job creation, and boost local value addition and employment through EU investments in Africa, with the Vocational Education Training Tool Box 2 playing a crucial role.	Africa	Education and Research
The upgrade of large-scale solar power plant and photovoltaic minigrids will contribute to increasing the production of renewable energy and strengthening Benin's grid integration within the regional market.	Benin	Climate and Energy
Construction of a wastewater treatment plant in the west of Cotonou in Benin with capacity of 600 m3 per day. The treatment plant is aimed at the treatment of wastewater of at least 300,000 people living in the catchment area.	Benin	Health
Transfer innovative Polish biogas tech to Kenya's agri sector. Electricity from the biogas plant will ensure stabilisation of electric grid supplies to local residents.	Kenya	Climate and Energy
Modernisation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centers: infrastructure upgrades, updated curricula, better governance, market-aligned training, and a focus on gender equality with gender-sensitive and reproductive health education.	Angola	Education and Research

The Team Europe Initiative on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies (MAV+) supports works with African partners to strengthen their local pharmaceutical systems and manufacturing capacity, ensuring access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential vaccines, medicines, and health technologies	Africa	Health
The initiative aims to develop data policy frameworks building on the AU Data Policy Framework; develop data use cases to showcase the value of data; and support the identification of investments in green and secure data infrastructure in Africa.	Africa	Digital
The EU action focuses on the following sectors: integration of sustainable raw materials value chains; mobilisation of funding for infrastructure; sustainable and responsible production, sourcing, and valorisation of critical and strategic raw material; research and innovation; capacity building	Democratic Republic of Congo	Climate and Energy
Construction of a 38GWh/year solar power plant Kaleo, saving 27,000 tons of CO2 annually and ensuring sustainable electricity production.	Ghana	Climate and Energy
Deliver an end-to-end solution for sustainable electrification in 60 Angolan communities across five provinces, benefiting over 200,000 households (around 1 million Angolans) with electricity.	Angola	Climate and Energy
This Team Europe Initiative will improve sexual and reproductive health and rights in Africa, particularly among adolescent girls and young women	Sub-Saharan Africa	Health
Salama - Support for central drug purchasing in Madagascar. Salama is a key player in the supply and distribution of medicines and medical equipment for public hospitals and dispensaries in Madagascar, at a decentralised level. It has a major impact on public health, particularly for women and children.	Madagascar	Health
Advancing innovation and technical education in up to 12 schools to boost youth employment, with a strong focus on enhancing training access for young women.	Benin	Education and Research
The project aims to enhance safe and efficient connectivity by rehabilitating 115 km of the road connecting Bissau to the Senegal border. This will facilitate population’s access to economic activities and markets and enhance trade and regional integration.	Guinea Bissau	Transport
Rehabilitation of the Kariba Dam between Zambia and Zimbabwe to enhance the reliability of energy supply and promote clean energy in Zambia and Zimbabwe while reducing the risk of dam failure. It has reached a significant milestone in 2024 with the successful completion of the excavation and concreting works.	Zambia and Zimbabwe	Climate and Energy
The rehabilitation of the 152km Allada-Dassa road will enhance Benin's road connectivity, reinforcing its status as a regional commercial hub.	Benin	Transport

Rehabilitation of road EN140 between Mussende and Cangandala in Angola	Angola	Transport
Refurbishment/upscaling of the hydropower plant turbines and related equipment and capacity building of Uganda Energy Generation Company Limited (UEGCL) to manage electricity production and flood control.	Uganda	Climate and Energy
Rehabilitation of at least 450 km and construction/rehabilitation of irrigation system (dams, boreholes and pumping stations) for 1,000 hectares of land in Northern Ghana.	Ghana	Transport
Deployment of a broadband backbone using electricity transport lines' fiber optics to lease to telecom operators, fostering competition and diversifying revenue for grid expansion, and support to Ethiopian Electric Power's human capacity development, and integration of renewables into the grid.	Ethiopia	Digital
Rehabilitation and expansion of drinking water infrastructure in the major city of Mbuji Mayi.	Democratic Republic of Congo	Climate and Energy
Enhancing 3 state agricultural colleges, 2 government technical colleges, and 3 agri-related vocational institutions, with a focus on improving training quality and employment transition, particularly empowering girls and women.	Nigeria	Education and Research
The Regional Teachers Initiative supports African countries to raise both the quality of teacher education and training, and contribute to increasing the availability of teachers with minimum required qualifications.	Africa	Education and Research
The support to Regional Centres of Excellence in Sub-Saharan Africa will aim to: increase the centres' contributions to policy and decision-making processes; enhance innovation ecosystems and business development; and provide tailored services to relevant stakeholders.	Sub-Saharan Africa	Education and Research
YAS will support 10,000 young people in setting up their own business in the agri-food sector or finding a suitable job. Launch of NL combi-tracks solar energy and horticulture, bringing together aid, trade and investments and also connecting renewable energy and agri-food.	Nigeria	Climate and Energy
Establish hydro-agricultural infrastructures, rehabilitate/build rural roads, and develop 3,300 hectares of irrigated land, all with a gender and human rights-based approach to promote women's empowerment.	Madagascar	Climate and Energy
The project will support the extension and environmental upgrading of the Port of Pointe-Noire Infrastructure.	Republic of Congo	Transport
Modernisation of the Olkaria geothermal power plant to increase the renewable electricity generation capacity and ensure its availability.	Kenya	Climate and Energy

The project supports biodiversity conservation in six priority regions: Congo Basin forest ecosystems, Transhumance landscapes in Central Africa, West Africa Forests, Sudano-sahelian savannahs of West Africa, Eastern Rift savannahs and watersheds, Transfrontier conservation areas of Southern Africa.	Africa	Climate and Energy
Renovation of the runway and the freight and passenger terminals at N'Djamena airport.	Chad	Transport
Dredging and construction of river embankments to prevent floodings.	Tanzania	Transport
Modernisation of two hydropower plants and their extension by solar technology.	Mozambique	Climate and Energy
Rehabilitation of 229 km of the 596 km N'djamena-Koutere-Moundou corridor and construction of a 72 m bridge in Moulkou, 4 weighing stations and 6 resting parking areas, including a substantial technical assistance with gender analysis to mitigate gender-based violence and promote cultural norms.	Chad	Transport
Enhance the company's industrial facilities to handle increased seed cotton processing volumes by rehabilitating and constructing a ginning plant.	Cameroon	Climate and Energy
Rehabilitation of CABNAV shipyard, Mindelo renewable energy power supply, expansion of Porto Novo cruise terminal.	Cabo Verde	Transport
Construction/upgrading of 6 priority routes, 25 terminal and jetties, promoting gender actions and the use of the Inland Water Transport system by women, the disabled, elderly, children, through better accessibility, safety (antiharassment campaigns) and comfort.	Nigeria	Transport
Construction of a 148 km long, high-voltage direct current (HVDC) 330kV transmission line to boost the stability of Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation Limited and National Electricity Company networks, particularly in southern Democratic Republic of Congo.	Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo	Climate and Energy
Complementary interventions in strategic value chains to support the Just Energy Transition through hard infrastructure, as well as soft measures in the areas of SMEs development, skills, research and innovation, technology transfer and policy strengthening.	South Africa	Climate and Energy
Boost renewable energy deployment, targeting 40% of Senegal's electricity capacity by 2030.	Senegal	Climate and Energy
Build a 50-100 MW public solar power plant at Gwiwa, Jigawa state, to de-risk the sector for private investment (construction of evacuation lines, storage, institutional technical assistance, etc.).	Nigeria	Climate and Energy
The PARIIS programmes aims to improve the capacity of stakeholders to develop and manage irrigation and increase the surface areas irrigated. The goal of PADAER II is to contribute to reducing rural poverty,	Senegal	Climate and Energy

stimulate economic growth and create sustainable jobs for rural people.		
Rehabilitation of 350 km of canals along the Shabelle and Juba river to boost sustainable, nutrition-focused agri-food systems and enhance key value chains like sesame and sorghum.	Somalia	Climate and Energy
Investing in Young Businesses in Africa (IYBA) is a Team Europe Initiative to help young businesses and entrepreneurs in Africa, especially women, to launch, consolidate and grow sustainable, strong and inclusive businesses and create decent jobs.	Africa	Education and Research
Investing in mobile networks for rural areas, schools, hospitals, and government sites, fighting the digital divide and inequalities. In Tanzania: improvement of the networks' energy efficiency and 4G deployment to 3,000 sites. In Madagascar: 4G activation at 1,300 sites.	Madagascar and Tanzania	Digital
Support to the socio-professional integration of young women with a focus on the needs of the labour market in a gender perspective.	Madagascar	Education and Research
The project is part of the Africa-Europe Green Energy Initiative which aims to increase electricity production and access to energy, promote energy efficiency, support reforms for a conducive regulatory environment for private investment, and foster market integration	Burundi	Climate and Energy
Implementation of Time Synchronization System to improve cybersecurity level of national Air Traffic and Navigation Service	South Africa	Digital
The project aims to create or strengthen Green Hydrogen and Sustainable Critical Raw Materials value chains in Namibia as part of the EU-Namibia strategic partnership. The initiative will be reinforced by investments in a strategic regional transport corridor, linking Maputo-Gaborone-Walvis Bay.	Namibia	Climate and Energy
This initiative will construct optic fibre infrastructure and last mile connections to underserved areas, with a particular emphasis on school connectivity and digital servicing. It will also develop mobile access networks in rural areas by extending broadband access.	Kenya	Digital
Construction of a 400kV high voltage transmission line.	Côte d'Ivoire	Climate and Energy
The Great Green Wall seeks to re-green Africa from Senegal to Somalia. It is about building a mosaic of green and productive landscapes that improve people’s livelihoods and foster environmental sustainability.	Senegal and Somalia	Climate and Energy
This corridor between the ports at Sines and Barra do Dande will contribute to the security of the supply chain in the agri-food sector and support a green	Angola	Transport

energy and critical raw materials supply chain, promoting economic and social development.		
Global Gateway supports the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the multilateral initiative that focuses on the provision of good quality basic education for all girls and boys in an inclusive, equitable way.	Africa	Education and Research
Ethiopia's first private geothermal project, also the country's first private-sector power resale agreement, provides renewable, stable energy, addressing the country's economic crisis.	Ethiopia	Climate and Energy
Advocate for gender equality in Tanzania with a holistic gender support package, including digital and green components.	Tanzania	Education and Research
Develop the countries' green hydrogen economy by streamlining access to public and private capital, linking finance to policy decisions, reducing transaction costs and accelerating high-quality project development.	South Africa	Climate and Energy
Modernisation of the fiber optic network, focusing on trust, high capacity, and resilience, connecting major cities and extending resilient regional links across Southeast Africa.	Mozambique	Digital
Expansion of fiber optic backbone in underserved areas, installation of 850 solar cell phone towers in rural areas, connection to Atlantic data cable, digitalisation of cybersecurity and Post/Telecom, and creation of a farmer portal, reducing the digital divide and inequalities.	Democratic Republic of Congo	Digital
Rehabilitation and expansion of Gambia's national port infrastructure located in Banjul. Key components include jetty extension, container terminal upgrade, shipyard refurbishment, and improved road access.	Gambia	Transport
The EurAfrica Gateway cable connecting the EU with Africa along the Atlantic Ocean coast, will foster the digital sovereignty of the two continents by ensuring the highest infrastructure and cyber security standards increasing inter-continental data flows development.	Africa	Digital
Support Nigeria's digitalisation with infrastructure upgrades, public service digitisation, tech start-up support, digital skills training (focusing on youth and women), and robust digital governance for privacy and cybersecurity.	Nigeria	Digital
The partnership will strengthen capacities in using space data and technologies, provide services that can help tackle environmental challenges and give a boost to space businesses. The EU will support the access and use of earth observation data in Africa by leveraging the EU space programme.	Africa	Education and Research
Enhance and secure renewable electricity generation in DRC by rehabilitating the Ruzizi II hydropower plant	Democratic Republic of Congo	Climate and Energy

and upgrading the common switchgear for hydroelectric power plants INGA I and II.		
Eastern Backbone Power Transmission. Upgrade of 400km of transmission grid.	Malawi	Climate and Energy
Support to health and education in the two most underserved provinces, while strengthening the delivery of health and education services.	Zambia	Education and Research
The project strengthens inclusive digital ecosystems, enhances digital literacy and skills for youth, particularly for girls and those living in vulnerable situations. It provides incubation and acceleration of sustainable digital start-ups.	Mozambique	Education and Research
Expansion of the desalination plant to double its capacity, and construction of a solar energy plant to fully power the plant, including related PV plant and water treatment infrastructure.	Djibouti	Climate and Energy
The Djibouti airport development project received a funding from the Fonds d'études et d'aide au secteur privé (FASEP) to finance the completion of feasibility studies and allow for a roundtable of potential donors.	Djibouti	Transport
The project aims at boosting health system efficiency and achieving universal health coverage via digital health initiatives.	Sub-Saharan Africa	Health
Development of solar power plant in Boundiali and Serebou and extension, reinforcement, and upgrading of networks in Côte d'Ivoire.	Côte d'Ivoire	Climate and Energy
Development of generation and evacuation infrastructure for on-grid renewable energy projects and construction of six small hydropower plants (approx. 2MW) in Nigeria.	Nigeria	Climate and Energy
Development of Dakar Bus Public Transport Network in Senegal.	Senegal	Transport
Data Governance: development of data policy frameworks and data use cases, and identification of investments in green and secure data infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa.	Sub-Saharan Africa	Digital
Critical raw materials (CRM) Partnership Roadmap in Zambia.	Zambia	Climate and Energy
Establish a cold-storage facility for perishables at Modjo Dry Port, connected to the Addis-Djibouti railway to enhance supply chain competitiveness and spur the growth of a large-scale fruit and vegetable export sector.	Ethiopia	Transport
The construction of a 89 km Yaoundé Bypass Road will reduce journey times and transport costs on the Kribi/Douala-Ndjamena strategic corridor. It will also avoid the crossing of the city of Yaoundé by freight trucks and transit traffic and, therefore, facilitate urban mobility.	Cameroon	Transport
Construction of the Nachtigal hydroelectric dam (400 MW) in Cameroon that aims to increase Cameroun's electrical production capacity by 30%.	Cameroon	Climate and Energy

Construction of Ruzizi III hydropower plant for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi	Climate and Energy
Construction of Pump and Storage Facility in Santiago island in Cape Verde	Cabo Verde	Climate and Energy
Construction of National Control Centre for Energy Infrastructure and improvement of the reliability and sustainability of the power supply in Mozambique	Mozambique	Climate and Energy
Construction of land-based and maritime/port infrastructures in Mauritania.	Mauritania	Transport
Construction of Kakono Hydropower Plant in Tanzania. Kakono comprises an 88MW plant with fish pass and an associated transmission line. It will be a major power generation asset in the highly productive northwest of Tanzania. Kakono plant will increase the energy injected into the interconnected grid and will have a stabilizing impact on the grid.	Tanzania	Climate and Energy
The project includes: the photovoltaic power plant Gorou Banda (30 MW), the hybrid photovoltaic plant in Agadez (19 MW) and the North backbone of the Nigeria-Niger-Benin-Burkina Faso Interconnection (330 kV).	Niger	Climate and Energy
Construction of fibre-optic cables in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique. Construction of a 10,000 km regional fiber-optic backbone across 6 countries with an impact on around 90 million Africans, directly connecting up to 3,000 schools, 1,500 hospitals, and 1,200 government institutions.	Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique	Digital
Construction of data center in Nouakchott and submarine cable in Mauritania.	Mauritania	Digital
Construction of Bus Rapid Transit system in Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Transport
Construction of Bus Rapid Transit system in Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Transport
Construction of about 150 small photovoltaic-hybrid mini-grids in Nigeria. The mini-grids with a total PV capacity of 15 MWp are expected to directly benefit about 54,000 households and 6,000 SMEs, providing initial electrification or substituting polluting and more expensive diesel-generated electricity supply.	Nigeria	Climate and Energy
Construction of 85 MW solar PV plant combined with electrolysers in Namibia	Namibia	Climate and Energy
Construction and development of the Kigali Wholesale Market in Rwanda.	Rwanda	Climate and Energy
Connecting the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Angola to Global Markets through the Lobito Corridor. The Lobito Corridor connects the Southern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), northwestern Zambia and Angola to regional and global trade markets via the port of Lobito.	Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Angola	Transport

Enhance coastal protection in Togo through nature-based solutions: dune restoration and sand suppletion.	Togo	Climate and Energy
Beira, Mozambique, faces multiple coastal threats. Employing tailored nature-based solutions can mitigate risks, safeguard livelihoods, and protect the vital Beira port, a key transport link to Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.	Mozambique	Climate and Energy
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Africa.	Africa	Climate and Energy
Construction of a wastewater treatment plant and the pre-treatment of the waste from the most polluting industries along the Bay.	Senegal	Climate and Energy
Casamance project: upgrade and operation of the port of Ziguinchor in Senegal.	Senegal	Transport
Construction of WASH facilities to empower adolescent girls and women through greater access to inclusive quality education.	Uganda	Education and Research
Bio2Watt is a waste to value project in South Africa, which will expand to Mozambique and Uganda. Bio2Watt plants treat animal waste and other waste sources to reduce biogas. This creates a biobased energy source, captures and limits methane emissions and reduces the pollution of water resources.	South Africa, Mozambique and Uganda	Climate and Energy
AU-EU Innovation Agenda. The objectives are to translate innovative capacities and results into tangible outputs, strengthen innovation ecosystems, develop sustainable and mutually beneficial higher education and R&I partnerships, and scale up instruments and programmes that can take forward existing successful initiatives.	Africa	Education and Research
AfricaConnect4 in Sub-Saharan Africa. Enhancing Regional and National Research and Education Networks (RRENs-NRENs) with high-speed digital connectivity, e-services, and data infrastructure, benefiting research and education communities and promoting women's and girls' empowerment through focused gender lens investing.	Sub-Saharan Africa	Digital
Africa-Europe Green Energy to increase electricity production and access to energy, promote energy efficiency, support reforms for a conducive regulatory environment for private investment, and foster market integration.	Africa	Climate and Energy
Implementing Africa's Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2030, focusing on creating regulations for affordable, secure, high-speed connectivity and services at a continental level, along with harmonising broadband mapping systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.	Sub-Saharan Africa	Digital
Africa Europe Digital Innovation Bridge. The initiative supports partner countries to strengthen their digital and innovation ecosystems and promote	Africa	Digital

intercontinental cooperation between stakeholders in Africa and Europe. The ultimate vision is to establish a single market for digital innovation between both continents.		
320 MW increase of renewable energy production in Madagascar. The project will focus on the implementation of mini-grids in rural areas in the South and West of Madagascar.	Madagascar	Climate and Energy
GLOBAL		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	**COUNTRY**	**SECTOR**
Initiating three new cable projects: Far North Fiber (FNF), C-Lion2 (submarine cables), and Terrestrial Backbone Finland (TBF) to enhance EU backbone connectivity and reinforce links with third countries. The project will also craft a vision for the North Atlantic and Arctic segment of the Digital G	Global	Digital
Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres (phase 2) - Support in meeting the energy-efficiency and greenhouse-gas targets of the International Maritime Organization.	Global	Transport
Support the development, production and use of sustainable aviation fuels globally, contributing to the attainment of International Civil Aviation Organization's goal of net-zero emissions from international aviation by 2050.	Global	Transport
Global Gateway supports the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the multilateral initiative that focuses on the provision of good quality basic education for all girls and boys in an inclusive, equitable way.	Global	Education and Research