

Final Narrative Report: Joint Programmes in the Seed Funding Tracks

INTRODUCTION

Reporting period: From the start date to the end date of the joint programme (JP).

- Please be succinct and to the point, focusing on the most important accomplishments and issues that you want to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level.
- Please do not exceed the word limit for each narrative question.
- Kindly ensure that the information provided is duly reviewed and approved by the RC and all PUNOs involved in the JP.
- Please contact rena.hinoshita@un.org, maria.berenguer@un.org, vittoria.gemelli@un.org, and/or maya.marquez@un.org for questions and support.

Submission deadline from RCOs to the Joint SDG Fund: No later than 2 months from the JP end date via MS Form (<https://forms.office.com/e/zYeyMiXjAv>)

PROFILE

JOINT PROGRAMME (JP) PROFILE:	
UN Country Team	Costa Rica
JP Title	Establishing and Financially Empowering a National Biomethane Strategy: Promoting Equal Access for a Just Energy Transition
Funding Round (Select the applicable funding round for the JP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Skills <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Access and Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Policy and Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> SDG Localization
Cross-fertilized SDG Transitions (Select up to 2 main SDG Transitions that are reflected in the JP progress to date)	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, Pollution <input type="checkbox"/> Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Skills <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Access and Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems Transformation
Contribution to Cooperation Framework Outcomes	<Verbatim from the ProDoc>
Actual Start Date (i.e. fund transfer date)	16/12/2024
Duration	12 months
Actual End Date (i.e. operational closure date)	16/12/2025

Total Approved Funding from the Joint SDG Fund	USD 250.000
Planned Financial Closure Date	16/02/2026
Fund Management Modality: Administrative Agent (Pass-through Only)	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) - Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, mari.matsumoto@undp.org - Sara Ansari, Finance Manager, sara.ansari@undp.org
JP TEAM:	
Resident Coordinator	Allegra Baiocchi, baiocchi@un.org
JP's RCO focal point	Ernesto Rodero, Partnerships and Finance Officer, ernesto.rodero@un.org
Lead PUNO focal point	Johannes Dobinger, UNIDO Representative; J.DOBINGER@unido.org
Other PUNOs focal points	Kifah Sasa, UNDP Deputy Representative; kifah.sasa@undp.org Katty López, Country Programme Coordinator; K.LOPEZCAMPOS@unido.org
JP's designated communications focal point	María José Lobo, Junior communication expert; M.GARCIALOBO@unido.org

OVERVIEW

1. Overall self-assessment of the JP achievements.

The primary objective of the Joint SDG Fund's seed funding track is to provide countries with support and resources to incubate and pilot transformative solutions and approaches (including actions to develop and implement national roadmaps or priorities) that can subsequently lead to accelerating progress across [key SDG Transitions](#) at scale. Towards this objective, please evaluate the performance of the JP.

1.a. Rate the overall performance of the JP: Did the JP deliver its key results as planned in the ProDoc?

Unsatisfactory, Marginal Achievement: Less than 50% of expected results delivered.

Satisfactory Achievement: 50-75% of expected results delivered.

Very Good, Solid Achievement: 100% of expected results delivered; implementation completed on schedule.

Exceptional, Outstanding Achievement: 100% of expected results delivered ahead of schedule, with additional results or improvements delivered.

1.b. Incubation and validation of solutions/approaches/roadmaps: How much results did the JP reach in incubating innovative approaches/national roadmaps and/or piloting transformative solutions during the 12 months?

Limited Results: None of planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilot solutions were rolled out.

Moderate Results: Planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilots began but remain at the early stages or within the limited scope at the time of the JP closure.

Good Results: Planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are fully operational and validated.

Excellent Results: All planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are completed and validated ahead of schedule, showing promising potential or early sign of scale-up.

Not Applicable: The JP did not plan to incubate ideas, roadmaps or conduct pilots during this phase.

1.c. Sustainability and scalability potential: To what extent did the JP achieve in establishing pathways for future viability and scale-up of the innovations/solutions beyond the 12-month implementation?

Marginal Achievement: Concrete sustainability or scale-up plan was developed but not operationalized; only preliminary discussion with potential partners/funders took place.

Moderate Achievement: Sustainability and scale-up strategies were rolled out; potential scale-up pathways identified; active engagement with potential partners/funders underway.

Solid Achievement: Comprehensive sustainability and scale-up strategies achieved a broad uptake; viable pathways for expansion secured; engagement with potential partners/funders deepened and showing promising outcomes.

Exceptional Achievement: Robust sustainability and scale-up plans were implemented ahead of schedule; multiple viable scale-up pathways activated; strong commitments from partners/funders obtained; additional opportunities for expansion identified beyond initial plans.

Not Applicable: The JP has not yet reached the stage of planning for sustainability and scalability.

RESULTS OF THE JP

A. Results-Based Narrative

2. Overall results of the JP (600 words / 1.5 pages max)

Using bullet points, describe the key achievement made by the JP, especially around how it contributed to incubating and piloting new ideas and approaches (including actions to develop and implement national roadmaps/priority areas) to propel the [key SDG Transitions](#). Your response should cover how the JP made changes around 'enabling actions': 1) developing new policy and regulatory frameworks; 2) identifying new pipelines of solutions; 3) strengthened capacities of key stakeholders; 4) enhanced partnerships and financing mixes to ensure sustainability and scale, and other transformative shifts. Please include specific reference to the SDG targets identified in the ProDoc.

- Output 1.1 (SDG targets 5.5, 5.c, 7.2, 7.a, 8.3, 9.2, 9.c): The JP has supported the development and launch of Costa Rica’s first National Biomethane Strategy (2025–2040) to drive shifts across policy and regulatory frameworks, enabling the transition from diesel/biofuel-based freight transport towards biomethane-powered solutions. This has advanced national coordination across government, private sector, academia, and civil society around a single long-term roadmap, and established the enabling conditions to scale circular bioeconomy solutions using agro-industrial and municipal residues, contributing to energy security, mitigation, waste valorization and strengthened capacities of government and producers.
- Output 1.2 (SDG targets 7.2, 7.b, 9.1, 9.b, 11.2, 13.2): The JP has delivered a comprehensive assessment of the national quality infrastructure required to integrate biomethane into the fuel matrix, including a gap analysis for standards, certification and conformity assessment across the value chain. This has strengthened the technical and institutional foundations for new regulatory and technical instruments (norms, technical regulations, certification schemes) and clarified a sequenced roadmap to close priority gaps, while ensuring equal representation and benefits for women and men in the sector’s transformation.
- Output 2.1 (SDG targets 5.a, 5.5, 5.c, 9.a, 7.2, 13.b): The JP contributed to developing a new pipeline of solutions and a financing mix by delivering a feasibility study and proposed model for a Green/Blue blended impact investment fund aimed at mobilizing public and private capital for climate mitigation and adaptation investments, particularly those involving women. This has helped identify a concrete pipeline of potential investments and the structuring parameters (including fund domicile options and investor mapping), creating an actionable pathway to move from concept to a market-ready vehicle that can finance priority decarbonization sectors (including biomethane/biogas).
- Output 2.2 (SDG targets 5.a, 5.5, 5.c, 9.a, 7.2, 13.b): The JP has advanced in a innovative financial guarantee line to serve as a first risk-taker for biogas investments, prioritizing companies that implement gender affirmative actions. This enabling de-risking instrument strengthens partnerships between the national banking ecosystem and biogas entrepreneurs, improves access to finance for small and medium-scale projects, and accelerates the transition from pilots to bankable deployments by reducing perceived and real investment risks in the sector.

3. Constraints, adjustments and lessons

In bullet points, please explain any constraints, including risks identified in the ProDoc's Risk Matrix, that were encountered and any adjustments that were made or mitigation actions taken by the JP team to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

In describing lessons learned, please be candid about both successes and failures, explaining what was learned from each experience and how these insights can inform future programming or scale-up efforts.

Constraints

- Structural “new market” constraint: Costa Rica is still building the enabling conditions for scaling biogas/biomethane (strategy, regulation, quality

infrastructure and a shift in freight transport fuels), which means limited pre-existing technical know-how, market actors and standardized processes to quickly translate concept work into measurable, short-term investment outcomes within a 12-month seed phase.

- Data and evidence gaps for bankability: the programme design itself recognizes the need for studies/assessments (quality infrastructure, technical feasibility, fund feasibility) as prerequisites to unlock finance and guide investment decisions, which constrained rapid deal-making and shifted early effort toward diagnostics and pipeline preparation.
- Stakeholder engagement and coordination frictions: risks of limited participation and/or slow response from key institutions and local stakeholders affected timelines for co-creation, decision-making and implementation readiness.
- Capacity constraints: a high risk was identified regarding low absorption capacity of trainees for adopting technical knowledge, affecting the pace at which capacities could be operationalized.
- Inclusion-related constraints: time restrictions limiting regular participation, especially for women, were identified as a high risk and required deliberate design choices to avoid weakening gender results.
- Administrative/transaction constraints for financial instruments: negotiating and formalizing guarantee-line arrangements and aligning them with financial institutions' credit approval processes requires procedural time that can exceed a short seed timeline.

Adjustments and mitigation actions taken

- Increased emphasis on participatory, hands-on capacity development to mitigate low absorption capacity (expert-led training plus practical guidance; participatory methods).
- Strengthened coordination mechanisms and communications: establishment/maintenance of clear communication pathways and institutional links among actors to reduce coordination failures and accelerate stakeholder response.
- Tailored engagement design to stakeholders' time constraints, including ensuring participation translates into concrete changes and measurable results.
- Gender-responsive participation measures: programme activity design explicitly accounted for women's time restrictions and incorporated incentives/capacity processes to sustain engagement and translate participation into results.
- Re-sequenced delivery toward "enabling conditions" and bankable pipeline: prioritized technical feasibility/quality infrastructure work and feasibility studies for the impact fund and guarantee line, to strengthen investment readiness and sustainability beyond the seed phase.

Lessons learned (successes, gaps, and implications for future scale-up)

- Success: early investment in localized diagnostics is not “supporting work” but a core accelerator in emergent value chains; it builds credibility and reduces uncertainty for regulators and financiers.
- Gap/failure: a 12-month seed window is often too short to fully evidence investment outcomes when the programme must first establish regulatory, institutional and financial enabling conditions; future phases should set realistic intermediate milestones tied to these prerequisites.
- Success: treating coordination risks as implementation-critical (not administrative) improves coherence of UN system support; dedicated communication and institutional-linking measures should be planned from day one.
- Gap/failure: participation constraints (especially women’s time) can quickly erode inclusion outcomes if not addressed upfront; incentives and practical capacity-building need to be embedded in workplans and monitored as performance enablers, not add-ons.

4. Scale up and pathways for transformative systems change

Please select all relevant pathways that the JP applied with the aim of scaling up systematic transformation:

Capacity-building & local ownership: Strengthening capacity of individuals, local institutions and communities to independently implement and sustain activities; or transferring ownership and management to local organizations for sustained impact.

Cross-sectoral collaboration & partnerships: Partnering with diverse stakeholder groups to address interconnected issues and amplify impact; engaging with private and public sector to replicate successful programme components; or institutionalize participatory governance mechanisms to ensure inclusivity and intensify effectiveness.

Policy integration & mainstreaming: Incorporating successful programme elements into national or local policies and regulations to ensure wider adoption and impact; or integrating programme components into existing systems and structures for wider reach, efficiency and sustainability.

Resource mobilization & financial sustainability: Developing innovative financing mechanisms and attracting new donors/investors to ensure financial sustainability and expansion; or influencing existing financing mechanisms or diversifying resource streams to support long-term programme viability and growth.

People-centred technology adoption & innovation: Leveraging technology and solutions to increase reach, efficiency, impact of activities; or using technology and innovation to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and scale-up of impact.

Others. Please specify: _____

5. Measures taken with a focus on sustainability (500 words / 1 page max)

In bullet points, please elaborate how the JP has ensured the mid- to long-term sustainability and scalability of the JP results beyond its 12-month implementation period. Your response should focus on 1) measures taken to ensure financial, institutional, and community-level sustainability of the JP outcomes, 2) 'enabling actions' that supported sustainability and ownership, 3) the exit strategy that facilitated the scalability and replication of the successful JP interventions.

- **Capacity-building and ownership among national stakeholders:** Targeted capacity-building activities were implemented to address technical and financial knowledge gaps related to biomethane and guarantee mechanisms. By focusing on national experts, financial intermediaries, and technical institutions, the JP strengthened local ownership and reduced reliance on external technical assistance.
- **Community-level sustainability and inclusive access:** The Programme established criteria and operational mechanisms to facilitate access for beneficiaries across different regions, income levels, and project sizes. Affirmative actions were incorporated to promote women's participation, ensuring that sustainability is inclusive and that benefits extend to traditionally underserved groups.
- **Enabling actions through data-driven diagnostics:** Recognizing the absence of reliable localized data, the JP invested in rigorous, transparent diagnostic studies on the technical and financial viability of biomethane. These studies serve as public goods that can be used by policymakers, financial institutions, and developers, supporting informed decision-making and sustained stakeholder engagement.
- **Standardization of tools and operational frameworks:** The JP developed standardized criteria for project selection, risk assessment, and accompaniment under the guarantee facility. These tools and frameworks are transferable and can be adopted by additional financial institutions, enabling replication and scale-up without the need for extensive redesign.
- **Embedding sustainability in national value chain development:** By addressing structural weaknesses in emerging value chains and strengthening project bankability, the JP contributed to building the foundations of a nascent biomethane market. This systemic approach supports long-term sector development rather than isolated project outcomes.
- **Financial sustainability through market-based instruments:** The JP prioritized the design and operational preparation of a guarantee facility anchored in the national development banking system (SBD), ensuring that financial support mechanisms are embedded in existing public financial architecture rather than relying on project-based funding. The feasibility study to structure a green private impact fund will bring a new market-based investment vehicle to the country. Although the fund has not been structured yet, some potential investors have provided letters of intent, and a pipeline of bankable projects is being developed. By structuring a pipeline of financially viable projects with positive net returns, the Programme ensured that investments can continue to be financed beyond the JP period once the guarantee is operational.
- **Mobilization of long-term capital via thematic issuances:** To ensure scalability and continuity of financing, the JP incorporated a sustainability strategy based on thematic issuances, enabling financial institutions and market actors to mobilize resources over time. This approach supports portfolio-based financing and reduces dependence on single funding sources, enhancing resilience and long-term impact.
- **Institutional sustainability through strengthened inter-agency coordination:** The JP strengthened coordination among UNIDO, UNDP, CICAP-UCR, and SBD to establish a clear operational pathway for beneficiary identification, outreach, and

accompaniment. This coordination framework has been institutionalized through defined roles, procedures, and technical criteria, facilitating continued implementation by national partners beyond project closure.

- **Exit strategy focused on readiness and handover:** The JP’s exit strategy emphasized leaving mechanisms operationally ready rather than fully disbursed within the short implementation period. This included completing technical designs, institutional arrangements, and pipelines so that national partners can activate and expand interventions independently.
- **Scalability and replication beyond the JP period:** The combination of embedded financial instruments, standardized operational tools, strengthened institutional coordination, and capacity-building positions the intervention for replication in other sectors or regions.

(500 Indicator-Based Performance Update

This section is based upon the JP results framework and workplan.

6. The JP results framework (Upload Excel)

Please assess the JP performance against the indicators identified in the ProDoc's Annex 1: Integrated results framework, namely 1) JP outputs and 2) JP contribution to Joint SDG Fund global indicators.

7. Key documents produced by the JP (Upload max. 10 files if available)

Please feel free to share up to 10 key documents, including, but not limited to, policy briefs, strategy papers, guidance notes, knowledge products and training materials that the JP would like to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level. File types can be Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, image, video and audio, but each file size must be below 1GB.

8. Number of people directly benefited by the JP

Type of engagement	Total Number of People	Number of Women and Girls*	Number of Children (ages of 0-14) *	Number of Youth (ages 15 –24)*
Training/workshops for targeted groups	234	115	0	12
Awareness raising campaign for broad audience	11 600	-	-	-
Dialogues/consultations with relevant stakeholders	24	12	0	0
Coordination meetings with key partners	15	10	0	0
Access to expanded services	0	0	0	0

Others (Please specify):	0	0	0	0
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** Note that it is allowed to have overlaps in the reporting of women/girls and children/youth columns.*

9. Contributions to marginalized and vulnerable groups

In bullet points, please provide a summary of how the JP benefited the marginalized and vulnerable groups identified in the ProDoc. Include results achieved at both institutional/policy and local/human levels. Please find the 20 standard LNOB groups in footnote 28 on page 17 of the UNSDG Output Indicator Framework's [Implementation Guide](#).

- Women, particularly rural women and women-led enterprises: The JP embedded a gender and just transition lens across policy, analytical and financing outputs, including affirmative actions in guarantee eligibility/selection criteria and operational tools. Locally, women were prioritized as beneficiaries of finance, technical assistance and green jobs along the biomethane/biogas value chain, helping reduce barriers to credit, technical support and participation.
- Rural communities and small-scale producers (including MSMEs/cooperatives): The JP promoted decentralized models and standardized tools that lower transaction costs and improve investment readiness for smaller projects. Locally, it supported producers to valorize agricultural/livestock residues, participate in clean energy value chains and capture local value in rural territories.
- Territories with limited access to modern energy and financing: Territorial diagnostics informed targeted planning and recognition of regional inequalities (biomass potential vs. infrastructure/finance gaps). Locally, this supported tailored financial and technical pathways for peripheral regions to access investment and infrastructure over time.
- Workers and communities facing environmental and economic vulnerability: The JP advanced enabling conditions to substitute diesel in relevant sectors, supporting a just transition and groundwork for greener livelihoods. Locally, expected co-benefits include improved environmental conditions, skills development and safer employment linked to waste valorization and renewable energy.
- Inclusive institutions for sustained LNOB benefits: The JP strengthened national capacity to design and coordinate inclusive value-chain strategies and financing instruments addressing gender, territorial and socioeconomic inequalities, increasing the likelihood that scale-up continues to reach vulnerable groups beyond the JP period.

10. Financial resources mobilized/leveraged

Please indicate the financial resources (in USD) mobilized or leveraged through the JP. Please clarify the source of funding/financing and the source type, such as PUNOs and

Government contributions, public-private partnerships, private sector investments, and financial commitments from IFIs, DFIs and other donors.

Source of Funding/Financing	Type of Source (e.g. PUNO, PPP, DFI, donor, etc.)	Expected amount planned in the ProDoc	Actual amount mobilized as initially planned in the ProDoc	Additional amount newly mobilized beyond the ProDoc expectation
Government co-funding	DFI (CABEI)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$ 0
UNIDO	PUNO	\$30 000	\$30 000	\$ 0
UNDP	PUNO	\$30 000	\$30 000	\$ 0

11. Cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind (LNOB)

For each question, select the relevant response. If yes, please list 1-2 examples of actions taken/results delivered, and if no, please provide a brief 1-2 sentence explanation in the table.

Question	Yes	No	Comment
The JP has adequately implemented environmental and social standards/safeguards to avoid and address adverse impacts on people and the planet.	X		The JP integrated environmental and social safeguards through a just transition and circular economy approach, promoting the valorization of organic residues, reduction of methane emissions, and substitution of fossil fuels. Environmental and social risk considerations were embedded in technical diagnostics, project selection criteria, and the design of financial instruments, ensuring that proposed interventions mitigate adverse impacts while generating positive environmental and social co-benefits.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address human rights issues, undertaking and drawing upon relevant human rights analysis.	X		The JP adopted a rights-based approach aligned with national and international human rights frameworks, emphasizing participation, transparency, non-discrimination, and access to economic opportunities. The Programme explicitly addressed barriers to access to financing, technology, and decision-making for excluded groups, integrating these considerations into policy recommendations, institutional arrangements, and operational tools.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing women and girls.	X		Gender equality was systematically mainstreamed across the JP through alignment with INAMU policies and the National Gender and Climate Action Plan. The Programme incorporated affirmative actions for women within financial mechanisms, beneficiary selection criteria, and capacity-building activities,

			with a specific focus on women in rural areas and women-led enterprises in the emerging biomethane value chain.
The JP has demonstrated positive results / effects for youth in accordance with the principles in Youth 2030.	X		While youth were not a primary standalone target group, the JP generated indirect positive effects by promoting green jobs, technical skills development, and innovation opportunities within the bioenergy and circular economy sectors. These outcomes are aligned with Youth 2030 principles related to economic empowerment, skills development, and participation in sustainable development pathways.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing marginalized and vulnerable persons in any other LNOB groups. Please specify which groups:	X		The JP addressed structural inequalities affecting rural communities, small and medium agricultural producers, cooperatives, and territorially marginalized populations with limited access to financing and clean energy solutions. Through decentralized project models, tailored financial instruments, and institutional coordination, the Programme improved inclusion, reduced barriers to participation, and laid the foundation for equitable benefit-sharing in the energy transition.

(501 *Strategic Communications and Partnership Update*)

12. Strategic communications

Please provide the links to written articles published by the JP, or the draft outline of a written article to be finalized in the coming weeks. Examples of human-interest stories, practical guidance on storytelling, other useful tools to produce impactful written articles can be found in the Joint SDG Fund's [Communications Guideline for Seed Funding Tracks](#) on [UNSDG Knowledge Portal](#) (NB: PUNOs may need to request access first).

<p>List of links to written articles of human-interest stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Greener Future: How Biomethane Could Power Costa Rica’s Transport Revolution Joint SDG Fund • Naciones Unidas y Costa Rica lanzan Programa Conjunto para acelerar la transición energética mediante la Estrategia Nacional de Biometano Programa De Las Naciones Unidas Para El Desarrollo • Naciones Unidas y Gobierno lanzan programa para acelerar la transición energética mediante biometano - Delfino.cr • Costa Rica lidera la transición energética con la Estrategia Nacional de Biometano 2025–2040 Programa De Las Naciones Unidas Para El Desarrollo 	
<p>Draft outline of a written article of a human-interest story</p> <p>A Greener Future: How Biomethane Could Power Costa Rica’s Transport Revolution</p>	

Costa Rica, long recognized for its environmental leadership, is now advancing toward cleaner, more resilient transport. Through a joint programme supported by the Joint SDG Fund and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the country is developing a National Biomethane Strategy to replace diesel in heavy-duty trucks with locally produced biomethane: cutting emissions, lowering fuel costs, and strengthening energy independence. For transport workers, it's more than a climate solution, it's a pathway to economic resilience.

"In recent years, we have witnessed significant transformations and progress. The fund is specifically designed to support projects and programs that facilitate these transitions. We are delighted to be discussing energy transition today. Our primary goal is to promote the SDGs and help the United Nations work more effectively," stated Allegra Baiocchi, UN Resident Coordinator in Costa Rica.

Turning Waste into Clean Fuel

Traditionally, agricultural waste, food scraps, and sewage have been considered environmental challenges. But with the right investment in biomethane technology, this organic waste could be converted into a powerful transportation fuel. Large-scale biodigesters would capture methane from waste and refine it into a clean-burning substitute for diesel, significantly cutting Costa Rica's carbon footprint.

"Costa Rica's agricultural sector accounts for approximately 27% of greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from the waste of export products such as coffee, bananas, pineapples, and sugarcane. A key solution is to harness this waste to produce biogas and biomethane, which would not only reduce emissions but also help tackle the diesel dependency in our energy matrix. This is the beauty of this project: addressing two major challenges with a single solution," said Vice President of Costa Rica Stephan Brunner.

Truck drivers worry about rising diesel costs. If biomethane were widely available, their fuel expenses could drop, and their trucks would produce fewer emissions.

"Well, I don't know much about the technical stuff" said José Ángel Jiménez "but if that biomethane makes the truck run just like diesel and doesn't mess up the engine, I think it's fine. What we want is for the truck to run smooth, be reliable, and if it's also cheaper than diesel, even better. Filling up the tank is expensive right now. If biomethane saves money and pollutes less, then everyone wins. But yeah, there would need to be enough stations to fill up, otherwise it'd be a hassle trying to find where to get it."

A Just Energy Transition for Transport Workers

A National Biomethane Strategy wouldn't just mean cleaner fuel: it would have to ensure fairness. Truck drivers, logistics companies, and transport workers have long relied on diesel, and a sudden shift could leave many behind. But with the right policies, including training programs, incentives, and partnerships with trucking companies, a smooth transition could be achieved.

For a fleet manager at a major logistics company, the benefits of biomethane could be game-changing. If his company retrofitted its fleet with biomethane engines, it could reduce fuel costs and ensure compliance with future emissions regulations.

Empowering Women in the Transport Sector

A shift to biomethane could also open doors for women in a traditionally male-dominated sector. With government-supported training programs, more female mechanics and engineers could specialize in biomethane-powered trucks. A mechanical engineer hopes to see more women leading the charge in this transition. If biomethane-powered transport becomes widespread, she could train young women in vocational schools, ensuring they have the skills to work in the growing clean-energy transport sector.

“Women have a huge role to play in this transition,” PhD. Cindy Torres, from the Department of Chemical Engineering of the University of Costa Rica, says. “We’re proving that sustainable transport isn’t just for the future, it’s something we can build now.”

Economic and Environmental Benefits

On a national level, replacing diesel with biomethane in transport trucks could bring profound benefits. Heavy-duty vehicles account for a significant portion of Costa Rica’s emissions, and biomethane offers an immediate solution to reduce air pollution and dependency on imported fossil fuels. If industries embrace biomethane for transport, major companies could switch their delivery fleets to biomethane-powered trucks, and public buses in San José could run on biomethane, improving air quality for urban residents.

The Road Ahead

A National Biomethane Strategy is not yet a reality, but the opportunity is there. When implemented, more truck drivers could benefit from lower fuel costs, more workers could secure jobs in sustainable logistics, and more women could lead the way in the clean transport revolution. With careful planning and commitment to a just transition, Costa Rica could ensure that no one is left behind.

"Biogas has key potential for industrial policies, where the energy transition plays a fundamental role. For UNIDO, this transition is essential to developing modern industrial policies. It is crucial to invest in this transformation, as industries with high carbon footprints will lose competitiveness in the future," emphasized Johannes Dobinger, UNIDO Representative for Mexico and Central America.

By turning waste into fuel, empowering transport workers, and prioritizing energy independence, Costa Rica has the potential to prove that sustainability is not just about the environment: it’s about people. The biomethane revolution could be within reach, driving the country toward a cleaner, fairer, and more prosperous future for all.

13. Strategic partnerships (Select all that apply)

What type of partnerships established during the JP made important contribution to the JP objectives?

- National Government Institutions (Please specify): Ministry of Energy and Environment (MINAE), Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy
- Sub-national Government Institutions (Please specify): _____
- International Financial Institutions & Development Finance Institutions (Please specify): Development Banking System, Popular Bank
- Private Sector Companies or Industry Associations (Please specify): _____
- Civil Society Organizations, Philanthropic Organizations and Foundation (Please specify): Costa Rican Association of Biogas (ASOBIOGAS)
- Academic/Research Institutions (Please specify): University of Costa Rica, Technical National University
- Bilateral Development Partners (Please specify): UNIDO Brasil
- Labour Unions or Organizations (Please specify): _____
- Others (Please specify): _National Insurance Company (INS)_____

ANNEX: SDG Localization Marker Survey

ONLY for the JPs with SDG Localization's Marker 3 to respond.

- 1) Please report on the SDG Localization monitoring indicators below. If an indicator is not applicable to your joint programme kindly state NA and briefly justify in the “Means of Verification” column.

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (year)	Evidence or means of verification
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders actively engaged in the programme design.	# (type)	# (type)	
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders with clear roles and responsibilities within the programme.	# (type)	# (type)	
Number and type of persons or representative organizations involved in activities developed with the primary aim of enhancing local populations' ownership and inclusion in sustainable development processes at the subnational level, led by local development stakeholders.	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	
Number and type of specific events, publications, or training materials aimed primarily at building capacity for local sustainable development/SDG localization in local development stakeholders.	# (type)	# (type)	
Number and type/description of specific coherent policies, regulations, and/or tools developed to enhance SDG localization (Disaggregated on policies, regulations, or tools focused on cross-sectoral or cross-level policy coherence).	# (type / description)	# (type / description)	
Number and type/description of mechanisms or activities developed to improve the transparent and accountable financing of SDG localization.	# (type / description)	# (type / description)	
Number and type of relevant initiatives/processes that the projects contribute to reach large scale, transformative impact.	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	# (% women indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	
Percentage of programmatic expenditures allocated explicitly to activities that directly impact local sustainable development processes and systems (e.g. food systems value chains, local health or education systems, energy and water management, local economic development, local climate action, multilevel governance) embedded in	%	%	

local SDG-related priorities which are expressed in local strategies.			
Number and type of local financial tools/instruments developed or strengthened to support SDG implementation at local level.	#	#	
Total amount (in USD) of additional public and private sector resources mobilized for local SDG implementation at the local level.	\$	\$	
Percentage of results contributing to SDG localization that have met their preplanned target/milestones.	%	%	
Number of local and regional governments and/or local service providers integrating aspects of policy coherence for sustainable development into their monitoring and reporting processes.	# (type of actor)	# (type of actor)	

2) What action areas has your JP prioritized since launch to advance the SDGs at the local level? (Select all that apply)

- Empowering local authorities and communities (e.g. capacity building, leadership development, technical support)
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. participatory planning processes, community consultations)
- Strengthening multi-level governance (e.g. vertical coordination, central-local policy alignment)
- Localizing SDG financing (e.g. municipal finance mechanisms, local resource mobilization, local SDG budgeting)
- Enhancing local data systems (e.g. disaggregated data collection, community-based monitoring)
- Expanding social service access (e.g. last-mile delivery, integrated service provision)
- Others (please specify): _____

3) To what extent has funding from the joint programme budget be directly channelled or mobilized to local-level actors (e.g. local governments, local community organizations, local service providers) to support SDG Localization efforts in the reporting period?

- 0% i.e. no resource has been directed to local-level actors.
- 1-24% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 25-49% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 50-74% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 75-100% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.

4) Please describe how the territorial or localization approach is applied in your joint programme. Include the following key aspects into your response.

- Alignment between joint programme and local development plans and integration of results in local processes, frameworks and SDG monitoring system.
- Role of subnational-level (local and regional) governments and other key local institutions/stakeholders in the implementation of the joint programme.
- Description on how capacities and innovation of local stakeholders for integrating SDG and multi-actor collaboration are identified and reinforced.

(500 words / 1 page max)

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