



A GUIDE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT – PART TWO

Towards Green Climate Fund Accreditation and Support

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FOREWORD TO THE SERIES “GUIDES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT”

The ground-breaking Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted in 2015, and it entered into force within a year. By November 2017, 170 countries, including a majority of Sida’s cooperation countries, had ratified it. The Agreement aims to keep the temperature increase below 2°C, and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, and to enhance the capacity to adapt to climate change. The main tool to achieve the goals is countries’ own Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Sida supports implementation of a large number of actions in different countries that are contributing to NDCs and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. However, there is a great need and potential to support this development further.

While there are many guides, tools and initiatives out there on NDCs and climate finance, there was a need for guidelines relating NDCs and climate finance more closely to the development agenda in countries, and to the role of bilateral donors.

With that in mind, Sida commissioned the development of this series of **Guides to Support Implementation of the Paris Agreement**, with the objective of providing guidance to Sida staff for the dialogue with, and support to, partner organisations in their implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Guides to Support Implementation of the Paris Agreement:

Part One: **Supporting Access to Finance for Climate Action.**

Part Two: **Towards Green Climate Fund Accreditation and Support.**

Part Three: **Integrating Climate Action into National Development Planning – Coherent Implementation of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030.**

Stockholm, December 2017

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AE	Accredited Entity
AF	Adaptation Fund
AMA	Accreditation Master Agreement
BMUB	German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CDKN	Climate Development Knowledge Network
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DG DEVCO	European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EDA	Enhanced Direct Access
EIB	European Investment Bank
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFLAC	Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para América Latina y el Caribe
GIZ	German Technical Cooperation
ICCAD	International Centre for Climate Change and Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IKI	International Climate Initiative (of the German Government)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
LDC	Least Developed Country
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PPF	Project Preparation Facility
Profanape	Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas
PSF	Public Sector Facility
PSO	Private Sector Organisation
RCM	Readiness Coordination Mechanism
SAP	Simplified Approval Process (of GCF)
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollars
WRI	World Resources Institute

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE GCF

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was set up with the objective of supporting a paradigm shift in the global response to climate change by investing into low-emissions and climate-resilient development. The GCF was established by 194 governments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support climate action in developing countries. The fund is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC (i.e. the Parties to the UNFCCC give guidance to the GCF and the fund is accountable to the Conference of Parties). The fund has been operational since 2015 and as of November 2017, had raised USD 10.3 billion equivalent in pledges from 43 state governments (including 8 developing countries) some cities and regions (see [GCF Resources Mobilised](#)).

By the end of 2017, 43 [projects](#) had been approved amounting to a total of USD 2.7 billion in funding. 40% of the funding has been allocated to mitigation, 31% to adaptation and 29% to cross cutting (adaptation and mitigation). Although these funds have been approved, disbursements are lagging behind significantly. This is because the projects have been approved subject to conditions, which have to be met before legal agreements can be signed and funds disbursed.

Overview of GCF resources (as of December 2017)

Pledged	USD 10.3 billion
Signed	USD 10.1 billion
Committed	USD 2.2 billion
Number of projects approved	43

The GCF has a board of 24 members with equal representation of developed and developing country members. It has a secretariat based in Songdo, Korea.

By the end of 2017, 59 [entities](#) had been accredited to the GCF and there was a pipeline of 191 entities seeking accreditation. Of the accredited entities, the majority are international organisations, approximately one third are direct access national organisations and the rest are direct access regional organisations. The dominance of international entities over direct access entities is a concern for the board and steps are being taken to facilitate an increase in proposals from direct access entities (see Board Paper [GCF/B.16/Inf.08, March 2017](#)).

The Fund has a commitment to pay particular attention to the needs of societies that are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and African States.

As of end of, the majority of projects approved were in these vulnerable regions; of 54 approved projects, 23 are in Africa, 17 in LDCs and 10 in SIDS.

The GCF's current [portfolio](#) of approved projects includes 14 funding proposals from direct access accredited entities, amounting to USD 349 million and representing only 17% of total approved funding as of December 2017. This lower share of proposals from direct access entities is due to the fact that¹:

- the majority of direct access entities are accredited for micro- and small-size projects;
- most direct access entities lack specialized fiduciary standards and are only accredited for project management;
- many need to increase their capacity in designing, structuring and appraising investments, including conducting feasibility assessments, environmental and social impact assessments, economic and financial modelling amongst others; and
- most need to build experience in project management and implementation as well as familiarity with GCF policies, procedures and standards.

The GCF Readiness and Support Programme (section 5) and the Project Preparation Facility (section 6) seek to reduce these obstacles and increase direct access accreditation and project approval.

Box 1: Characteristics of the GCF²

- Allows for direct access as well as access via an international intermediary (the majority of access is via international accredited entities)
- A commitment to aim for 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation investments over time (by the end of 2017 31% of approved funding supported adaptation)
- At least 50% of adaptation funding should go to the most vulnerable countries, including LDCs, SIDS, and African States
- The Private Sector Facility (PSF) is designed to enable direct private sector engagement in climate-sensitive investments
- A variety of financial instruments are available, including grants, concessional loans, subordinated debt, equity, and guarantees, which should provide flexibility to match project needs.
- A balanced governance structure with 12 developed and 12 developing country members aims to deliver consensus-based decisions

¹ Based on information presented in this information paper for the 16th Board meeting March 2017 [GCF/B.16/Inf.08](#)

² Source GCF website accessed 10 April 2017 <http://www.greenclimate.fund/who-we-are/the-climate-challenge#history> and GCF Portfolio updated 21 April 2017

2. ELIGIBILITY

All 'developing countries' can nominate a National Designated Authority (NDA), or focal point, for the GCF. GCF's Governing Instrument states that the Fund should have a country-driven approach and strengthen program coherence and stakeholder coordination at the national level. NDAs are chosen by governments to act as the core interface between a developing country and the Fund. NDAs provide broad strategic oversight of GCF's activities in a country and serve as the point of communication with the Fund. Funding proposals are submitted through these NDAs, ensuring that investments are aligned with local needs and existing climate change planning. As of the end of 2017, 144 countries have selected NDAs; these are listed in the GCF's [online directory](#).

The term 'developing countries' is however not defined by the GCF and it is still unclear how the GCF Board would consider some countries in this regard. However, an indication of how countries would be considered could be whether the countries are included in the GCF NDC directory. Note that, while most of Sweden's bilateral development cooperation countries have NDAs registered with GCF³, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia are not included in the NDA directory. This is just an indication, and the GCF Board may provide further guidance on the matter in the future.

Making contact with the NDA is the first step towards GCF accreditation.

2.1 Accredited entities (AEs)

Funds from the GCF flow directly to Accredited Entities to support project implementation. These can be sub-national, national, regional or international entities that are public, private or non-governmental.

The GCF operates what it calls 'fit for purpose' application procedures to match smaller, less financially, socially and environmentally risky projects with fewer and less stringent accreditation requirements. This means that the application process is different according to the size and type of project.

Entities seeking accreditation determine their application process according to the following options:

- Size: Micro (< 10 million USD), Small (10-50 million USD), Medium (50-250 million USD) and Large (>250 million USD)
- Fiduciary standards: Project management, grant awarding, lending/blending
- Level of environmental and social risk: Low (C), medium (B) or high (A)

A [directory of accredited entities](#) is available on the GCF website. In December 2017, 59 entities were accredited and there were 191 applications for accreditation in the pipeline at various stages of development from pre-submission to the final stages of signing legal agreements.

Of the accredited **civil society organisations** the majority are international NGOs and qualify as international entities (Conservation International, WWF and IUCN) and one is a regional NGO (Foundation Avina based in Panama and operating throughout Latin America). By the end of 2017, there were still no national direct access accredited entities that were CSOs.

³ Note that Kosovo is not yet a Party to the UNFCCC, and does not have an NDA registered. Palestine, which became a Party to the UNFCCC in 2016, now has an NDA registered at GCF.

3. ACCESS MODALITIES

A key feature of the GCF is that it allows for direct access (i.e. without an international intermediary such as a UN agency). The Adaptation Fund pioneered this form of access to climate funds in response to demands from developing countries for greater country ownership.

3.1 Direct access

Direct access means that an accredited entity can receive funds directly from the GCF and be responsible for managing these. This entity can be a government ministry, an NGO, a private sector entity or a regional organisation – see a full overview [here](#).

Note that entities accredited by the GEF, Adaptation Fund, and/or the DG DEVCO that meet the pre-requirements may be eligible for the [fast-track accreditation process](#), where completion of the application by the entity and the review will focus on any GCF accreditation requirements that have not been assessed in other accreditation processes. This can shorten the timeframe for accreditation significantly. For example, the Fonds National pour l'Environnement et le Climat in Benin is accredited to the Adaptation Fund and is seeking fast track accreditation through the GCF⁴.

Of the entities accredited so far, about one third are **national direct access entities** and 14 have so far received funding for projects. The table below presents information on some of the national direct access accredited entities with funded projects.

Name and country	Indication of size of entity	Project name	Funding received
Agency for Agricultural Development of Morocco	Qualified for small projects National agricultural organisation	Development of Argan orchards in Degraded Environment – DARED	USD 39.3m grant USD 9.9m co-financing
Centre de Suivi Ecologique – Senegal	Qualified for micro projects National environment institute	Increasing Resilience of Ecosystems and Communities through Restoration of the Productive Bases of Salinized Lands	USD 7.6m grant USD 550,00 co-financing
Environmental Investment Fund – Namibia	Qualified for micro projects National environmental fund	Climate Resilient Agriculture in three of the Vulnerable Extreme northern crop-growing regions (CRAVE)	USD 9.5m grant USD 500,000 co-financing
		Empower to Adapt: Creating Climate-Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia	USD 10m grant (note this is an enhanced direct access project)
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development – India	Qualified for large projects National financial institution – balance sheet USD 40 billion	Ground Water Recharge and Solar Micro Irrigation to Ensure Food Security and Enhance Resilience in Vulnerable Tribal Areas of Odisha	USD 34.4m grant USD 132m co-financing
Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas – Peru	Qualified for micro projects National environmental fund	Building the Resilience of Wetlands in the Province of Datem del Marañón, Peru	USD 6.2m grant USD 2.9m co-financing
Xac Bank – Mongolia	Qualified for small projects National private sector entity	Business loan programme for GHG emissions reduction	USD 19.5m loan USD 0.5m grant USD 40m co-financing

⁴ Case study from 2014 on the Fond National de l'Environnement et Le Climat including experience gaining AF accreditation http://fs-uneep-centre.org/sites/default/files/project/1/fne_final_version_eng_neu.pdf

Regional Direct Access: Regional institutions can also apply for direct access to the GCF. Accredited entities include the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Corporacion Andina de Formento (based in Bolivia), the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional

Environment Programme (SPREP). At present the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, based in Lomé, Togo, is applying for GCF accreditation as a regional direct access entity.

Examples of **accredited regional entities** with funded projects are presented in the table below.

Regional organisation	Indication of size	Project name	Funding received
Development Bank of Southern Africa	Qualified for large projects	SCF Capital Solutions – using supply chain financing to provide capital to green economy-focused MSMEs in South Africa	USD 12.2m equity USD 22.5m co-financing
SPREP – Pacific	Qualified for small projects	Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu	USD 23m grant USD 3.7m co-financing

3.2 Indirect access

The option of gaining access to the GCF through an international entity remains where direct access is not feasible/appropriate. Note that this is the dominant form of access to date (75% of total project funding), signalling the challenges inherent in getting accredited entity status at the national level for direct access. Nevertheless, access via an international entirety does allow countries that are not yet ready to apply for direct access or that are in the process of

developing their readiness capacity, to access funds for climate projects. International entities include UNDP and UNEP, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African and Asian development banks and international NGOs like IUCN and WWF.

Examples of **international accredited entities** with funded projects are presented in the table below.

International organisation	Indication of size	Project name	Funding received
European Investment Bank	Qualified for Large projects	Geeref Next – a fund of funds: anchor investor in renewable energy/ energy efficiency investment funds Operational in multiple countries	USD 250m equity USD 15m grant USD 500m co-financing
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association (World Bank)	Qualified for large projects	Africa Hydromet Program – Strengthening Climate Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Mali Country Project	USD 22.8m grant USD 4.5m co-financing
Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)	Qualified for large projects	Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Mainstreaming in Bangladesh	USD 40m grant USD 40m co-financing

3.3 Enhanced Direct Access

The objective of Enhancing Direct Access is to devolve decision-making to the accredited entity while ensuring strong country ownership and multi-stakeholder engagement. The GCF board decided that enhanced direct access was needed so that decision-making on the specific projects and programmes to be funded could be made at the country/entity level thereby increasing country ownership.

The approach means that the screening, assessment and selection of specific pilot activities would be made at the national or subnational level. At the same time, mechanisms will be set up to increase oversight and multi-stakeholder engagement at the country level. Countries participating in the pilot phase of enhanced direct access are invited to establish or use an existing oversight body with the involvement of the NDA to ensure that governance standards, including accountability standards, are met and to ensure transparency and multi-stakeholder engagement in the decision-making process.

At its 10th GCF Board meeting, the Fund agreed to initially provide up to USD 200 million for at least 10 enhanced direct access pilots, including at least four to be implemented in small island developing States, the least developed countries and African States.

Box 2: What is the difference between direct access and enhanced direct access?

In the traditional direct access track, a prospective accredited entity is nominated by the national designated authority (NDA) or focal point under the direct access modality. In the case of enhanced direct access, the selection of a prospective accredited entity is done through a consultative process by the NDA or focal point under the direct access modality. So unlike the traditional direct access track, there is no submission of individual projects or programmes because decision-making for the funding of specific pilot activities is devolved to the country level. See [GCF Enhanced Direct Access TORS](#) and [Enhanced Direct Access FAQ](#)

The first enhanced direct access entity is the Environmental Defence Fund in Namibia. Their project, [Empower to Adapt: Creating Climate-Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia](#) is an Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Pilot. The Namibian Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) network, which consists of communal conservancies and community forests in the rural communal areas of Namibia (8 NGOs and the University of Namibia), acts as the conduit for the implementation of local-level climate action.

The GCF secretariat is promoting enhanced direct access and encouraging entities to apply for enhanced direct access by holding workshops. The [workshop](#) was held in May 2017 in Songdo, Korea (see agenda [here](#)).

3.4 Simplified Approval Process

The Simplified Approval Process was launched by GCF in 2017 and aims to simplify and streamline the approval of low risk, small scale projects, particularly from direct access entities⁵. The simplifications are designed to reduce the time and effort required to go from project conception to implementation.

It involves:

- A reduction in the amount of documentation to be provided with the Funding Proposal; and
- Streamlined review and approval processes.

Projects or programmes are eligible for the simplified approval process if they meet three main eligibility criteria:

1. The activities in the project or programme are ready for scaling up;
2. The request for financing to the GCF is up to USD 10 million; and
3. The environmental and social risks and impacts are classified as minimal to none.

Eligible activities include capacity development, planning support and institutional development; household-level facilities and production within an already built-up area; and small-scale rural and urban community-based projects.

⁵ <http://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/funding-projects/simplified-approval-process>

4. ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The process for applying for direct access to the GCF involves a series of steps that proceed in the following order (see GCF presentation on the accreditation steps [here](#) (Feb 2017)):

1. Obtain a nomination letter from the Nationally Designated Authority
2. Get access to the Online Accreditation System from the GCF
3. Complete the GCF application requirements for the appropriate accreditation level (based on size of project, level of risk etc.)
4. Submit application and pay accreditation fee (see [GCF policy on fees for accreditation](#))
5. Respond to GCF enquiries for stage I completeness check and stage II review and board decision
6. If approved, stage III, legal arrangements and the signing of the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA)

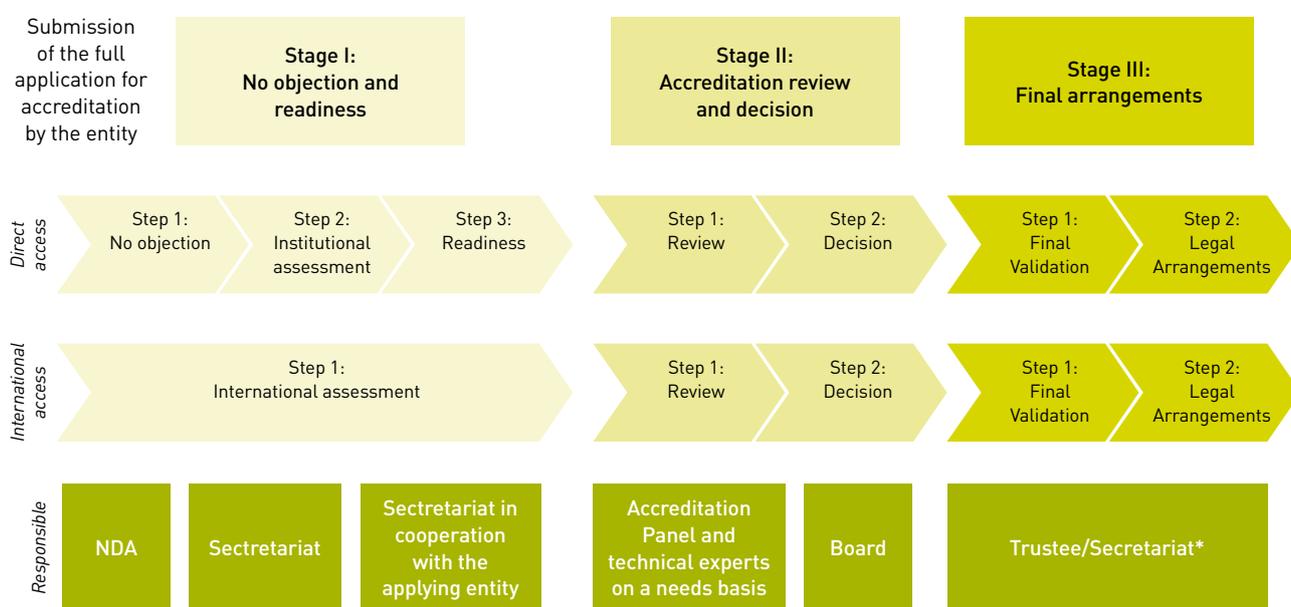
The key steps in the accreditation process are also outlined by the BMUB supported [UNDP/UNEP/WRI GCF Readiness](#) programme in this [simplified guidebook](#).

An [online self-assessment tool](#) available on the GCF website can be used to assess an institution's suitability for accreditation.⁶ **This is a very useful starting place for entities wanting to assess their suitability for accreditation.**

Timing

The nominal timeframe for accreditation is about 6 months if all the materials to be submitted are available, however in practice the process takes 1-2 years with the final stage, signing the AMA not being completed until any conditions set by the board have been met. If materials need to be translated or developed (e.g. new policies) in order to be submitted the process will take more time.

Figure 2: Overview of the GCF accreditation process for direct access



* To be defined in the context of provisions for legal and formal arrangements with intermediaries and implementing entities, including policies on fees and payments.

Source [Oxford Climate Policy Blog](#)

⁶ By March 2017 over 200 users had completed this online assessment

Costs

The cost of accreditation as set out in [GCF schedule of fees](#) is as follows:

Category	Fee for accreditation related to basic fiduciary standards and ESS only	Fee for activities related to each specialised fiduciary standard (project management, grant award, lending or blending)
Micro < USD 10 million	National and sub-national entities in LDCs and SIDS – no fee All others USD 1,000	USD 500 each
Small	SIDS and LDCs no fee National and sub-national entities in developing countries – USD 3,000 All others USD 5,000	USD 1,000 each
Medium	USD 10,000	USD 3,000 each
Large	USD 25,000	USD 7,000 each

Oversight

Accreditation is valid for 5 years after which an entity applies for reaccreditation. Annual AMA compliance reports are the primary oversight of accredited entity performance. To date there is no board guidance on entities losing accreditation. The [GCF Independent Evaluation Unit](#) can be used to lodge complaints about projects or accredited entities. NDAs are required to host GCF portfolio reviews through national consultations which allows any issues or concerns to be raised by stakeholders and facilitates transparency and stakeholder participation.

5. GCF READINESS SUPPORT

The [GCF Readiness Support](#) programme is a funding programme to strengthen the institutional capacities of Nationally Designated Authorities / focal points and direct access entities to engage with the Fund. It aims to ensure that the accreditation standards of the GCF do not pose an impediment to direct access.

The readiness programme is a good place to start for countries just getting to know the GCF or with little experience in applying to international climate change funds.

By the end of 2017 the GCF had committed over USD 41 million in readiness activities. This support can be delivered to countries directly through National Designated Authorities (NDAs) or Focal Points or through a wide range of delivery partners with relevant expertise and experience (e.g. UNDP, UNEP).

Consultations carried out to inform this guide indicate that where possible countries should apply for readiness support directly so as to build institutional capacity through the process. The application process is not too demanding and the benefits accrued from being directly engaged in the process are significant.

By 2017, the GCF secretariat had approved 130 requests for readiness support to NDAs / focal points in 92 countries. 60 countries had received readiness disbursements, amounting to a total of USD 10.8 million.

A list of the countries receiving readiness support or in the pipeline to receive support is available in the [‘Progress and outlook report of the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, March 2017’](#) in the annex. You can consult this list in the annex to see if a Sida partner country is accessing support.

GCF secretariat’s Readiness and support programme

The [GCF guide book Accessing the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme](#) sets out the steps involved in accessing readiness support. This is the primary route to readiness support for countries wishing to build their capacity to access the fund.

All developing countries can access the Readiness Programme and overall the aim is to deliver 50% of readiness support to LDCs, SIDS and African countries. As of 2017 over half of the countries accessing some form of readiness support were SIDS, LDCs or African states.

The support available covers:

- Up to USD 1 million per country per year. Of this, NDAs or focal points can request up to USD 300,000 per year to establish or strengthen an NDA / focal point. Readiness support can also be used to support direct access entities to become accredited and for assessments of institutional capacity, fiduciary and ESS policies and to develop strategic frameworks at national level⁷.

Antigua and Barbuda

The Antigua and Barbuda NDA, a partnership of the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Finance, has directly accessed 2 readiness grants to date. These grants enabled the Department of Environment to be accredited as a direct access entity of the GCF in October 2017.

Readiness Grant #1: USD 300,000 Duration: 12 months (Mar 2016 – Apr 2017).

Focus areas: Strengthening NDA and developing a country programme.

Activities included engaging a financial expert to build capacity in the Department of Environment and Internal Audit Unit to better understand and meet GCF fiduciary standards; developing a Knowledge Information Management System (KIMS); developing an online Knowledge Portal, for greater transparency and access to information; finalising three internal policy guides on operations, financial and accounting and environmental and social safeguards; preparing and submitting the Department of Environment’s Accreditation application to become a national Direct Access entity, and conducted pre-Feasibility for the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) pilot.

Readiness Grant #2: USD 620,000 Duration: 12 months (Apr 2017 – May 2018).

Focus areas: Accreditation, Enhanced Direct Access, private sector engagement.

Activities include submitting the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) pilot funding proposal; Implementing a comprehensive training programme; Private sector engagement; Contracting a financial analyst to engage the private sector and develop high quality funding proposals.

- Up to USD 3 million per country to develop National Adaptation Plans or other adaptation processes.

⁷ As of March 2017, Senegal (IFI delivery partner) and Vanuatu (SPREP delivery partner) had accessed readiness support to develop strategic frameworks.

The first of these grants went to Liberia (USD 2.2 million with UNDP as delivery partner) and Nepal (USD 2.9 million via UNEP).

Liberia

Advancing National Adaptation Planning Process

Grant: USD 2.3 million from December 2016 – November 2019

Focus: medium term investment planning in climate sensitive sectors and coastal areas in Liberia

Activities: strengthening institutional frameworks and coordination for the implementation of the NAP process; building capacity for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into planning and budgeting processes and systems; expanding the knowledge base for scaling up adaptation; formulating financing mechanism for scaling up adaptation, including public, private, national and international finance.

recently NGOs (e.g. IIED) participate as observers.

Regional meetings can help share lessons learned and enable to sharing of experiences and building of capacity. Antigua and Barbuda held a regional meeting for eastern Caribbean states in the spring of 2017 to share their experiences to date. A meeting of partners supporting readiness in the Pacific took place in [Samoa](#) in August 2016 to improve the coordination of country and regional GCF support activities. The meeting addressed the challenges NDAs and focal points were experiencing due to working with multiple partner initiatives. In West Africa, [ECOWAS](#) convened workshops in 2015 and 2016 to build capacity in the region to access climate finance, including via the Adaptation Fund and the GCF.

Other sources of GCF readiness support

In addition to the GCF readiness programme there are other delivery partners / readiness support programmes delivered by:

- UNDP, UNEP and WRI [GCF Readiness Programme](#) which works in 9 countries (Benin, Colombia, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Uzbekistan). This programme is not taking on any new partner countries. The tools and guidebooks it has prepared are available [here](#).
- [GIZ climate finance readiness programme](#) – with a [CF Ready Toolbox](#) containing guides and training materials.
- Asian Development Bank [GCF readiness programme](#).
- Others including the African Development Bank, FAO, the Commonwealth Secretariat etc.
- The GCF is working on framework agreements with regional and international delivery partners to provide readiness support to countries.

Through the **GCF Global Readiness Coordination Mechanism** (RCM) the GCF secretariat brings together the partners providing readiness support to maximise coordination, lesson learning and harmonised approaches. The partners participating in the RCM include the African Development Bank, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), GIZ, KfW, UNEP, UNDP and WRI. Other bilateral and multilateral agencies, and

6. PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITY

The Project Preparation Facility (PPF) is another part of the readiness support available to countries and accredited entities under the GCF. It aims to support project and programme preparation requests from all accredited entities, especially direct access entities and micro- to small scale projects. Accredited entities can access funding support (as a grant, repayable grant or as equity in the case of private sector projects) to assist with project development.

The GCF emphasises the need to ensure synergies between its project preparation activities and the Readiness Programme in order to ensure country ownership and facilitate the development of standard tools, methods and project documents, as well as increasing efficiency by building institutional capacity in implementation.

The [Guidelines](#) for the PPF set out the process for accessing support. The PPF provides support up to USD 1.5 million per project for the following activities associated with project and programme development:

1. Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, as well as project design;
2. Environmental, social and gender studies;
3. Risk assessments;
4. Identification of programme/project-level indicators;
5. Pre-contract services, including the revision of tender documents;
6. Advisory services and/or other services to financially structure a proposed activity; and
7. Other project preparation activities, where necessary, provided that sufficient justification is available.

In January 2017 ACCLIMATISE, IIED and ICCCAD published a [GCF Project Toolkit 2017: Guide to Develop a Project Proposal for the Green Climate Fund](#). This contains a useful glossary, overview of the GCF project cycle and the forms and templates required by the GCF.

Note that international entities such as UNDP also support project development in response to demands from client countries. This usually results in proposals that are implemented through a delivery partner rather than through the direct access model.

Project preparation and approval is, like accreditation, a lengthy process. There are no set timelines but UNDP, with the experience of many approved projects estimates the time from developing an idea to GCF board approval and the fulfilment of any conditions set by the board to be two and a half to three years.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

At present the [GCF's Environmental and Social Safeguards](#) (ESS) are based on the [performance standards of the International Finance Cooperation](#) (IFC). These criteria aim to address key environmental and social risks in the implementation of activities to be funded by GCF. The IFC ESS are adopted on an interim basis until the Fund develops a comprehensive environmental and social management system (ESMS).

Accredited entities need to demonstrate their compliance with the ESS at project and institutional level. This means that applicants have to develop an environmental and social management system as part of the accreditation process. The GCF also has a [Gender Policy](#) and entities must be able to demonstrate that they have the policies and procedures in place to implement this policy. The Gender Policy was reviewed in 2017 and a new gender policy and an update gender equality and social inclusion policy and action plan are currently under consultation.

NDA's and entities can use readiness support from the Fund to enable them to develop gender and ESS policies. A useful [tool to help prepare and implement ESS policies](#) has been developed by the GIZ and WRI and is available here.

8. LESSON LEARNED AND COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

This section presents lessons learned from case studies documented to date.

8.1 Lessons Learned for national institutions

Based on lessons learned⁸ from the Adaptation Fund and the GCF the following recommendations emerge for national institutions seeking accreditation:

- Although time and resource intensive, accreditation for direct access helps to build institutional capacity and ensure country ownership of projects and funds. Where possible countries should be encouraged to apply directly (rather than through a delivery partner) for readiness support in order to build institutional capacity.
- Direct access through a nationally accredited entity also builds capacity for project development at the national level and leads to projects that are more programmatic and inclusive.
- It is important to take time at the national level (coordinated by the NDA) to decide on which entity to put forward for accreditation – to maximise the chances of successful accreditation and to avoid overloading the GCF proposal pipeline with multiple applications from the same country. Likewise taking time to identify finance gaps (by mapping climate finance flows and needs) and to identify the projects best suited to the GCF will contribute to success.
- It is important to spend time at the outset planning for engagement with the GCF secretariat, identifying the relevant stakeholders and making the links to relevant national policies.
- It is critical to choose the right institutions to play the roles of NDA and accredited entity. To be successful these institutions must have the necessary procedures and policies in place and be suited to play the role. For example, institutions acting as NDA should be well placed to fill a coordination and facilitation role.
- The accreditation process is rigorous and time-consuming. It is important to have the right team in place, with a senior level leader and adequate human and financial resources. English translation adds to the time and resources needed to complete the process.
- It is important that senior management prioritise accreditation as the process requires institutional endorsement and senior level support is needed to authorise access to confidential documents and to sign off on legal agreements. It is also useful to assign one person to lead on organising all the supporting documents and coordinate all interactions and correspondence with the GCF secretariat.
- Engage with the GCF secretariat and its country representatives from the start. Build a relationship, ask questions and seek advice.
- Use the GCF accreditation self-assessment to understand the accreditation process, its requirements and to identify any gaps you may have to fill.
- Apply for readiness support at an early stage to identify gaps in your institutional processes and to build capacity to fill these gaps. For example, to fulfil the requirements in relation to fiduciary, environmental and social risk.
- Make sure project proposals are in line with the objectives of the fund and anticipate that project approval can take as long as the accreditation process.
- To ensure buy in and success engage external stakeholders (communities, CSOs, other government departments etc.) from the early stages of project creation and design right through to implementation and monitoring and evaluation. For example, in Senegal compliance with the GCF environmental and social safeguards meant that stakeholder engagement happened from the early stages of project development rather than kicking in at the implementation stage.

West Africa

ECOWAS note from their experience with NDAs in West Africa that translation and the need for all documents to be in English has led to time and resource constraints for their partners. They also stress the importance of working closely with the designated GCF country adviser and to seek one-on-one advice throughout the process.

⁸ Sources: WRI [Direct access to climate finance: lessons learned from national institutions](#) (Nov 2015); From IIED (Sept 2015) [The Green Climate Fund accreditation process: barrier or opportunity?](#) (based on experiences of three nationally accredited entities in Rwanda, Senegal and Kenya); [Enabling Access to the Funds: Profonanpe's Adaptation Fund & Green Climate Fund Accreditation Experience](#), GIZ (BMZ) and Profonanape, October 2016.

Peru – Profonanpe's accreditation to the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund

Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (Profonanpe) is a national environmental trust fund located in Lima, Peru. It is a private non-profit organization created in 1992, which currently has a staff of 42. The average size of Profonanpe's projects is between US\$5 and US\$10 million with a life span of five years. Its largest programme to date was US\$23.5 million.

Profonanpe successfully applied for accreditation to both the Adaptation Fund (AF) and The Green Climate Fund. It found that the AF and the GCF accreditation processes were both very rigorous and time consuming - the AF accreditation took substantially longer (over a year and a half) as it was completed first (from July 2012 to March 2014) and it put in place many of the policies and safeguards also needed for GCF accreditation (from early 2014 to late March 2015).

Having benefitted from the learning curve provided by Profonanpe's AF accreditation, the GCF accreditation process followed a parallel approach. With support from the Board and senior management, Profonanpe kicked off the GCF application by an exhaustive review of the Fund and its application requirements, followed by the appointment senior team members as directors to lead specific accreditation application sections. The Directors assigned teams to collect the necessary documentation, provide project examples to demonstrate capacities and track record and contribute feedback on institutional readiness and initial gaps identified.

Having previously outsourced the assessment and design of project's ESS to external consultants for accreditation to the Adaptation Fund, the team in Profonanpe identified the need to develop its own ESS procedure. Meeting this accreditation requirement resulted in beneficial institutional capacity building.

There is an overview of Profonanpe's GCF accreditation experience gaining GCF accreditation [here](#) from page 23-27.

Antigua and Barbuda⁹

Antigua and Barbuda were accredited to the GCF in October 2017. As they had already been accredited to the Adaptation Fund, they used the GCF's Fast Track process and two readiness grants to gain accreditation to the GCF. The readiness grants were used to build systems and capacity as well as putting in place the policies and strategies needed for accreditation. Lessons learned from the accreditation process have been documented by the NDA and shared with other countries seeking accreditation.

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Lessons learned by the NDA from the accreditation process include:

- Accessibility of Readiness support has been steadily improving (predictability)
- Important to have dedicated staff to manage GCF access (invest)
- Would like to move to multi-year Readiness programming

Challenges during implementation:

- Delays in receiving disbursements – as a result will reduce the number of transfer requests
- Efficiency in procurement is crucial

Areas for improvement:

- Back-and-forth during review and approval process
- Changes to the Grant Agreement can cause significant delays

8.2 Lessons learned for civil society applicants

The Dutch based NGO [Both Ends](#) has documented its experience working with the Samdhana Institute in Indonesia to seek accreditation. The accreditation process is still ongoing but lessons learned to date include:

- Recognising that applying for GCF accreditation is a major management decision and will likely require institutional strengthening for smaller organisations (e.g. all Standard Operating Procedures have to be in place). The process requires significant time and resources and will need dedicated staff to follow the process. You may also need to hire in specialist support.
- Early in the process do a gap analysis by comparing your organisations policies and procedures against those of the GCF so that to can plan to fill the gaps and build capacity where needed.
- All documentation has to be submitted in English so allow time and money for translation of policies, documentation etc.
- Get to know your NDA and have a close working relationship with them from the beginning. Attend any workshops or information sessions organised by the NDA as these will help you to navigate the process.

⁹ Based on interviews with the GCF accreditation team conducted in Bonn May 2017

Indonesia

The 'Green Climate Fund: A CSO guide for engagement and local access' contains a summary of the experience of the Samdhana Institute and its efforts to get GCF accreditation. The Institute is an environmental small grants provider in Indonesia with an annual budget of around USD 2 million. In the period Sept 2015 to August 2016, the institute with the Support of Both Ends (a Netherlands based NGO) started the process of applying for GCF accreditation. After 12 months the Institute was still at the preparation phase for entering stage 1 of the accreditation process. They estimate it will take them 2 years or more to complete the process (if successful).

8.3 Lessons learned for local institutions

In order to facilitate the flow of climate finance to the local level, [IIED](#) has been tracking the extent to which the GCF funds can be expected to reach the local level. It finds that:

- Overall, just four per cent of the US\$1.5 billion committed by the GCF will flow directly to institutions in the poorest countries and only one community-specific enhanced direct access programme led by a developing country (Namibia) has been approved (April 2017)
- Institutions in LDCs could be enabled to access and manage climate funding, especially locally-focused programmes, by:
 - forming networks of providers and experts including entities already accredited to the GCF to share experiences and advice.
 - engaging with international institutions accredited to the GCF to seek mentoring and access experience and lessons learned. This mentoring should lead to local level institutions becoming able to apply for and manage their own finance within a set period, rather than relying on international entities.
 - working with national focal points and NDAs to prioritise enhanced direct access for local level institutions and the pilot projects that promote finance for micro, small and medium enterprises.
 - engaging with local government ministries and local banks that could be eligible for GCF funding and are well placed to promote innovative local public and private sector programmes.

9. SOURCES OF SUPPORT, GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

This section recaps the key sources of support and guidance for accessing the GCF. Where appropriate a contact person is named.

GCF Readiness and Support Programme

The official GCF readiness programme and the starting place for most countries or entities wishing to engage with the GCF. Mr Clifford Polycarp Clifford Polycarp, is the GCF Secretariat's Readiness focal point and interim Country Programme Director.

GCF readiness and support Programme:
<http://www.greenclimate.fund/funding/readiness-support>

Board decisions and documents: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/funding/readiness-support/fine-print>

Financial Management Capacity Assessment:
<http://www.greenclimate.fund/funding/readiness-support/fine-print>

Contact: GCF Country Programming, Readiness and Preparatory Support, Tel: +82.32.458.6039 (Korea Standard Time); E-mail: readiness@gcfund.org

UNDP/UNEP/WRI GCF readiness programme

The [GCF Readiness Programme](#) is a partnership of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). It was set up in 2014 / 2015 before the GCF had created its own readiness programme.

The Partnership is supporting readiness activities in the following partner countries: Benin, Colombia, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Uzbekistan. By clicking on the [map at this link](#) you can access information about the readiness programmes in each of these countries. See for example the readiness programme in [Kenya](#). No additional countries are being taken into this programme and it is due to close in 2018.

GIZ Climate Finance Readiness Programme

This programme provides support to recipient countries to build a foundation for a results-oriented, transformational and efficient use of international

climate finance with emphasis on the GCF. Support provided includes institutional support, strategic and conceptual advice and national GCF investment plans and corresponding project pipeline. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Caribbean islands, Morocco, Namibia, Peru, Zambia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda and Viet Nam are beneficiaries of the programme.

Climate finance ready toolbox
<https://www.giz.de/expertise/html/19709.html>

Climate finance readiness training
<https://www.clifit.org/>

UNDP

UNDP is an accredited international entity under the GCF. Through its regional offices it responds to requests from client countries for support to develop project proposals. It also delivers readiness support via the BMUB project listed above. UNDP has 14 approved GCF projects to date (December 2017) and has been working with countries to prepare GCF projects since 2015. It has a great deal of expertise in designing GCF projects but most of the learning to date is shared internally and is not publicly available.

Mr Pradeep Kurukulasuriya is Head of Climate Change Adaptation & Global Focal Point for the Green Climate Fund in UNDP. He can be contacted at pradeep.kurukulasuriya@undp.org.

UNEP

UNEP is a GCF accredited international agency and partner in the GCF readiness programme. The main avenue for their GCF readiness support is via the BMUB supported readiness programme. The contact people for GCF related enquiries are Marko Berglund in Paris, Marko.Berglund@unep.org and Ms Ermira Fida in Nairobi, ermira.fida@unep.org.

Economic Community of West African States ECOWAS

ECOWAS receives support from Sida for its climate related work, including work on climate finance. ECOWAS convened workshops in 2015 and 2016 to build capacity in the region to access climate finance. The 2015 workshop was co-convened with the Adaptation Fund and the GCF and the 2016 workshop with the GCF. Both workshops included clinics with GCF country advisers to allow participants to interact face to face with the GCF and ask questions. The

workshops brought together accredited entities to the AF and GCF (e.g. Centre de Suivi Ecologique from Senegal) to share their experiences with NDAs, GCF and UNFCCC focal points, entities seeking accreditation and civil society. Another workshop is being planned and is likely to focus on accessing readiness support for NAP preparation.

Countries in the region can contact Konan Raoul Kouame, kokouame@ecowas.int and Johnson Boanuh, jboanuh@ecowas.int for further information.

ACPC

The African Climate Policy Centre in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa supports to African governments in aspects of climate change policy and action, including climate finance. For more information on work related to the GCF contact James Murombedzi at murombedzi@un.org.

Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para América Latina y el Caribe (GFLAC)

GFLAC tracks progress by the GCF and the decisions of the GCF board in order to provide information and advice to the governments it works with. This involves producing GCF related information in the Spanish language. The mapping activities help countries to prioritise their investment needs and to identify GCF appropriate projects. GFLAC were part of the readiness support programme for Columbia in relation to the monitoring, reporting and verification of finance.

[GFLAC have mapped national and international climate finance](#) (what funds countries are accessing and allocating to climate action in order to identify gaps) in 4 Latin American countries: Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Peru. This information will be used to prepare for GCF accreditation. In El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica, GFLAC is providing support to NDAs to prepare national guidance on how to prioritise actions and how to access the fund.

GFLAC is partnered with Fondacion Avina which is a regional direct access accredited entity to the GCF with activities throughout Latin America.

Fondacion Avina: contact Andrea Rodriguez Osuna.

GFLAC: contact Sandra Guzman, sandra.lunag83@gmail.com

EBRD and EIB (Eastern Europe)

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was the first multilateral development bank with global reach to sign an Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in [April 2017](#). EBRD is one of the largest recipients of [GCF resources](#), with 5 approved projects, including the GCF's largest approved investment to date for a Sustainable Energy Financing Facilities programme to direct climate finance to Armenia, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Serbia, Tajikistan and Tunisia. GCF is contributing USD 378 million to this USD 1.4 billion programme.

For Eastern European countries trying to access climate finance from the GCF, the EBRD could be a useful avenue. The contact in EBRD for the GCF is Ms. Marta Simonetti, simonetm@ebrd.com.

The European Investment Bank (EIB), also accredited to the GCF, has a [project to catalyse private sector investment](#) in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across the developing world. It includes activities in Georgia.

The GCF contact in EIB is Ms. Kristina Eisele, k.eisele@eib.org.

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

IIED is supporting national agencies in Mali, Tanzania and Bangladesh that have experience of funding local agencies to get accredited by the Green Climate Fund. So the focus is on accreditation in the context of decentralisation. It is hoped to expand the work to Uganda, Nepal and Ethiopia.

The programmes in Mali (with the Agence Nationale d'Investissement des Collectivités Territoriales (ANICT)) and Tanzania (with the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), commenced in June 2016.

The programmes have three phases:

- Phase 1: Awareness raising on climate change and climate finance for ministries and agencies involved with decentralisation.
- Phase 2: Identifying the standards required to access the GCF and assess gaps in national and institutional policies.

- Phase 3: developing the policies to fill the gaps identified in phase 2 and submit GCF accreditation application.

Published to date are a short guide to the GCF informed by the work in Tanzania – Eight things to know about the GCF' <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10160IIED.pdf>.

For each country a more complete **Toolkit** (70-80 pages in length) is being developed. These are being developed in collaboration with the NDAs in each country to ensure ownership and build capacity. In Mali language has been a challenge as all GCF materials are in English and everything needs to be translated. The Mali toolkit will be a comprehensive guide to the GCF in French with all the forms and templates translated.

The Bangladesh programme started in the spring of 2016 and involves partners including CDKN, ACCLIMATE and ICCAD. It has initiated a first phase of work to raise awareness of climate change and climate finance with sub-national governments. There is a strong emphasis on the private sector and on working with the public sector to understand the capacity and readiness of private sectors entities (banks, renewable energy companies, agricultural seed producers) to access the GCF. A gap assessment with a short list of private sector actors identified the gaps to be filled to be able to access the GCF.

The Bangladesh project produced GCF accreditation guidance and a GCF project toolkit 2017.

Practical handbook for GCF accreditation in Bangladesh <http://www.iccad.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/10151IIED.pdf>.

GCF Project Toolkit 2017: A guide to produce a project proposal for the Green Climate Fund. https://www.acclimatise.uk.com/login/uploaded/resources/GCF%20project%20Toolkit_20.01.2017_For%20Publication.pdf.

IIED is using its experience supporting the LDC Group in the UNFCCC negotiations to strengthen LDC inputs to the GCF board to make the GCF more accessible to LDCs.

The contact person in IIED for matters related to the GCF is Marek Soanes, marek.soanes@iied.org.

IISD

[IISD](#) provided support to Uganda's NDA to develop a procedure to assess projects and provide no-objection letters, to meet the requirements of the GCF in 2014/2015. The work entailed the establishment of

a streamlined and efficient no-objection procedure and a coordination mechanism for the NDA to enable Uganda take ownership of GCF-financed programme and projects. The project also led to the development of Uganda's GCF Country Programme in line with existing climate plans and strategies. The project was implemented by IISD and New Climate Institute.

Both Ends

Both Ends (based in the Netherlands) has been working with local partners (esp in Indonesia) to try to access the GCF. Their publications and experiences are documented on their website [here](#).

The contact person is Sabina Voogd, s.voogd@bothends.org

10. REFERENCES

ACCREDITATION

The key guidance documents for GCF accreditation are listed in the table below¹⁰.

Document and Link	Description and Use
Entity Self-Assessment and online here	This is a quick one-page self-assessment tool to allow an entity to assess whether it fulfils the basic criteria to be accredited.
GCF Accreditation Application Form	The GCF Accreditation Application Form should always be referred to by applicants for full requirements of accreditation.
Stage I Check	The GCF has published the checklist used to assess applications. This checklist refers to Stage 1 criteria. Applicants that wish to ensure they have provided the correct materials in their application should make use of this checklist.
Stage II Check	The GCF has published the checklist used to assess applications. This checklist refers to Stage 2 criteria. Applicants that wish to ensure they have provided the correct materials in their application should make use of this checklist.
OAS User Guide	The OAS User Guide is a simple guide intended to inform applicants on the use of the online application system.

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

GCF 101 online guide: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/-/gcf-101-new-guide-on-how-to-access-the-green-climate-fund?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Fhome>

GCF Portfolio: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/portfolio>

GCF Directory of accredited entities: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/partners/accredited-entities/ae-directory>

Recent board decisions can be accessed via the Board [documents page](#). The 'Inf' documents prepared for the board meetings contain updates on accredited entities, projects approved, countries accessing readiness support etc.

GUIDES TO THE GCF

Accreditation

GCF Accreditation Self Assessment <http://www.greenclimate.fund/partners/accredited-entities/self-assessment-tool>

Simplified Guidebook for Direct Access Accreditation to the Green Climate Fund http://www.gcfreadinessprogramme.org/sites/default/files/Simple%20Guidebook%20for%20NIE%20Accreditation%203.0_0.pdf

Enabling Access to the Funds Profonanpe's Adaptation Fund & Green Climate Fund Accreditation Experience. GIZ (BMZ) and Profonanpe, October 2016 (contains a useful overview of the accreditation process as well as documenting Profonanpe's experience with accreditation). <https://www.giz.de/expertise/downloads/giz2016-en-enabling-access-to-funds.pdf>

PROJECT PREPARATION

GCF Project Preparation Facility Guidelines https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574766/Guidelines_-_Project_Preparation_Facility_Guidelines.pdf/f8b62701-a9ca-4b1e-9e23-e67f1b88abd4

GCF Project Toolkit 2017: Guide to Develop a Project Proposal for the Green Climate Fund http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GCF%20project%20Toolkit_20.01.2017_For%20Publication.pdf

CASE STUDIES

The Green Climate Fund: a CSO guide for engagement and local access (with a specific focus on the Indonesian context) http://www.bothends.org/uploaded_files/document/1CSO-guide_on_the_GCF_November_2016.pdf

"Direct Access" to climate finance: Lessons learned by National Institutions. WRI – based on research in Argentina, Benin, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Kenya, Namibia, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uruguay. http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/22DIRECT_ACCESS_TO_CLIMATE_FINANCE_LESSONS_LEARNED_BY_NATIONAL_INSTITUTIONS.pdf

¹⁰ Source: from UNDP/UNEP/ WRI GCF readiness programme. [Simplified Guidebook for Direct Access Accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, 2016](#)

The Green Climate Fund accreditation process: barrier or opportunity? – IIED - Informed by the experience of Kenya's National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Rwanda's Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) and Senegal's Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE). <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17311IIED.pdf>

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

[GERMANWATCH](#) produces briefs and papers relevant to the GCF and its board meetings. Fact sheets cover the following topics:

- [The Basics](#)
- [Rights and Equity](#)
- [In your Country](#)
- [How funding is decided](#)
- [The Private Sector](#)

The [Henrich Boll Foundation](#) monitors the GCF and publishes reports and briefings. For example:

- [From Innovative Mandate to Meaningful Implementation: Ensuring Gender-Responsive Green Climate Fund \(GCF\) Projects and Programs](#) (2015)

Ms. Liane Schalatek from the Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America is currently one of two active NGO observers for the GCF.

The GCF has [Active Observers](#) who participate in board meetings, two representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), one each from developed and developing countries, and two from private sector organizations (PSOs), also one each from developed and developing countries. To date 219 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been accredited to the GCF as observers. CSOs that wish to learn more about the GCF may wish to apply for observer status or connect with CSOs from their countries that are already observers to benefit from their knowledge. The current list of observers is [here](#).

The GCF has a [Private Sector Facility \(PSF\)](#) to fund and mobilize institutional investors and leverage GCF's funds to encourage corporates to co-invest with the Fund. This facility maybe of interest to private sector entities in Sida countries seeking to mobilise investment for climate related activities.

