



**Vanuatu**  
**&**  
**The Green Climate Fund**  
**Information Booklet**  
**for Vanuatu Stakeholders**  
**and Implementing Entities**



# Vanuatu & The Green Climate Fund



# 1 Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to provide a practical guide to assist government, civil society private sector partners, and prospective national implementing entities (NIEs) in Vanuatu to better understand the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

It is designed to provide an all-in-one guidance and analysis of the concept, process, relevant standards, frequently asked questions related to planned GCF approaches in Vanuatu.

This document aims to provide an overview of:

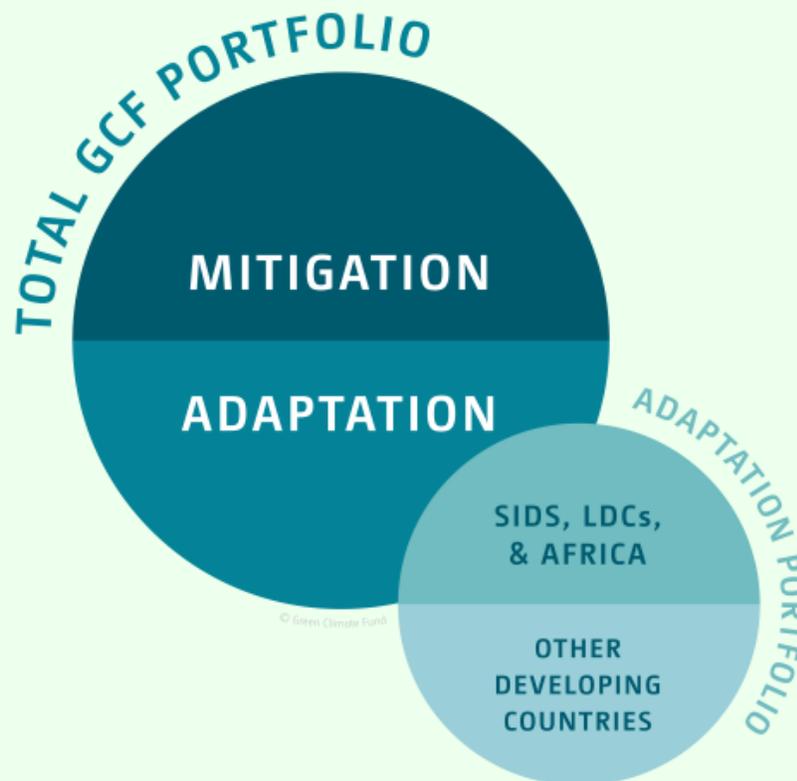
- The Green Climate Fund
- The role of the National Designated Authority (NDA) in Vanuatu
- Access, accreditation and the role of NIEs
- Proposal development
- Size of grants available
- Where to access further information

This booklet was produced as part of the Vanuatu-GIZ Green Climate Fund Readiness Program.



## 2 What is the Green Climate Fund?

The GCF is an international climate fund designed to help developing countries respond to climate change by investing in low-carbon resilient development. Countries can access GCF finance through three funding windows: adaptation, mitigation and private sector facility. GCF aims to balance its allocation between adaptation and mitigation while significantly allocating resources to engage the private sector. Furthermore, nearly half of the 'adaptation' pool is expected to be allocated to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African states.



### 3 What is the NDA?

A National Designated Authority (NDA) is the core interface between a country and the Green Climate Fund. The NDA fulfills the following mandate:

- ensures that activities supported by the Fund align with strategic national objectives and priorities.
- advances ambitious action on adaptation and mitigation in line with national needs.
- disseminates information on the operational procedures of the Fund, including environmental and social safeguards and the no-objection procedure, to local stakeholders.
- maintains an overview of all proposals related to the country and disseminates information on projects and programmes through media and relevant networks

- communicates nominations of entities to the fund
- implements the No-Objection Procedure

The NDA of the Government of Vanuatu is:

**Mr. Jesse Benjamin, Director General**  
**Ministry of Climate Change**  
**PMB 9054**  
**Port Vila, Vanuatu**



All functions supported by the Secretariat of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction. NDA nominations are supported by

Your first point of contact for all GCF issues is [nab@meteo.gov.vu](mailto:nab@meteo.gov.vu)



## 4 How does Vanuatu access funds?

Vanuatu stakeholders can currently access GCF funds through indirect channels, using multilateral or regional implementing entities called **Accredited Entities (AEs)**.

Each AE has different characteristics. They can be private or public, non-governmental, sub-national, national, regional or international, as long as they demonstrate adherence to the fiduciary standards and environment and social safeguard standards of the Fund.

Depending on their level of accreditation, AEs carry out a range of activities that may include the development of funding proposals and the management and monitoring of projects and programmes.

Eventually, Vanuatu stakeholders will be able access GCF funds through direct channels, using National Implementing Entities. An NIE is a locally-based entity nominated by an NDA and accredited by the GCF to directly manage projects supported by the Fund.

The Government of Vanuatu is now working towards NIE accreditation for both the

Ministry of Climate Change and the Ministry of Finance.

Currently there are 48 accredited entities to the GCF, although another 154 entities have applied for accreditation. Approximately 10 of these entities are operating in the Pacific. Vanuatu does not yet have a locally-based NIE entity.

For more information on which Accredited Entities are most relevant to Vanuatu, visit the NAB Portal [www.nab.vu](http://www.nab.vu). The following international/regional AEs are already working on GCF activities in the Pacific.

GIZ, ADB, WB UNDP, IFAD, FAO, UNEP, WMO, AFD, CI, WWF, SPREP, IUCN.

A list of all accredited entities can be found on the GCF website.



## 5 How do I develop a GCF Proposal?

Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction has a standard Vanuatu **GCF concept project proposal template** which it uses to assess and screen the concepts received by the NAB Secretariat and the NDA. You can email [nab@meteo.gov.vu](mailto:nab@meteo.gov.vu) to get a copy.

Your proposal must align with both GCF and national policy priorities; be based on substantial stakeholder consultation and seek to collaborate with other stakeholders, programs and projects. The NAB will consider project ideas which:

- Promise clear mitigation/adaptation impact in **GCF results area**
- Show **alignment with country strategies** (NSDP, CCDRR Policy, NDC, NAMA)
- Rank highly against **GCF investment criteria**
- Focus efforts on most promising, high impact, innovative and sustainable projects

Once **submitted to the NAB Secretariat**, the NAB will review your proposal.

After a concept is endorsed, you will be invited to prepare a **full GCF Proposal**. The GCF has official proposal templates which are available on their website.

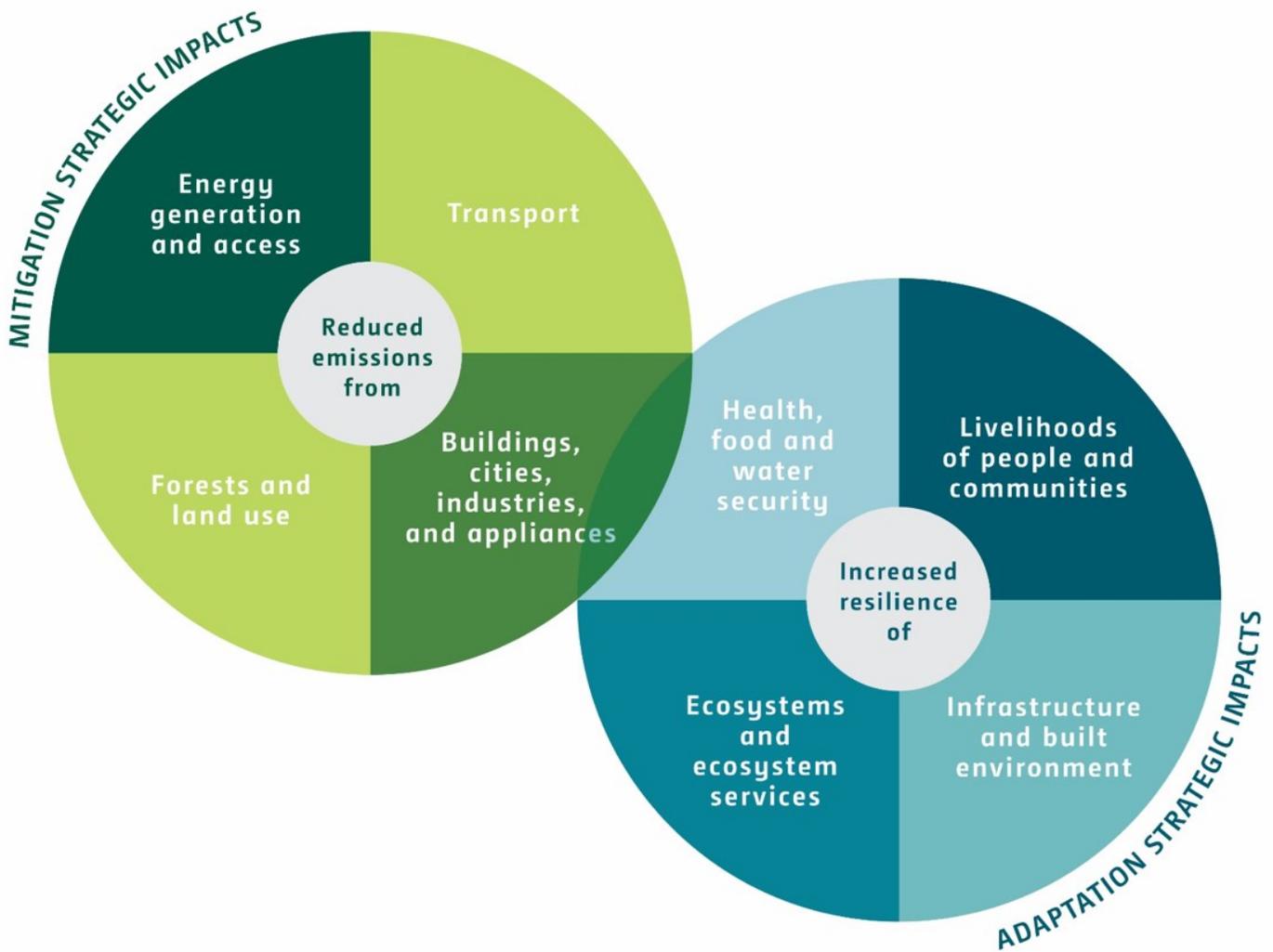
Note that successful proposal development is a lengthy process (up to 2 years in some cases) and will require a high level of technical capacity.

The final proposal must be accompanied with a **No Objection Letter (NOL)** from the NDA before it is seen by the GCF Board.

Proposals submitted by an intermediary or implementing entity should provide a full description of how country ownership is assured. All no-objection communications and final project proposals will be made public on the Fund's website as well as on the Vanuatu NAB portal.



## 8 Strategic Results Areas



All projects must align with one or more of the 8 GCF Strategic Results Areas . The green circle above generally corresponds to Mitigation-focused programs while the blue circle above generally corresponds to Adaptation-focused programs. It is possible for a single project to address multiple Strategic Results Areas and cover both Mitigation and Adaptation Impacts.

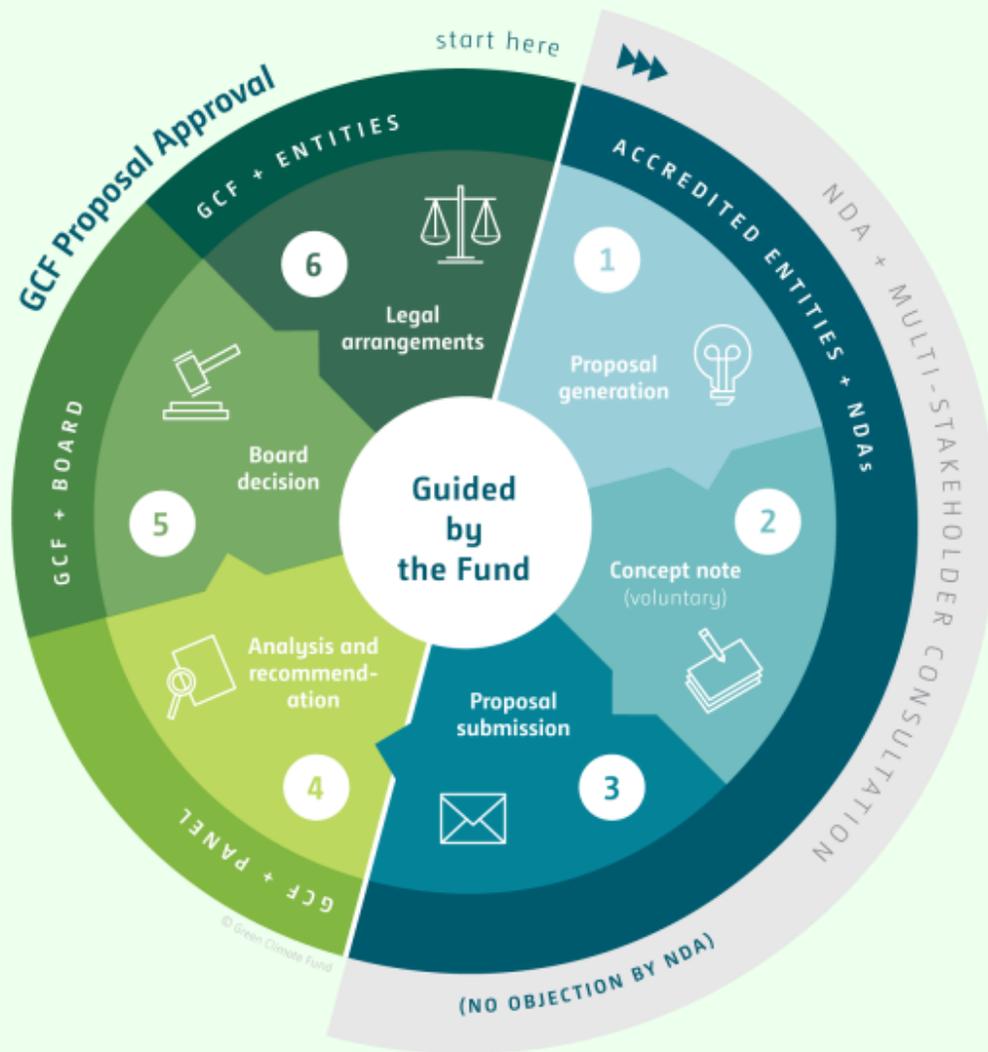


# GCF Investment Criteria



All projects approved by the Board must clearly demonstrate their alignment with the GCF Investment Criteria outlined above. The most important criteria is to demonstrate that the project has transformative impact potential for the intended beneficiaries. In Vanuatu, country ownership is a strong political priority and non-Government partners must be particularly sensitive to this criteria.





## 6 What is Vanuatu's GCF Investment Plan

Vanuatu commenced a GCF Readiness Program in January 2017 in partnership with GIZ to strengthening the NDA and developing a Country Program.

A Country Program is an investment and planning tool which identifies national investment priorities for Fund support.

The Government of Vanuatu is working closely with GIZ to develop a Vanuatu GCF Country Program which will outline a pipeline of high priority investment over the short to medium term (5-10 years).

If stakeholders are interested in engaging in GCF activities it is imperative that they liaise with the NDA and NAB Secretariat as soon as possible so their ideas can be included in pipeline development.

## 7 What is the size of grants available?

There is no maximum limit for GCF projects and programmes. These are approved on a scale of several million US dollars at a time ("micro" projects can be as big as US\$10 million, "small" up to US\$50 million). Project preparatory support can also be acquired if needed through requests to the NDA.

Some GCF-funded activities will support organizations that can issue smaller loans or grants. The GCF Board has also approved programmes that reach private sector enterprises, under the Private Sector Facility.



## 8 Who runs the GCF

### **UNFCCC**

The GCF is ultimately accountable to the 194 countries in the UNFCCC Conference of Parties. The parties to the UNFCCC can also provide “guidance” to the GCF once a year and follow up annually on how their recommendations have been implemented.

### **Board**

GCF decisions are taken by a 24-member Board composed of an equal number of members from developing and developed countries. The Board decides which activities the Fund will support, as well as accrediting the “entities” that will administer its projects and programmes. It also sets the Fund's rules and strategic direction, signs off on budget and staffing requirements. The Board usually meets three times per year.

### **Secretariat**

The GCF Secretariat is responsible for the Fund's day-to-day operations, with around 43 staff in the Fund's headquarters in South Korea. The Fund also employs hundreds of consultants and is supported in its work by a expert panels whose tasks include evaluating proposals for funding and accreditation. There are several GCF Secretariat staff that focus on Pacific Countries and are working with Vanuatu.

### **Trustee**

The World Bank serves as the interim trustee, meaning that it is tasked with administering any money held by the Fund.

### **Observers**

Two “active observers” from civil society and two from the private sector can make interventions and raise concerns at GCF Board meetings.



# 9 What is Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction?

Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) is the supreme policy making and advisory body for all disaster risk reduction and climate change programs, projects, initiatives and activities.

The NAB develops DRR and CC policies, guidelines and positions, Advises on international and regional DRR and CC obligations, Facilitates and endorses the development of new DRR & CC programs, projects, initiatives and activities, Acts as a focal point for information sharing and coordination on CC/DRR, as well as Guides and coordinates the development of national climate finance processes.

Co-Chaired by Vanuatu's NDA to the Green Climate Fund, Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change Mr. Jesse Benjamin, the NAB is the body that will scrutinize and approve all GCF proposals as well as manage the GCF pipeline. It is imperative that the NAB and NAB Secretariat is informed that a concept is being developed so that it can be adequately integrated into the country program.

Concepts that are prepared without the advance knowledge of the NAB Secretariat will not likely receive NDA approval. In order to ensure transparency, the NAB mechanisms are being strengthened to ensure that GCF processes are fully integrated.

Vanuatu's society, environment and economy are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks. The NAB seeks strong collaboration with our partners to plan and prepare for, and respond to, these challenges.



*REPUBLIC OF VANUATU*

**NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

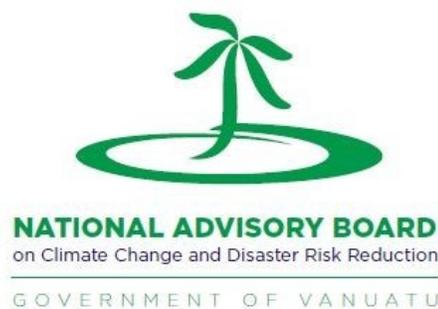
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NAB Info Booklet 2017*

