

Getting you there

GCF country programme development guide

Turning aspirations into actions – preparing country programme

1. A key step in turning a country's climate action aspirations into reality is identifying short-term and long-term projects/programmes and investment priorities—strategic initiatives that will help realize a paradigm shift in achieving low-emission and climate-resilient development. As part of establishing a Strategic Framework with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the National Designated Authority (NDA)/Focal Point (FP) may wish to initiate a country programme and request the Fund to support its development through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. While developing a country programme is not mandatory, a template has been created to support countries in preparing it. The annexed template can be adapted to reflect the country's national circumstances.
2. An overarching objective of having a country programme is fostering country ownership. To achieve this, country programmes should be driven by a robust and inclusive engagement process that brings together key stakeholders across all levels of government, local and community-based institutions, the private sector, and civil society to put forward clear and country-owned priorities that GCF can support. This also involves getting existing and prospective accredited entities to identify practical steps that will enable the implementation of these priorities, which, in turn, can be supported by the Fund. It will provide the accredited entities with clarity on the types of initiatives that country stakeholders seek their support in bringing to life. The programme will assist in realizing a paradigm shift in the countries' efforts to achieve low emission and climate resilient development.
3. The annexed template captures the key elements of a country programme, including country priorities, short- and long-term projects/programmes and an action plan. It also has a Readiness Self-Assessment tool that enables the country to evaluate its readiness level for engagement with GCF as well as its own performance against a set of defined outcomes.

II. Going into detail – the country programme template

4. The first section of the country programme template – Section A – seeks to provide a brief snapshot of the country's top-level climate change-related targets and the priorities based on the projects/programmes that will be submitted to GCF. This section should be informed by the country's previously-developed policy documents, such as various mitigation and adaptation strategies, NAMAs, NAPAs, NAPs and/or INDCs.
5. Section B "*Near-term programming*" identifies the projects/programmes or concept notes currently identified by the country, which the NDA/FP would wish to finance in the near future (e.g. within 12 months). It includes a brief description of the GCF result areas that the proposed projects/programmes would meet. Information on the investment criteria, financial/cost information and an action plan should also be identified.
6. Under Section C "*Long-term programming*", the NDA/FP, in partnership with the accredited entities active in their country, should present an initial list of investment concepts that can be brought forward to the GCF in the medium- and long-term, that is, within 12-36 months. The table allows for a brief description of the project, how it meets the GCF investment criteria and leads to key outcomes. Financial/cost information and the action plan should be included.
7. During this exercise, the NDA/FP and its stakeholders should consider the practical realities of turning the range of good ideas that may result from this process into action. Some guiding questions to think of at the start include "Are the proposed projects/ programmes the first of their kind in the country, or are they aimed at scaling up or replication? Who else has developed and financed similar projects and programmes?"

8. At the end of Section C – *Longer-term programming*, guiding questions are provided to assist the NDA/FP in deciding on the next steps and possible support returned to turn project ideas into GCF funding proposals. Suggested next steps/action plan helps the NDA/FP identify the concrete actions that will be necessary to realise the project programme priorities outlined in the Country programme. The Action plan identifies a number of issues that may be relevant for the NDA/FP to consider: 1) project/programme preparation support; 2) policy, regulatory and institutional capacity challenges; 3) accreditation of nominated entities; and 4) existing/future readiness needs.

III. Readiness Self-Assessment and Action Plan

9. To help the NDA/FP prepare a country programme and evaluate/monitor its readiness, a Self-Assessment tool has been developed to assess the preparation of the country to engage with the GCF and identify support needed. The Self-Assessment tool is built on the GCF Board decisions that present best practices in preparing a country programme and NDA/FP strengthening.

10. As part of the self-assessment, an action plan should be developed. The action plan should identify short- and long-term actions/next steps for the strengthening of the NDA and improving its level of readiness, as a higher level of milestones (0, 1 or 2) means a higher level of readiness. The activities and action plan can be tailored based on the milestones of each NDA/FP assessment and are identified by the NDA/FP themselves, thus ensuring country ownership.

ANNEX I: COUNTRY PROGRAMME TEMPLATE

Section A – Country priorities

This section presents a compilation of key economic, development, and climate change related policies and strategies including initiatives under the UNFCCC, such as submitted INDCs, mitigation and adaptation plans, NAMAs, NAPAs, NAPs, as a basis to identify country priorities.

Section B – Near-Term Programming

Please use the following table to present a short introduction of two main projects/programmes in your pipeline for GCF funding over the following 12 months.

	Project/Programme 1	Project/Programme 2
Title		
Accredited Entity		
Results Areas – Which of the following targeted results areas does the proposed project/programme address? <i>(click all that apply)</i>	<p>Reduced emissions from:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities, industries and appliances</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use</p> <p>Increased resilience of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems and ecosystem services</p>	<p>Reduced emissions from:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities, industries and appliances</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use</p> <p>Increased resilience of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems and ecosystem services</p>
Brief description of project/programme <i>(Please limit description to 50 words)</i>		
Investment criteria <i>Please provide a summary (max. 20 words) of the project/programme's alignment with the GCF investment criteria. Table 1, at the end of this template, provides a list of factors you may wish to consider for each investment criteria.</i>		
a. Climate impact potential		
b. Paradigm shift potential		
c. Sustainable development potential		
d. Needs of recipient		
e. Country ownership		
f. Efficiency and effectiveness		
Financing/Cost information <i>Please provide below the financing/cost estimations requested.</i>		
i. GCF financing		

ii. Co-financing or other (if any)		
Total project financing/cost		
Terms (grant, loan etc.)		
Action plan <i>Please provide 2-3 bullet points on the intended next steps for each project/programme.</i>		
Next steps		

Section C – Long-Term Programming

Please use this table to present a short introduction of the main longer-term (i.e. after 12 months but no longer than 36 months away) projects/programmes in your GCF funding pipeline.

	Project/Programme 1	Project/Programme 2	Project/Programme 3
Title			
Accredited Entity			
Results Areas – Please indicate the targeted results areas that the proposed project/programme address <i>(click all that apply)</i>	<u>Reduced emissions from:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation <input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities, industries and appliances <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use <u>Increased resilience of:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities <input type="checkbox"/> Health & well-being, & food and water security <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems and ecosystem services	<u>Reduced emissions from:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation <input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities, industries and appliances <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use <u>Increased resilience of:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities <input type="checkbox"/> Health & well-being, & food and water security <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems and ecosystem services	<u>Reduced emissions from:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation <input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities, industries and appliances <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use <u>Increased resilience of:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities <input type="checkbox"/> Health & well-being, & food and water security <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems and ecosystem services
Brief description of project/programme <i>(max. 50 words)</i>			
Investment criteria <i>(max. 20 words per field)</i>			
a. Climate impact potential			
b. Paradigm shift potential			
c. Sustainable development potential			
d. Needs of the recipient			
e. Country ownership			
f. Efficiency and effectiveness			
Financing/Cost information <i>Please provide below the financing/cost estimations requested.</i>			
i. GCF financing			
ii. Co-financing or other (if any)			

Total project financing/cost			
Terms (grant, loan etc.)			
Action plan <i>Please provide 2-3 bullet points on the intended next steps for each project/programme using the 4 possible areas</i>			
Project/Programme preparation support			
Policy and/or regulatory challenges and how those are going to be addressed			
Accreditation			
Readiness needs			

Guiding questions for Action plan Project/programme preparation support

- (i) Is further work or possible feasibility studies required for any of the investment concepts that have been developed, which may be executed in the medium (12 – 24 months) or long term (beyond 2 years)?
- (ii) What are the possible sources of support for such assessments? Would GCF readiness support help elaborate and further develop the project concept required – and against which timeline?

Policy, regulatory and institutional capacity challenges

- (iii) How will national financial circumstances affect the ability to realise the proposed initiatives?
- (iv) Are there policy, regulatory, institutional or governance changes required to realise any of the investment concepts that have been anticipated in the action plan? What are the key elements that will need to be addressed in this context?
- (v) What kinds of processes have already started, or might be set in place to realise these improvements? Who would be involved, e.g. parliament, relevant commissions, financial and infrastructure regulatory agencies, presidential sign off, etc.?
- (vi) Is there any particular technical assistance, policy dialogue support, or other form of support that might enable national stakeholders to take these processes forward? Could GCF support play a role in this context?

Accreditation

- (vii) Are there additional entities within the country or region that would need to be accredited with GCF to realise any of the anticipated investments?
- (viii) If so, who would lead the process within that institution and what is the timeline against which they might pursue accreditation?
- (ix) Will they need readiness support to meet the requirements of the Green Climate Fund?



Readiness needs

- (x) What are the identified gaps and additional readiness needs that have become apparent as a result of completing the country programme development guide?



ANNEX II: COUNTRY READINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

OUTCOMES ¹	MILESTONES	ACTION PLAN <i>(please list the activities planned to be undertaken to improve the score)</i>	
		SHORT TERM	LONG TERM
1. Country capacity strengthened	0-8		
<i>1.1 NDA/focal point lead effective coordination mechanism</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>1.2 No objection procedure established and implemented</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>1.3 Bilateral agreements between the country and the GCF executed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>1.4 Monitoring, oversight and streamlining of climate finance</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
2. Stakeholders engaged in consultative processes	0-8		
<i>2.1 Stakeholders engaged in consultative processes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>2.2 Country programmes developed and continuously updated</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>2.3 Stakeholder consultations conducted with equal representation of women</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>2.4 Annual participatory review of GCF portfolio in the country organized</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
3. Direct access realized	0-8		
<i>3.1 Candidate entities identified and nominated for accreditation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>3.2 Direct access entity accredited</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>3.3 Entity/ies annual/multi-annual work programme developed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>3.4 Funding proposals through enhanced direct access modality approved</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
4. Access to finance	0-8		

¹ Indicators based on decisions: B.08/10, annexes XII, XIII & XIV; B.08/11; B.11/10, annex I; B.12/20, annex I

<i>4.1 Structured dialogue between the NDA/Accredited entities and the Secretariat organized</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>4.2 Country programmes, concept notes developed that implement high-impact priorities identified in INDCs and other national strategies or plans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>4.3 Project/programme preparation support to develop funding proposals provided</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>4.4 Funding proposals that are aligned with country priorities approved</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
5. Private sector mobilization	0-8		
<i>5.1 Private sector engaged in country consultative processes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>5.2 Enabling environment for crowding-in private sector investments at national, regional and international levels exists</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>5.3 Funding proposals for private sector projects/programme approved</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
<i>5.4 Funding proposals under the Private Sector Facility programmes (small- and medium-sized enterprises and mobilizing funds at scale) submitted and approved</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2		
TOTAL	0-40		

ANNEX III: READINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

1.1	Effective coordination mechanism	
	NDA does not have an established coordination mechanism	0
	NDA is in the process of establishing a coordination mechanism, meetings are conducted, however not regularly	1
	NDA/focal point leads an effective coordination mechanism, allowing for an overview of all operational sectors and meets regularly	2
1.2	No objection procedure	
	No objection procedure is not established	0
	Some elements of the no objection procedure exist, however it has not been fully implemented (e.g. not translated/disseminated into local languages)	1
	No objection procedure established, disseminated in local languages and implemented	2
1.3	Bilateral agreements on privileges and immunities	
	Discussions on the bilateral agreements have not been advanced	0
	Discussion on the bilateral agreements have been advanced and the execution is envisaged	1
	Bilateral agreements between the country and the GCF signed and ratified	2
1.4	Monitoring, oversight and streamline of climate finance flows	
	Monitoring and oversight of climate finance flows is not established	0
	Some sources of internal and external climate finance is being monitored, however further oversight mechanism and streamlining of climate finance flows is required	1
	Monitoring, oversight systems for all sources of internal and external climate finance established, streamlined and operational	2
2.1	Stakeholder consultations	
	Stakeholders are not engaged in decision making processes	0
	Some stakeholders are being consulted on an ad-hoc basis, however a formal consultation process is not established	1
	Stakeholders engaged in consultative processes (governments, private sector, associations, civil society, academia and others)	2
2.2	Country programmes	
	No country programme developed	0
	Development of country programme has started, however consultation procedures not yet established	1
	Country programmes developed and continuously updated and progress assessed regularly in a consultative manner	2
2.3	Gender considerations	
	Gender considerations are not mainstreamed in stakeholder consultations processes	0
	Gender equality measures are considered in parts of stakeholder consultation processes	1
	Stakeholder consultations conducted with equal representation of women	2
2.4	Annual participatory review	
	No annual participatory review organized	0
	Processes for the annual participatory review are under development	1
	Annual participatory review of GCF portfolio in the country organized with local stakeholders, including project affected-people and communities, and women and civil society	2
3.1	Direct access entities' nomination	

	No direct access entities are nominated for accreditation	0
	Process for identifying the direct access entities started, however no entities have been nominated	1
	Candidate sub-national, national or regional entity/ies for accreditation identified and nominated for accreditation	2
3.2	Accreditation of direct access entities	
	Nominated direct access entity has not applied for accreditation	0
	Nominated direct access entity has submitted an application	1
	Nominated direct access entity's application for accreditation submitted to the GCF and approved	2
3.3	Direct access entity's annual work programme	
	No annual/multi-annual work programme developed by the accredited direct access entity	0
	Development of the annual/multi-annual work programme has been initiated, however not submitted to the GCF	1
	Entity/ies annual/multi-annual work programme developed describing projects, programmes and other activities, indicative costs, and fit for country and the GCF	2
3.4	Enhanced direct access (EDA)	
	No EDA funding proposals developed	0
	EDA funding proposals submitted	1
	EDA funding proposals approved	2
4.1	Structured dialogue	
	Consultations between the NDA/FP and the GCF Secretariat ongoing, however accredited entities operating in the country are not involved	0
	Separate ad-hoc dialogues existing between NDA/FP and some accredited entities	1
	Accredited entities operating in the country engaged in a structured dialogue with the NDA/FP and the GCF Secretariat along with other country stakeholders annually.	2
4.2	Country programme/Concept note development	
	No country programme/concept notes developed or submitted to the GCF	0
	Country programme developed and submitted	1
	Concept notes developed and submitted	2
4.3	Project preparation support	
	No project/programme preparation support is sought from the GCF	0
	Proposal for project preparation support, including project preparation facility, is submitted to GCF	1
	Project/programme preparation support to develop funding proposals approved	2
4.4	Funding proposal development	
	No funding proposals are being developed	0
	Funding proposals aligned with the country priorities submitted to the GCF Secretariat	1
	Funding proposals are aligned with country priorities and approved	2
5.1	Private sector engagement	
	No private sector engagement in the country	0
	Some private sector actors are engaged in consultative processes, however no structured dialogue established (e.g. some private sector events organized)	1
	Private sector engagement is systematically part of the country consultative processes and structured dialogues with the NDA/FP, accredited entities and the GCF Secretariat	2
5.2	Crowding-in private sector investments	

	No enabling environment exist for private sector investments	0
	Some private sector ' (e.g. only international) investments happening in the country, , however no local private sector entities involved in	1
	Enabling environment for crowding-in private sector finance at national, regional and international levels exists	2
5.3	Funding proposals developed by the private sector	
	No funding proposals developed by the private sector	0
	Funding proposals from the private sector submitted	1
	Funding proposals for private sector projects/programmes approved	2
5.4	Private sector engagement in the GCF Private Sector Facility (PSF) call for proposals	
	No private sector entities participating in the call for proposal by the PSF	0
	Some private sector entities are developing a funding proposals under the two PSF programmes	1
	Funding proposal under the PSF programmes is submitted and approved	2

ANNEX IV: GCF INVESTMENT CRITERIA

Table 1. GUIDANCE NOTES ABOUT GCF INVESTMENT CRITERIA

The following guidance is useful when evaluating the potential of the Project/Programme to achieve the Fund’s six investment criteria.

D.1. Climate impact potential	Refers to the climate mitigation and/or adaptation impact. You may provide specific values or your best estimate for indicators such as the total tones of CO ₂ eq to be avoided or reduced per annum, or the expected total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries and number of beneficiaries relative to total population.
D.2. Paradigm shift potential	Refers to the potential to catalyze impact beyond a one-off project or programme investment. This may refer to estimates and/or details about potential for scaling-up and replication (e.g. multiples of initial impact size), potential for knowledge and learning, contribution to the creation of an enabling environment, contribution to the regulatory framework and policies etc.
D.3. Sustainable development potential	Refers to the potential to provide wider development economic, social and environmental co-benefits. Examples include total number of jobs created, amount of government’s budget deficits reduced, improved access to education, improved regulation or cultural preservation, improved health and safety, improved air quality, improved soil quality, gender-sensitive development impact....
D.4. Needs of recipient	<p>Refers to the vulnerability to climate change and financing needs of the recipients. Examples of the issues include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of exposure to climate risks for beneficiary country and groups • Does the country have a fiscal or balance of payment gap that prevents from addressing the needs? • Needs for strengthening institutions and implementation capacity
D.5. Country ownership	Refers to your country’s ownership of the project/programme and capacity to implement the proposed activities. This may involve, for instance, coherence and alignment with the country’s national climate strategy and priorities in mitigation or adaptation (INDC, NAMA, NAP, NAPA, National Development Strategies...), a brief description of executing entities (e.g. local developers, partners and service providers) along with the roles they are expected to play etc.
D.6. Effectiveness and efficiency	Refers to the economic and financial soundness and effectiveness of the proposed activities. Estimates may be provided, where applicable, about the cost per t CO ₂ eq (total investment cost/expected lifetime emission reductions), co-financing ratio (total amount of the Fund’s investment as percentage of project), economic and financial rate of return...