



# NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY OPERATIONAL MANUAL FOR THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

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# 1. Introduction

## Purpose and Structure of the NDA Operational Manual

The purpose of this operational manual is to assist the Ministry of Environment (MoENV) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in performing its key functions as the country's National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). By providing guidance for each of the NDA's main areas of responsibility, this manual will enhance the operational efficiency of the NDA and improve its ability to coordinate its efforts with other national stakeholders and increase access to GCF resources for climate action in Jordan. It is important to note that the internal processes and regulations of both the GCF and the NDA are not necessarily fixed, meaning that this manual should be treated as a living resource that may be amended as the goals and obligations of Jordan's NDA change over time.

The NDA operational manual is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1 (Introduction)** provides an overview of the objectives and operations of the GCF and the impacts it strives to create through its funded projects/programs.
- **Chapter 2 (Roles and Responsibilities of the NDA)** introduces the primary functions and responsibilities of the NDA, with particular focus on increasing access to GCF resources among national organizations.
- **Chapter 3 (The GCF Accreditation Process)**: summarizes the role of the NDA in nominating national organizations for GCF accreditation, the various stages of the accreditation process, and the requirements for fast-track accreditation to the GCF.
- **Chapter 4 (NDA Responsibilities during Funding Proposal Development)** describes the responsibilities of the NDA at each stage of the GCF project/program activity cycle, including the operationalization of the no-objection process.
- **Chapter 5 (NDA Responsibilities during Project/Program Implementation, Monitoring, and Management)** summarizes the role that the NDA plays in supporting the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of GCF-financed activities following project/program approval.

## Overview of the Green Climate Fund

The GCF is a multilateral financing vehicle established in 2010 within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. As the world's largest multilateral climate fund, the GCF's mandate is to promote a paradigm shift towards low-carbon and climate resilient development and to help developing countries achieve and increase the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions through a four-part strategic approach:

1. **Transformational planning and programming:** promoting strategies, projects, and policymaking to maximize co-benefits of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development.
2. **Catalyzing climate innovation:** investing in new technologies, business models, and practices to provide proof of concept.
3. **De-risking investment to mobilize climate finance at scale:** using public resources to improve the risk profile of investments in low-carbon and climate resilient development and crowd in private capital.
4. **Mainstreaming climate risks and opportunities into financial decision-making:** promoting methodologies, standards, and practices that foster new norms and values to align the financial system with sustainable development.

The GCF is accountable to the United Nations and is guided by the UNFCCC principles and provisions. It is governed by a Board, composed equally of 12 developed and 12 developing countries. The Board makes decisions based on the consensus agreement of all Board members.

GCF provides funding for approved projects and programs through various financial instruments, including equity, debt, guarantees and grants. These can be combined into a variety of financing structures such as project-based special purpose vehicles, direct equity/debt funds, “fund-of-funds” structures, structured finance vehicles, on-lending, and blending of multiple financing mechanisms.

Figure 1: GCF Financial Instruments<sup>1</sup>



### GCF Action Areas and Portfolio Targets

The GCF invests across eight “action areas” comprising the Fund’s key climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives as outlined in Figure 2. Many funded activities are

<sup>1</sup> Source: Andreas Lunding, Senior Structured Finance Specialist Private Sector Facility, GCF (2020).

considered “cross-cutting” as they generate positive impacts across more than one action area.

Figure 2. Action Areas for GCF Investment



In 2020, the GCF board agreed to high-level portfolio targets to guide its investments during the 2020-2023 programming period, with the goal of maximizing the benefits of GCF funding for developing countries. These include:

- (i) Maintaining a 50:50 balance between funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- (ii) Maintaining a minimum allocation floor of 50% of adaptation funding for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (e.g., SIDS, LDCs, African States)
- (iii) Maintaining appropriate geographical balance of funding allocation
- (iv) Increasing the level of funding channeled through Direct Access Entities
- (v) Maximizing engagement with the private sector, including small- micro- and medium size enterprises, ensuring the allocation to the Private Sector Facility exceeds 20%; and
- (vi) Significantly increasing mobilized private finance at the portfolio level.

### The Role of Accredited Entities

The Fund strives to follow a country-driven approach, allowing the relevant authorities in countries that receive GCF financing to determine exactly how the Fund’s resources are used to promote NDC implementation. All GCF activities are aligned with the priorities of developing countries through their National Designated Authorities (NDAs) and national coordination mechanisms. The GCF has established a direct access modality so that national and sub-national organizations can receive funding directly, rather than through international intermediaries. Below is an overview of the key stakeholders with regards to GCF resource allocation:

- **Accredited Entities (AEs)** are organizations through which GCF resources are channeled. AEs can be international, regional, national, or sub-national. AEs can be public, private, or non-governmental institutions. There are two types of AEs: (i) Direct Access Entities (DAEs); and (ii) International Access Entities (IAEs). A full list of entities can be found on the GCF’s website.<sup>2</sup>
  - Direct Access Entities (DAEs) are sub-national, national or regional organizations nominated by the NDA(s).
  - International Access Entities (IAEs) include UN agencies, multilateral development banks, and public and private international or regional organizations.

The work and activities of these AEs are closely coordinated with the NDA for each country, which is responsible for nominating DAEs and endorsing funding proposals for submission to the GCF.

To date, the GCF has committed US\$ 11.4 billion in financing across a portfolio of over 200 projects, with approximately \$42.6 billion mobilized including co-financing. As of January 2023, GCF has approved a total of seven projects in Jordan, with approximately US\$ 99.3 million of GCF financing deployed at the national level.

### GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme

In addition to financial support for project implementation, the GCF also provides developing countries with technical assistance through its “Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme”, which aims to strengthen institutional capacities, governance, project planning and programming among public and private sector institutions working in support of national climate action. Readiness grants and technical assistance are provided to NDAs and/or focal points (FPs), and can also be deployed to strengthen the institutional capacities of DAEs to efficiently engage with GCF. Dedicated readiness funding may also assist countries in undertaking adaptation planning and developing strategic frameworks to build their programming with GCF. Specifically, the Readiness Programme provides funding to NDAs and DAEs which support:

- Capacity Building for Climate Finance Coordination
- Strategic Frameworks for Low-Emission Investment
- Strengthened Adaptation Planning
- Paradigm-Shifting Pipeline Development
- Knowledge Sharing and Learning

The GCF provides up to US\$ 1 million per country per year for readiness support, of which US\$ 300,000 may be used to establish or strengthen the capacities of the National Designated Authority (NDA). The Fund also provides up to US\$ 3 million per

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<sup>2</sup> For a full list of entities, please visit: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/partners/ae>

country to support the preparation of national, sub-national, and/or sectoral climate change adaptation plans.



## 2. Roles and Responsibilities of the NDA

### Jordan's National Designated Authority (NDA)



National Designated Authorities (NDAs) are government institutions that serve as the focal points for interaction between each country and the GCF. NDAs oversee the Fund's activities in the country and ensure that these align with national strategic priorities for low-carbon and climate resilient development.

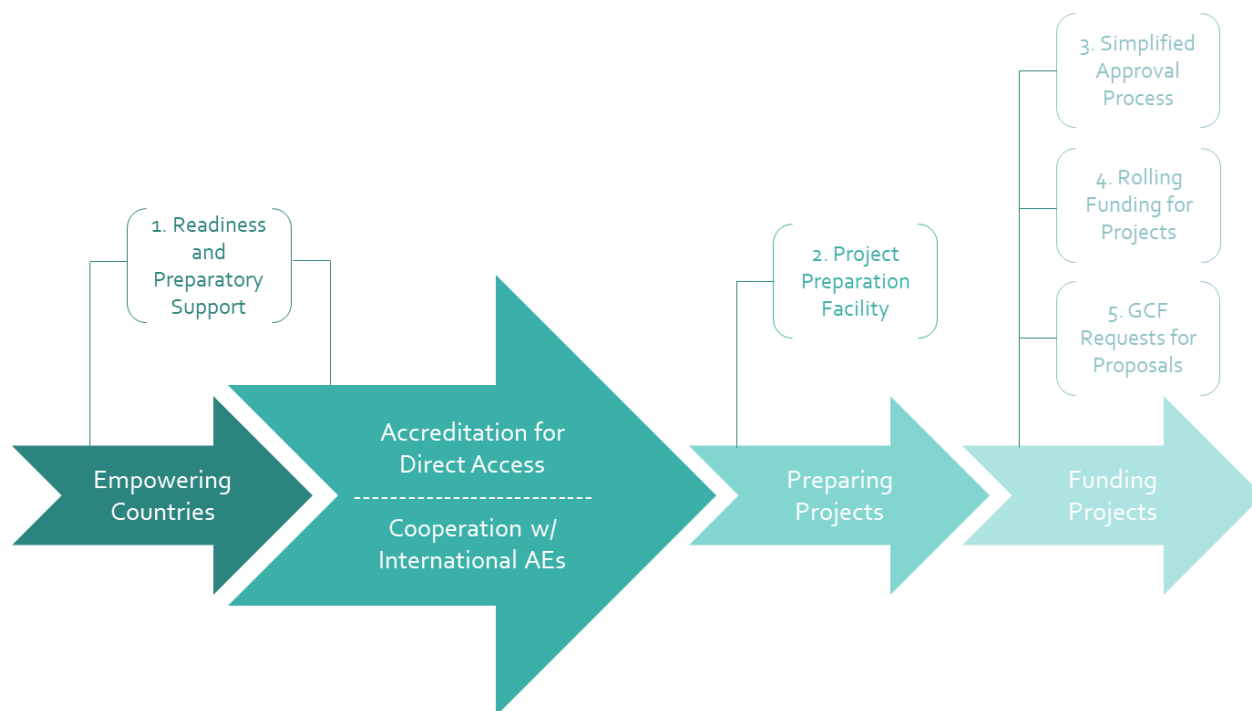
Jordan's NDA is the Ministry of Environment (MoENV), the primary government ministry responsible for climate change-related issues and regulations at the national level. The MoENV oversees the policies and legal frameworks that govern Jordan's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and facilitates the coordinated implementation of these policies between government bodies through its role as chair and secretariat of the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), whose members include the Secretaries General of other line ministries. The MoENV also plays an important role as a liaison for climate-related issues with the private sector.

It is important to note that the NDA does not typically serve a source of GCF financing, but rather as an intermediary and a focal point for coordination between national stakeholders and the GCF. While it is possible for the NDA to become an accredited entity and directly channel GCF funding to climate change related projects, this could result in challenges due to potential conflicts of interest. It is therefore important for the NDA to decide whether to pursue accreditation itself or to choose another governmental entity to serve as a national accredited entity, taking into considerations lessons learned and advice from the GCF Secretariat and other NDAs who are also accredited entities.

### Why is an NDA Necessary?

The GCF provides financing to address two primary concerns: the need to reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the need to help countries adapt to the effects of global climate change. To ensure that GCF funding aligns with these aims within the national priorities and goals of a country, the GCF requests that countries either nominate an individual as a Focal Point (FP) or establish an NDA to lead the coordination efforts between the country and the GCF. The FP/NDA is therefore the essential intermediary between the GCF and entities that intend to receive GCF financing for climate-related projects or programs.

As such, the core role of the NDA is to facilitate access to the GCF and its resources. There are five access windows to GCF resources, none of which can be accessed without either the participation or endorsement of the NDA. These windows vary depending on the needs of the country and its current stage in the country ownership process and project preparation.



The NDA’s participation in each of these windows can be summarized as five broad responsibilities:

- (i) Convene national climate action stakeholders
- (ii) Facilitate nomination of accredited entities
- (iii) Improve access to “Readiness Support” funding for Accredited Entities
- (iv) Ensure that GCF-approved funding aligns with strategic national priorities
- (v) Implement the No-Objection procedure for GCF funding proposals to secure GCF financing

For the NDA to successfully perform these functions, Jordan’s national climate change plans must be well defined and communicated. From the GCF’s perspective, national climate change plans form the basis of discussions between the GCF and national authorities because they outline the strategic goals that the government has set, the process by which the government aims to achieve these goals, and the areas (if any) where these goals diverge from the stated aims of the GCF itself.

## Roles and Responsibilities of the NDA

### Convene national climate action stakeholders

As the coordinating body between the GCF and organizations seeking financing for climate projects, the NDA plays a key role in convening national stakeholders. The NDA should have a clear understanding of the landscape of national stakeholders for GCF-funded activities and should demonstrate through inclusive and targeted consultations that it has engaged those stakeholders to gather their inputs, both during the development of the Country Work Program and subsequent project/program proposals.

It is particularly important for the NDA to account for the interests of vulnerable groups in the design and/or implementation of GCF activities, following the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, the GCF Gender Policy and Action Plan, and other relevant GCF procedures and policies. This is important to ensure that any activities that are approved for GCF financing do not immediately encounter local opposition.

## **Facilitate nomination of Accredited Entities**

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Organizations that wish to undergo the accreditation process to access GCF financing must obtain a nomination letter from the NDA to the GCF Secretariat. Therefore, NDAs play a key role in assessing and deciding which national organizations are best suited to serve as accredited entities on the national level, given the country's national climate action priorities. NDAs should properly vet aspiring AEs to ensure that they comply the GCF requirements for accreditation prior to formally approving their nomination and should be prepared to assist candidate AEs during the accreditation process.

## **Improve access to “Readiness Support” funding for Accredited Entities**

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Many institutions lack the necessary institutional procedures, capacities, and governance arrangements to meet GCF requirements to access GCF financing. To address these barriers, the GCF invites AEs to request for “Readiness Support” financing, which can be used to develop the institutional capacities required to meet GCF standards. NDAs can play an important role in helping local institutions identify readiness and preparatory support needs, develop and submit readiness proposals to the GCF, and assist with the implementation of readiness activities. By overseeing the provision of readiness support across multiple organizations at the country level, the NDA can help to ensure these resources are deployed in an efficient and coordinated manner to address barriers to access to GCF resources nationally.

## **Ensure that GCF-approved funding aligns with strategic national priorities**

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By providing strategic oversight of GCF projects/programs at the country level, NDAs aim to maintain alignment between GCF-funded activities and existing national climate change-related policies, plans, and sustainable development strategies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and others.

## **Implement the No-Objection procedure for GCF funding proposals**

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All funding proposals submitted by AEs for evaluation by the GCF must be accompanied by a no-objection letter from the NDA certifying that the proposed activities are consistent with national climate policies and objectives. Each NDA is responsible for developing its own nationally appropriate no-objection procedure for evaluating proposed projects/programs and issuing no-objection letters in accordance with the country's existing institutional capacities and processes.



### 3. The GCF Accreditation Process

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A key function of the NDA is to help organizations in Jordan access financing directly from the GCF. Organizations seeking GCF financing must submit a project funding proposal (along with a no-objection letter from the NDA) to the GCF through an accredited entity (AE).

The GCF allows all entities, including sub-national, national, or international organizations from the public and private sector, to become accredited through one of two modes of access:

#### 1. Direct Access Entities (DAEs):

DAEs are sub-national, national, or regional organizations that must be nominated for accreditation by NDAs or country focal points. Nominated organizations may also be eligible for GCF readiness support, which includes funding to help organizations in developing countries fulfill the GCF's requirements for accreditation.

- *Example: Cities and Villages Development Bank (nominated)*

#### 2. International Access Entities (IAEs):

IAEs can include international organizations, such as UN agencies, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, and regional institutions. These types of organizations generally have sufficient expertise in climate change and climate finance-related matters at the international level, and thus do not need to be nominated for accreditation by an NDA.

- *Examples: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)*

### Request for nomination from NDA

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For an organization to be nominated to seek GCF accreditation in Jordan, the NDA must establish whether the potential AE meets the basic requirements of the GCF accreditation process, and whether the aims of the organization are compatible with Jordan's national priorities, policies, and strategies for climate action. If these prerequisites are met, the NDA may prepare a formal nomination letter for the candidate entity (template available on GCF website<sup>3</sup>) and submit it to the GCF for consideration.

When requesting formal nomination for GCF accreditation, it is important that aspiring AEs coordinate closely with the NDA to ensure that both parties share a common understanding of how the applicant would contribute to the objectives of the GCF and the country's national climate action priorities. The nominating NDA may elaborate on

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<sup>3</sup> Nomination letter template for application for accreditation to GCF (2017).  
<https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/nomination-letter-template-application-accreditation-gcf>

this strategic alignment in the nomination letter to strengthen the aspiring AE's application.

### Current DAE Nomination Process

To date, Jordan has only nominated DAEs through a call for expressions of interest (EOI). However, Jordan has developed a draft approach for future selection processes based on a combination of the call for EOI integrated with additional steps to provide a process that more closely aligns with the GCF accreditation standards and includes additional criteria depending on a given organization's potential to become accredited.

The draft process envisions a two-tiered process, utilizing a qualitative approach to determine a short-list of candidates from an initial applicant pool. The short list will include 2-3 candidates and will include a more detailed gap analysis. The shortlist assessment will include a request for candidates to submit additional documentation and/or answer specific questions, and preferably an on-site visit, and a gap assessment outlining potential gaps against the GCF standards.<sup>4</sup>

The proposed process also recommends the inclusion of a technical working group (TWG) or committee comprised of key line ministries (Energy, Agriculture, Planning, etc.) as well as a representative each from the private sector and civil society to make recommendations to the NDA on initially the shortlist and then the selected candidate.<sup>5</sup> This will allow for a more transparent and open process, provide an opportunity for an intergovernmental interaction and prioritization of funding priorities, and bring competing views to the selection process. EOIs will be conducted as per Jordan's need for DAEs. Calls could be made once per year, several times per year, or once every few years.

Establishing specific procedures to regulate nomination and proposal screening standards is essential to systematize these functions. Based on the above, the steps for the proposed selection process are as follows:

- **Step 1: Call for Proposals** – Ministry of Environment (MoENV) distributes a call for proposals for organizations interested in seeking direct access accreditation to the GCF. The call should be widely disseminated and can also be distributed through the contacts and channels of the members of the technical committee. Depending on the country needs, the NDA can specify additional criteria or expertise the government is seeking for potential candidates. For example, if there is a project or program area that other DAEs or nominated DAEs are not able to manage, the NDA may seek national entities that can do so.
- **Step 2: Applications Submitted** – Interested candidates submit their application to the NDA.

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<sup>4</sup> Currently, it is anticipated that the gap analysis will either be done internally by the Ministry of Environment, or outsourced to an expert(s). It has not yet been confirmed.

<sup>5</sup> It would be helpful for members of the TWG to have some subject matter expertise particularly in the areas of finance, audit and project management. They should also have experience at a middle management level to understand management practices in the areas of planning and budgeting and HR

- **Step 3: Initial Screening** – the NDA conducts an initial screening, either internally or with external support of the applications, focusing on (i) candidates’ self-assessments against the GCF fiduciary standards, environmental and social safeguards, and gender policies, (ii) candidates’ track record of climate-related initiatives, and (iii) the scope of candidates’ overall portfolio against the scope of work undertaken by entities previously nominated for accreditation. The screening may also look at any additional criteria the NDA is seeking in a DAE (e.g., adaptation focus, forestry focus, disaster risk reduction, etc.)
- **Step 4: Short-Listing of Candidates** – findings from the initial screening are presented to the appropriate TWG. The TWG makes a recommendation for a shortlist.
- **Step 5: In-Depth Screening** – shortlisted candidates are visited to develop a more detailed analysis of each of the entities against the GCF standards. This can be done by internal personnel or with external support. Expertise of those undertaking the analysis should include finance, audit project management as well as environmental and social safeguard experience.
- **Step 6: Final Decision** – the results of the in-depth screening of the shortlisted candidates are presented to the TWG. In addition to technical aspects, the TWG may consider certain qualitative aspects of an organization that could make one organization more suitable as a DAE than another. A recommendation is made by the TWG on the nomination of a candidate or candidates for accreditation to the GCF. The NDA is responsible for completing the process by generating the nomination letter based on the recommendation of the TWG.

## **Basic Requirements for Accreditation**

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To be eligible for the accreditation process, prospective AEs must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Does the organization have “independent legal capacity” to undertake the intended activities it has applied for as a GCF Accredited Entity?**

*Independent legal capacity* implies that the organization can undertake contractual obligations as a recognized legal entity that is properly registered in a sovereign nation. This is essential to distinguish between groups of concerned individuals seeking resources for climate-related projects versus organizations with formal structures and legal rights and responsibilities.

- 2. Are the organization’s policies, procedures, and guidelines sufficiently robust to meet the GCF’s standards?**

Beyond the legal aspects of its institutional arrangements, the organization must demonstrate that its operational policies and procedures align with the GCF’s fiduciary standards, environmental and social risk management policy, gender policy, and other accreditation requirements as summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. GCF Accreditation Standards and Requirements

GCF Accreditation Standard / Requirement	Summary of Key Components
<p><b>Initial fiduciary principles and standards of the fund</b></p>	<p>Basic fiduciary criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Key administrative and financial capacities</u> (e.g., general management and administrative capacities; financial management and accounting; internal and external audit)</li> <li>• <u>Transparency and accountability</u> (e.g., code of ethics; capacity to prevent and deal with financial mismanagement)</li> </ul> <p>Specialized fiduciary criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Project management</u> (e.g., project preparation and appraisal processes; project oversight and control)</li> <li>• <u>Grant award and/or funding allocation mechanisms</u> (e.g., grant award procedures; transparent allocation of financial resources; public access to information on beneficiaries and results)</li> <li>• <u>On-lending and/or blending</u> (e.g., institutional track record, expertise, and governance arrangements for on-lending and blending with funding from other sources; portfolio and financial risk management)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy on the Protection of Whistleblowers and Witnesses</b></p>	<p>Policies for reporting and investigation of suspected wrongdoing and protection of the rights of individuals who report possible instances of wrongdoing.</p>
<p><b>Anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policy</b></p>	<p>Aims to prevent the abuse of GCF resources by ensuring that GCF counterparties have sufficient capacity and safeguards in place to mitigate the risk of financing illegal activities related to money laundering and/or terrorism, in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force in its “International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism &amp; Proliferation.”</p>



<b>Environmental and social policy</b>	<p>Outlines requirements that aspiring accredited entities maintain robust, transparent, and inclusive processes for managing risks and impacts associated with GCF-financed activities. Stipulates that environmental and social risk assessments at the project level must comply with GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards (see below).</p>
<b>GCF Interim Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)</b>	<p>The interim Environmental and Social Safeguards for GCF-financed activities are based on Performance Standards 1 – 8 of the International Finance Corporation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PS1. Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts</b> (e.g., identification and management of environmental/social risks and impacts, engagement with affected stakeholders)</li> <li>• <b>PS2. Labor and working conditions</b> (e.g., compliance with local labor regulations, promotion of worker health and safety, non-discrimination, avoidance of forced/child labor)</li> <li>• <b>PS3. Resource efficiency and pollution prevention</b> (e.g., sustainable use of resources, minimization of project-related greenhouse gas emissions)</li> <li>• <b>PS4. Community health, safety, and security</b> (mitigation of adverse impacts on health and property of affected communities)</li> <li>• <b>PS5. Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement</b> (avoid/minimize social and economic impacts of land acquisition and land use restrictions, restore livelihoods and standards of living for affected communities)</li> <li>• <b>PS6. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources</b> (protection and maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, promotion of sustainable management of living resources)</li> <li>• <b>PS7. Indigenous peoples</b> (avoid/minimize adverse impacts on indigenous peoples' livelihoods, creation of sustainable and culturally appropriate benefits and opportunities)</li> <li>• <b>PS8. Cultural heritage</b> (Protection and promotion of cultural heritage and equitable sharing of its benefits)</li> </ul>
<b>Information disclosure policy</b>	<p>Guidelines and processes for disclosure of information regarding institutional and project-level activities/results, environmental and social impact reporting, responses to requests for information, managerial decisions and official proceedings.</p>
<b>Gender policy</b>	<p>Policies for enhancing gender equality in governance structures and day-to-day operations, integrating gender equity and women's empowerment considerations in program design and</p>

	resource allocation, and reducing gender gap of climate-related social/economic/environmental vulnerabilities.
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### 3. Can the organization demonstrate a track record of implementing the policies, procedures, and standards that it has set for itself?

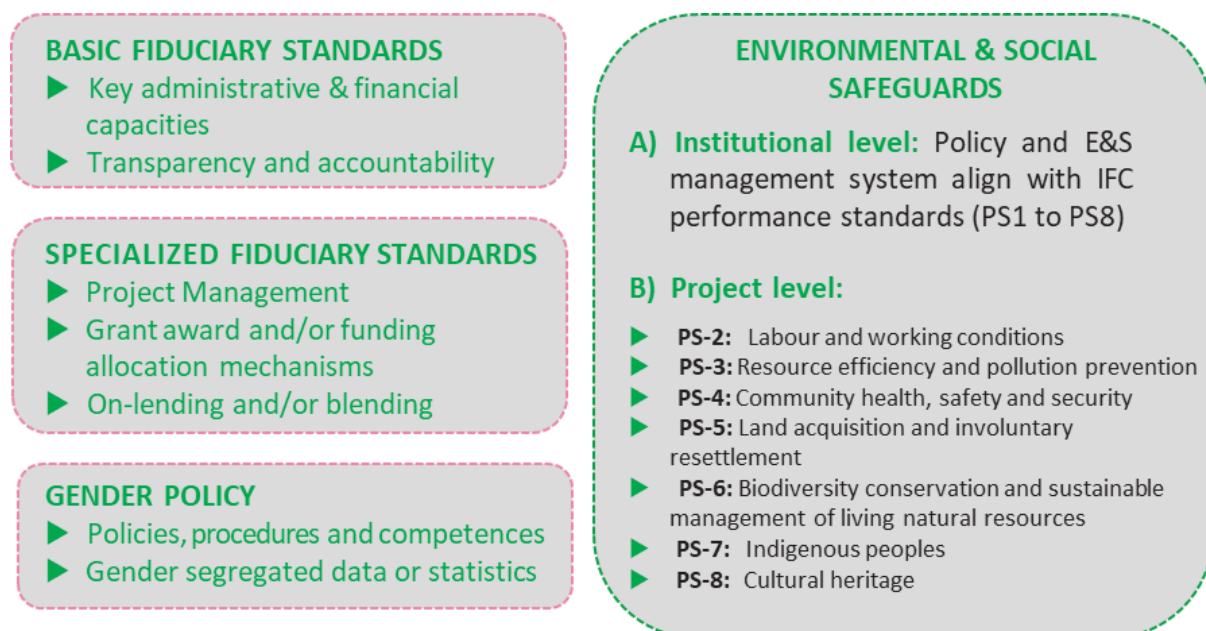
During the accreditation process, it is essential for the aspiring AE to demonstrate that it has embedded these policies and processes in its organizational structure in keeping with its own commitments and GCF standards.

## The GCF Accreditation Process

The accreditation process aims to determine whether an entity has fiduciary, E&S, and gender policies and procedures and that these have been implemented and embedded in the organization's operations. The application form for accreditation for the Green Climate Fund is composed of the following sections:

- I. Background and contact information of the applicant
- II. Information on how the institution and its intended activities will contribute to furthering GCF objectives
- III. Scope of intended projects/programs and estimated contribution requested
- IV. Basic fiduciary standards
- V. Applicable specialized fiduciary criteria
- VI. Environmental and social safeguards (ESS)
- VII. Gender

Figure 3: GCF Accreditation Requirements<sup>6</sup>



The accreditation process begins with the NDA nominating regional or national institutions to become accredited by the GCF. Nominated entities are vetted to

<sup>6</sup> Source: Adapted from the GCF's Updated Accreditation Framework (2021)

determine whether they are fit to perform the necessary functions of AEs. Once an organization has been accredited, it can begin developing work programs and funding proposals. Giving this power directly to national and regional entities helps ensure that GCF-funded projects and programs are implemented in a country-driven manner, and that these activities better align with national climate action priorities.

The accreditation process consists of three main stages:

### **Stage I: Institutional assessment and review of accreditation application documents**

### **Stage II: Board decision regarding the application**

### **Stage III: Finalization of legal agreements between AE and the GCF**

Much of the review of an entity's compliance with GCF standards is checklist based. Therefore, it is essential that the NDA work with candidate AEs to ensure all the required documentation is complete and that all basic criteria have been met. To support aspiring AEs to meet the GCFs requirements, the fund provides readiness support services and funding to assist with the following:

- Support AE's undergoing fast-track accreditation
- Awareness raising of the accreditation process & required standards
- Institutional gap analysis for aspiring AEs
- Developing tailored capacity building plans for aspiring AEs to address identified weaknesses in their institutional structures that reduce their chances of achieving GCF accreditation.

Once the necessary documentation has been received, the GCF Secretariat and the Accreditation Panel decide within six months whether to recommend an application to the GCF Board for final evaluation and approval. This process may take longer if the candidate also applies for readiness support.

For organizations meeting fast-track requirements – for example, those already accredited to the GEF, Adaptation Fund or other multilateral funds/organizations – a decision should be communicated within three months.

The three stages of the accreditation process are as follows:

### **STAGE I: Institutional assessment and review of accreditation application documents**

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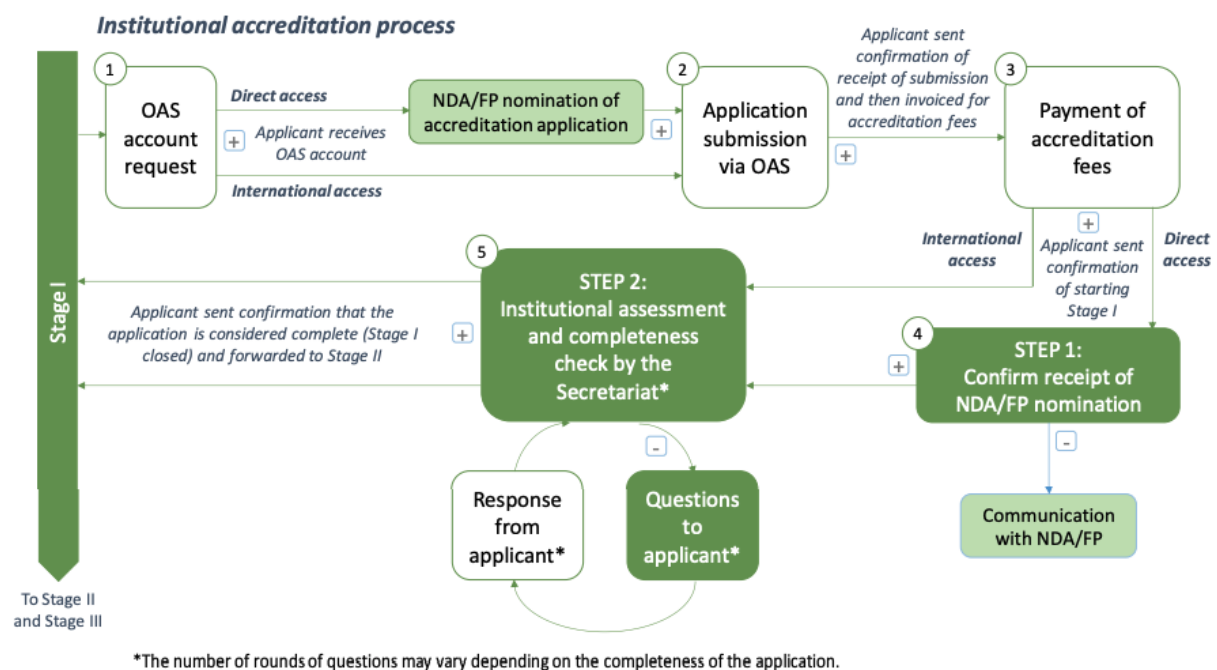
Stage I consists of the following processes:

- *Initial meetings between prospective AE and NDA:* prospective AE meets with the NDA to communicate interest in becoming accredited.

- *Digital Accreditation Platform account*: if the NDA agrees to support this process, the NDA requests an account on the Digital Accreditation Platform (DAP).<sup>7</sup>
- *Nomination Letter - issued by NDA and submitted through the DAP*: With the DAP account created, the NDA provides the aspiring AE with a Nomination Letter, which is then submitted through the DAP alongside the other required documents.
- *Confirmation and invoice by GCF*: Once the GCF receive these forms via DAP, they will confirm receipt of the application and will *invoice* the aspiring AE for the accreditation fees (if applicable). Once the invoice is paid, the GCF will confirm to the aspiring AE that they have started Stage I. The GCF will then reach out to the NDA/FP to confirm that they have received the candidate’s nomination letter.
- *Institutional assessment using “fit-for-purpose” framework*: Lastly, the GCF secretariat will conduct an institutional assessment of the aspiring AE, using the fit-for-purpose framework, whilst also assessing that all the submitted documents have been correctly completed. During this time, the GCF Secretariat may liaise with the aspiring AE to confirm certain details. If everything is satisfactory, the GCF will progress the aspiring AE to Stage II.

Figure 4 summarizes the steps within Stage I.

Figure 4: Flow chart of Stage I of the accreditation process



<sup>7</sup> Note: The Digital Accreditation Platform was launched in 2022 to replace the Online Accreditation System (OAS), which has since been phased out. References to the OAS in Figure 4 should instead be interpreted as references to the Digital Accreditation Platform.

Source: Accreditation Framework of the GCF (2021).

### Fit-for-Purpose Accreditation Approach

The initial guiding framework for the GCF accreditation process involves a “fit-for-purpose” assessment of the aspiring AE in accordance with the requirements of the GCF. This assessment focuses on examining the capacity, track record and institutional structures of the aspiring AE and determining whether they meet the GCF’s standards across four thematic areas:

- (i) Mandate and Track Record
- (ii) Project Size experience
- (iii) Fiduciary Functions
- (iv) Environmental & Social risk category for proposed projects

While the fit-for-purpose assessments are also conducted by the GCF, the NDA plays a role by helping the GCF Secretariat to ensure that aspiring AEs are suitably prepared and meet the necessary requirements. It is important to remember that the fit-for-purpose tests are not exclusively designed to assess the candidate entity *per se*; rather, fit-for-purpose assessments aim to assess the capacity of the aspiring AE to successfully manage projects and funds. Depending on the scale of funding and projects/programs that the aspiring DAE is seeking to access from the GCF, the assessment framework adjusts accordingly.

#### (i) Mandate and Track Record

Under the Fit-for-Purpose framework, the GCF expects to see that the aspiring DAE has been operational for at least three years and that its previous activities and current structure align with the objectives of the GCF.

#### (ii) Size of Past Projects

The GCF then assesses the likely size of projects/programs that the aspiring DAE would seek financing for to determine whether the organization has sufficient experience and the institutional capacity to manage and implement future projects effectively.

Table 2 summarizes the GCF’s project size classification system based on funding required.

Table 2. GCF project size classifications

GCF Project Size Classification	Project Funding Required
Micro	US\$ 0 – 10 million
Small	US\$ 10 – 50 million
Medium	US\$ 50 – 250 million
Large	Greater than US\$ 250 million

### **(iii) Fiduciary Functions**

The track record and competencies of the prospective AE in terms of management of financial accounts, risks, and responsibilities is very important to the GCF. To ensure responsible allocation of donor funding and mitigate financial risks, the GCF sets strict standards for the organizational capacities an AE must have before it can receive GCF funding for certain fiduciary functions. For example, if an AE wishes to lend money as part of a GCF project funding proposal, it will be required to demonstrate a greater level of institutional expertise in fiduciary matters than if the grant was for provision of advisory services.

The GCF uses four categories of fiduciary criteria to assess the capacities of prospective AEs. When an accredited entity seeks funding for a specific project or proposal, the GCF will determine the fiduciary category that funding will require and assess whether the AE meets those requirements. For example, the GCF requires AEs to be able to perform an extensive array of fiduciary functions before they can lend GCF funds to other identities or blend GCF funds with the entity's own funds. Broadly speaking, the larger the sum of funds requested and the more complex the project/program is for utilizing those funds, the greater the level of fiduciary requirements (See Table 3).

Table 3: Fiduciary criteria required for AEs to perform certain functions

Examples of Fiduciary functions	Basic Fiduciary criteria	Specialized fiduciary criteria for managing projects	Specialized fiduciary criteria for on-lending and/or blending	Specialized fiduciary criteria for grant award and/or funding allocation mechanism
Strengthening institutional and regulatory systems	✓			
Implementing projects using GCF's resources, where the entity itself executes the project	✓	✓		
Implementing projects using GCF's resources, where the project is executed by another entity	✓	✓		
Awarding grants	✓	✓	✓	
Managing lines of credit using the GCF's resources	✓			✓
On-lending	✓	✓		✓
Blending GCF's resources with other sources of funding	✓	✓		✓
Using GCF's resources for guarantees	✓			✓
Using GCF's resources for equity investments	✓			✓

Source: GCF Power Point Presentation February 2017



(iv) **Environmental and Social Risk categories**

Like the fit-for-purpose approach adopted for fiduciary functions, the GCF works to ensure that AEs aiming to implement projects with high levels of E&S risk have sufficient institutional knowledge, track records and capacities to do so. Table 4 provides a broad overview of how the GCF classifies E&S risks and how this informs the requirements that the GCF has for AE funding proposals.

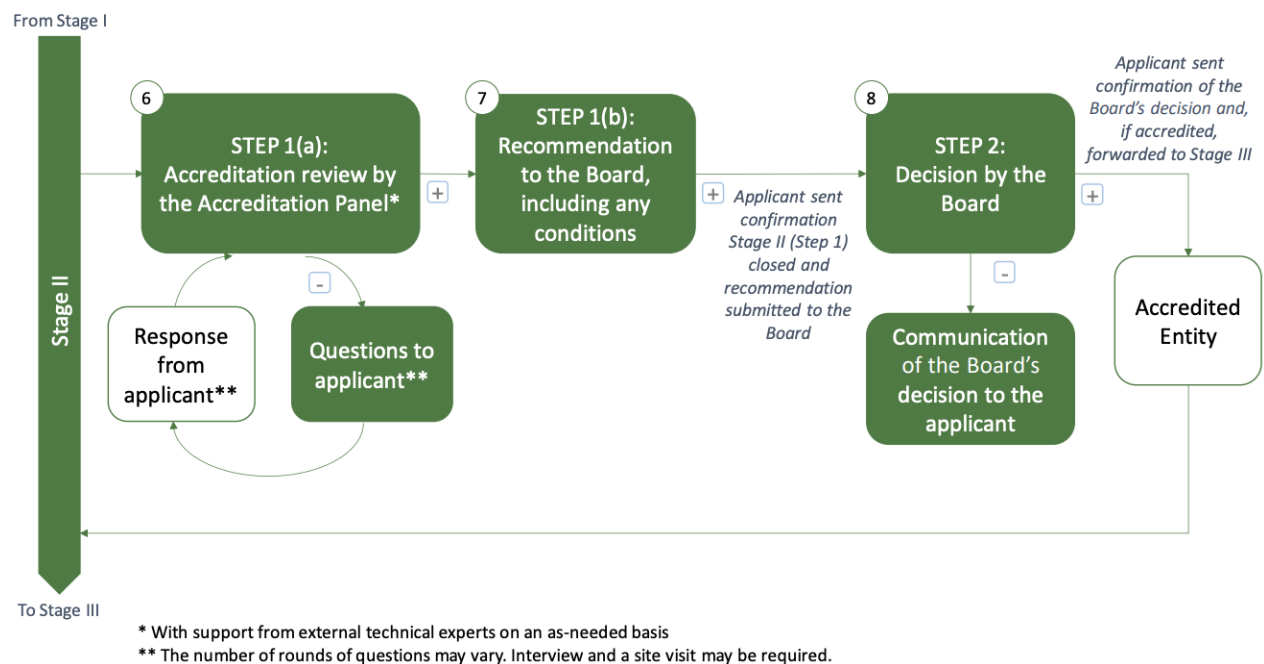
Table 4: Overview of GCF Financial Intermediation Levels and E&S Risk Categories

Risk Level	Intermediation Level	Activity Category
High	<p><b>High Level of Intermediation 1 (I-1)</b>                      When an intermediary's existing or proposed portfolio includes or is expected to include substantial financial exposure to activities with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented.</p>	<p><b>Category A</b>                      Activities with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented.</p>
Medium	<p><b>Medium Level of Intermediation (I-2)</b>                      When an intermediary's existing or proposed portfolio includes, or is expected to include, substantial financial exposure to activities with potential limited adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts that are few in number, generally-site specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures; or includes a very limited number of activities with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented.</p>	<p><b>Category B</b>                      Activities with potential mild adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are few, generally site-specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures.</p>
Low- to non-existent	<p><b>Low Level of Intermediation 3 (I-3)</b>                      When an intermediary's existing or proposed portfolio includes financial exposure to activities that predominantly have minimal or negligible adverse environmental and/or social impacts.</p>	<p><b>Category C</b>                      Activities with minimal or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts</p>

## STAGE II: Board decision regarding the application

During Stage II, the Accreditation Panel will review the prospective AE’s application and ask for additional information and clarification as needed. The Panel will then make a recommendation to the Board and confirm this progression to the aspiring AE. The Board will then make a final decision regarding whether to approve the application. If it is approved, the aspiring AE will be notified that their application has proceeded to Stage III.

Figure 5: Flow chart of Stage II of the accreditation process



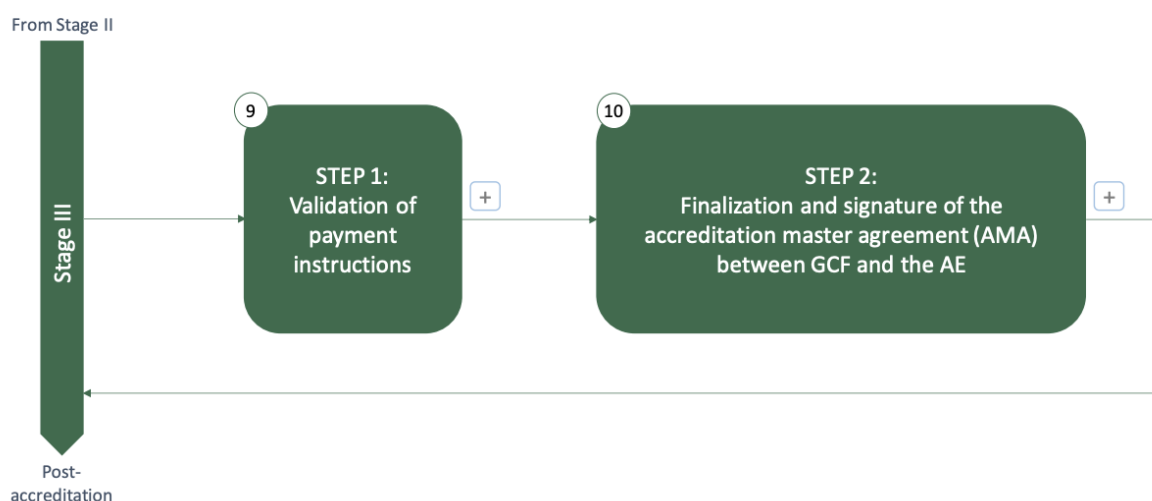
Source: Accreditation Framework of the GCF (2021).

## STAGE III: Finalization of legal agreements between AE and GCF

In stage three, the aspiring AE will validate the payment instructions for receipt of GCF funds and will negotiate and sign an Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) with the GCF, to become an accredited entity. An AMA template is available on the GCF website.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Accreditation Master Agreement template: [https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/accreditation-master-agreement-template\\_3.pdf](https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/accreditation-master-agreement-template_3.pdf)

Figure 6. Flow chart of Stage III of the accreditation process



Source: Accreditation Framework of the GCF (2021).

## Fast-Track Accreditation Process

Certain entities may be eligible to apply under the fast-track accreditation process, as approved by the GCF Board. These include entities that are already accredited by one of the following financing sources:

- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Adaptation Fund (AF)
- Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation –EuropeAid of the European Commission (DG DEVCO)

Given that the accreditation processes of the above institutions employ fiduciary and E&S standards comparable to those of the GCF, the fast-track accreditation process allows candidate entities that have been accredited by these organizations to focus their application on those aspects of the GCF's evaluation that are unique to the GCF accreditation process. This fast-track process streamlines the review of accreditation materials by focusing on how the entity addresses these gaps.

Table 5 outlines the terms and additional requirements for these three institutions under which a fast-track accreditation process could be applicable:

Table 5: Summary of standards and eligibility requirements for fast track GCF accreditation

	DG DEVCO entities		Adaptation Fund (AF)	Global Environment Fund (GEF)
Eligibility	1.Accredited before	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
	2.Compliance standards needed	All EU DEVCO fiduciary standards under the six-pillar assessment	AFs fiduciary standards	GEFs minimum fiduciary standards and minimum standards on ESS
Gaps to address	Fiduciary gaps	Anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing (basic fiduciary criteria for the purpose of the transparency and accountability)	<p>Ensure functional independence by creating an officer with reporting lines to a sufficiently senior level to allow the investigation function of the GCF to be fulfilled objectively.</p> <p>Publish guidelines for processing cases, including standardised procedures for handling complaints received and managing cases through the whole investigative process.</p> <p>Have publicly available TORs that outline the purpose, authority and accountability for the investigation function of the GCF basic criteria.</p> <p>Anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing.</p>	Anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing.
	ESS gaps	Must demonstrate capacity to assess and manage relevant performance standards one through to eight for the GCFs identified ESS risks and impacts.	Must demonstrate capacity to assess and manage relevant performance standards one through to eight for the GCFs identified ESS risks and impacts.	Must demonstrate capacity to assess and manage relevant performance standards one through to eight for the GCFs identified ESS risks and impacts.
Fast track approved for:	Basic Fiduciary criteria and ESS standards	Yes (except for the gaps above)	Yes (except for the gaps above)	Yes (except for the gaps above)
	Specialised fiduciary criteria for project management	No	Yes	Yes
	Specialised fiduciary criteria for grant award and/or funding allocation mechanisms	Yes	No	No
	Specialized fiduciary criteria for on-lending and/or blending	No	No	No

## 4. NDA Responsibilities during Funding Proposal Development

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As the core coordination body between the GCF and national AEs, the NDA plays a key role in supporting access to funds. The GCF architecture is designed such that funding is channeled from the GCF via AEs into approved projects and programs, which can then distribute loans, grants, equity investments, and guarantees. However, the NDA is expected to play an oversight and coordination role in each step of this process.

Key responsibilities of the NDA during the development of funding proposals include:

- (i) Ensuring that all project/program proposals are in line with Jordan’s climate action plans, and that they align with the requirements of the GCF.
- (ii) Advising AEs regarding which funding stream is most suitable for the proposal given the level of funding required, expected project outcomes, and the level of risk associated with the project.
- (iii) Facilitating a transparent stakeholder engagement process with the relevant AE before providing a “no-objection” letter for project/program funding proposal.

Once an organization has achieved accreditation, it must coordinate with the NDA to access financing for specific projects and programs and ensure that its project/program concept notes and funding proposals meet GCF requirements. Once a concept note has been submitted to the GCF and the GCF Secretariat has provided feedback, the AE drafts a funding proposal, and the NDA provides the AE with a “no-objection” letter to accompany the completed submission to the GCF.

Recognizing that many international climate development finance sources are currently active in Jordan, the NDA must also ensure that the GCF is the most suitable provider of financing for a given project. Specifically, the NDA plays an important role in assessing whether any national needs identified during previous climate projects could be addressed through existing funding sources.

Table 6 provides a high-level summary of the primary responsibilities of the NDA during the GCF project/program activity cycle, ranging from the development of country work programs, to funding proposal development and submission, and project evaluation and closure.

Table 6. NDA responsibilities during GCF project/program cycle

No.	Stage	Description	NDA Roles and Responsibilities
1	<b>Development of Country / Entity Work Programs</b>	Stage 1 involves the development of country programs and entity work programs in accordance with the GCF Strategic Plan, investment criteria, and its mitigation and adaptation result areas. Funding proposals developed during subsequent stages of the cycle are expected to align with and contribute to these national programs and priorities.	The NDA is responsible for setting national climate action priorities and developing the GCF country work program, analyzing financing needs relative to these goals, and identifying appropriate accredited entities and project/program ideas for proposal development and submission to the GCF (under Stage 4). NDAs should help facilitate and coordinate the efforts of AE(s) to engage relevant stakeholders during the development of the country program to minimize potential environmental and social risks. <sup>9</sup>
2	<b>Targeted Project Generation</b>	Stage 2 aims to foster complementary origination channels for projects through: (i) issuance of targeted requests for proposals; and (ii) generation of bankable project ideas through platforms and partnerships between GCF and non-accredited organizations.	As new project ideas arise, NDAs may choose to incorporate them into their country programs in preparation for the development of funding proposals during Stage 4.
3	<b>Concept Note Development</b>	Involves the development of concept notes, which consist of summaries of a proposed project or program that AEs/NDAs submit to the GCF secretariat for preliminary evaluation. This can help reduce review time for funding proposals and lower transaction costs for all stakeholders.	<p>AEs are encouraged to develop concept notes in close coordination with the relevant NDA to ensure that the proposed activities align with existing country programs and priorities prior to submission.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a concept note from an AE, the GCF Secretariat seeks confirmation from the NDA that the concept note fits within</p>

<sup>9</sup> It should be noted that the NDA is not responsible for leading stakeholder engagement during the development of funding proposals – those efforts should be led by the AE/EE, but facilitated (where necessary) by the NDA.

		While submission of concept notes is voluntary for standard funding proposals, this step is <u>mandatory</u> for requests for funding through the Project Preparation Facility and the Simplified Approval Process.	national priorities and country ownership.  For concept notes for requests for funding from the Project Preparation Facility, the NDA must also provide no-objection letters to be submitted through the AE.
4	<b>Funding Proposal Development</b>	Includes the development of formal funding proposals by AEs and the submission of all required documentation to the GCF, depending on the amount and type of funding requested.  Funding proposals should demonstrate alignment of the proposed activities with the GCF's key result areas and investment criteria.	NDAs are responsible for assessing funding proposals and, if they meet both the NDA's and the GCF's investment criteria, providing no-objection letters to AEs to certify that the proposed project or program aligns with national climate action priorities. All funding proposals must secure a non-objection letter prior to submission to the GCF for evaluation.
5	<b>Funding Proposal Review</b>	The GCF Secretariat and Technical Advisory Panel evaluate the quality of funding proposals and assess compliance with GCF investment policies and safeguards. Proposals of sufficient quality are submitted to the GCF Board for final approval.	No major NDA responsibilities during this stage.
6	<b>Board Decision</b>	The GCF Board reviews the funding proposals received and determines whether to approve or reject them.	If a funding proposal is rejected, the NDA may request reconsideration through the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM).
7	<b>Legal Arrangements</b>	For approved funding proposals, the GCF Secretariat and AEs negotiate a Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) tailored to the types of financing instruments used.	No major NDA responsibilities during this stage.
8	<b>Monitoring for Performance</b>	The GCF Secretariat monitors AEs for compliance with GCF accreditation standards (e.g.,	No major NDA responsibilities during this stage.

	<b>and Compliance</b>	fiduciary standards, environmental and social safeguards, gender policy), and tracks the implementation of funded activities in accordance with FAA conditions and regular performance reports. Risks or project disruptions identified during this stage may trigger adaptive management procedures during Stage 9.	
9	<b>Adaptive Management</b>	Identification of risks to project implementation and/or AE compliance with GCF standards triggers a “curing period” to resolve issues and prevent recurrence. Failure to resolve these issues may result in cancelation of AE accreditation and/or revocation of proposal approval.	Should major changes to the project FAA or AE operations be required, the GCF Secretariat will request a restructuring paper containing written evidence of the AE’s consultation with the relevant NDA.
10	<b>Evaluation, Learning, and Project Closure</b>	At the conclusion of project/program activities, accredited entities are expected submit project completion and audit reports in accordance with the FAA.  In partnership with AEs, NDAs, peer climate funds, and relevant stakeholders, the GCF Secretariat synthesizes lessons learned upon project/program closure to promote knowledge sharing and replication of best practices for climate-related investments.	No major NDA responsibilities at this stage.

The GCF provides readiness and preparatory support to NDAs and AEs to improve the quality of project ideas, concept notes, and proposals in the pipeline, and to develop NDA and AE capacities for adaptive management, engagement with the GCF, country program development, and adaptation planning, among other things. Of the phases in Table 6, Readiness funding can be allocated toward activities falling under phases 1, 2, 3, and 4.



## GCF Investment Criteria

The GCF offers several different funding mechanisms depending on the type of project/program and level of funding required. Projects/programs approved for GCF financing must meet six high level investment criteria described in Table 7 below. These six criteria should be applied to investments across the eight GCF result areas (see Figure 2 above).

Table 7. GCF Investment Criteria

Investment Criteria	Description	Indicators
<b>Impact Potential</b>	Potential of the project or program to contribute to GCF objectives and results areas.	<p>(i) <b>Mitigation Impact:</b> proposals should describe the expected reductions in emissions resulting from the GCF intervention.</p> <p>(ii) <b>Adaptation Impact:</b> proposals should describe expected change in loss of lives, value of assets, livelihoods, environmental/social losses due to climate impacts in the area of GCF intervention.</p>
<b>Paradigm Shift Potential</b>	Potential of project or program to contribute to sustainable development impact beyond one-off investment through replicability / scalability.	(i) <b>Necessary Conditions:</b> proposals should identify a vision for paradigm shift as it relates to the subject of the project (e.g., theory of change for replication and/or scaling up of the project results; description of constraint(s) to change and how they will be addressed through the project)
<b>Sustainable Development Potential</b>	Potential of project to deliver economic, social, and environmental co-benefits in addition to primary objectives / outcomes.	<p>(i) <b>Co-benefits:</b> proposals must identify at least one positive co-benefit in at least two of four areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Economic</u> (e.g., job creation, enhancement of income)</li> <li><u>Social</u> (e.g., improvements in health, access to education, cultural preservation)</li> <li><u>Environmental</u> (e.g., improved air/soil/water quality, conservation of biodiversity)</li> <li><u>Gender</u> (e.g., reduction of gender inequalities)</li> </ol>
<b>Needs of the Recipient</b>	Potential of project to address vulnerabilities and financing needs of beneficiary country / population.	(i) <b>Mitigation and adaptation indicator – barriers to climate finance:</b> proposals should describe country's institutional, economic, and social barriers to access to climate finance and how these will be addressed through the proposed project or program.
<b>Country Ownership</b>	Ability of beneficiary country to implement and maintain ownership of project in context of existing climate strategies, policies, and institutions.	(i) <b>Alignment with NDCs, relevant national plans, enabling policies, and institutional frameworks:</b> proposals should describe how the project will support achievement of existing climate strategies / objectives, and the extent to which the project is supported by enabling policies / institutional framework.

		(ii) <b>Engagement with stakeholders and NDA:</b> proposal should describe consultations with relevant stakeholders and NDA during development.
<b>Efficiency and Effectiveness</b>	Cost-effectiveness and ability of project to mobilize private sector financing for climate action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <b>Mitigation efficiency and effectiveness:</b> proposals should include estimated cost per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent reduced through project</li> <li>(ii) <b>Ratio of co-financing:</b> proposals should indicate ratio of co-financing mobilized relative to GCF contribution</li> <li>(iii) <b>Expected rate of return:</b> proposals should include estimated economic/financial internal rate of return for proposed activities</li> <li>(iv) <b>Application of best practices:</b> proposals should describe how project applies and builds upon sectoral best practices</li> </ul>

## Concept Notes

Concept notes provide basic information about a project or program that an AE is submitting to the GCF for funding approval. Concept notes provide a chance for AEs to share funding ideas and seek initial feedback from the GCF Secretariat on whether their proposal matches with the Fund’s objectives and mandate. While submission of a concept note is voluntary for standard funding proposals, this step is mandatory for requests for funding through the Project Preparation Facility and the Simplified Approval Process. Overall, AEs are encouraged to complete this step, as it provides an opportunity for the AE to receive guidance from the GCF Secretariat and Independent Technical Advisory Panel before the full project proposal is submitted for Board approval.

Concept notes summarize the baseline context for the project/program that the AE is proposing. The concept note should then summarize the proposed components, activities, and outputs, while explaining how these will support the climate change mitigation/adaptation objectives for which funding is being sought. Lastly, concept notes should include the cost components of the project/program and demonstrate that the entity requesting funding has discussed the proposal with the NDA and other stakeholders. The concept note is also an opportunity for the AE to detail aspects related gender, environmental and social safeguards, and reporting mechanisms that the AE intends to incorporate in the project/program.

Prior to submitting a concept note, the AE must undertake the following actions:

1. Inform the NDA about the proposed activity to be implemented in their country and hold consultations to confirm it is in accordance with the country's strategic framework and priorities; and
2. Inform the GCF Secretariat that the AE has commenced consultations with the NDA.

## The No-Objection Process

**Funding proposals submitted to the GCF must be accompanied by a no-objection letter from the NDA** certifying that the proposed activities are consistent with national climate strategies, policies, and country-driven approaches to climate action, as well as the environmental and social safeguards of the GCF. The process of procuring a non-objection letter from the NDA varies by country, as the GCF does not provide a standardized procedure or requirements regarding their issuance. As such, the responsibilities of DAEs during the process are subject to the procedures of the NDA, which may change from time to time.

In addition to the no-objection letter, proposals should also provide a description of how the assessment of country ownership was conducted, including a summary of engagements with relevant stakeholders to identify potential conflicts/adverse impacts. For funding proposals structured as programs comprised of multiple projects/activities, only one no-objection letter is needed. However, this letter must then cover all the projects/activities within a given program.

### **NDA Responsibilities during the No-Objection Process**

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1. **Verify alignment of proposed project/program with climate change policies and priorities and social objectives.** GCF guidelines expect NDAs to verify that the activities included in funding proposals are aligned with national climate-related and social (e.g., gender) policies and priorities through the no-objection procedure.
2. **Stakeholder consultations.** Funding proposals are expected to include an overview of the NDA's no-objection procedure, which should include stakeholder consultations to enhance country ownership over a proposed project/program. An effective institutional process within the NDA can help streamline the no-objection process by identifying key stakeholders and clearly demarcating their areas of potential engagement.
3. **No-objection communication/coordination between NDA and GCF.** The NDA is responsible for providing a signed no-objection letter to the GCF Secretariat in conjunction with each funding proposal submitted. The GCF Secretariat will inform the NDA if it receives a funding proposal without a no-objection letter, at which point the

NDA will have 30 days to provide one; in the absence of a no-objection letter, the funding proposal will be at risk of suspension.

Once the no-objection letter has been received, it will be treated as a formal document and will be made publicly available online. From the point of view of the GCF Secretariat, the no-objection letter indicates that the GoJ has no objection to the funding proposal, that the proposal is in line with Jordan's national climate priorities, plans, and strategies, and that the funding is consistent with other projects/programs already underway in Jordan.

- 4. Gender considerations.** Gender equity and female empowerment are areas of focus for the GCF, and the Fund expects the NDA to account for gender considerations during its reviews of proposed programs and projects. It is therefore recommended that the NDA review the Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan (GAP) for each funding proposal, paying particular attention to the GAP to ensure that the gender-focused targets, activities, criteria and/or indicators are appropriately aligned with both the GCF's Gender Policy and Action Plan, as well as national strategic priorities pertaining to gender equality and women's empowerment. Depending on the size, complexity, and E&S risk level of each funding proposal, it may be worthwhile to engage a gender expert or other consultant for this purpose. However, this is left to the discretion of the NDA, and is not required by the GCF. Specific training and guidance materials on gender for the NDA can be requested through a readiness funding proposal.

In Jordan, it may also be advantageous for the NDA to engage with national organizations that focus on these issues to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the gender-related dimensions and potential impacts of climate-related projects. Examples of these organizations include:

- The Tafileh Women's Association
- The National Center for Human Rights
- Arab Women's Organization
- UNDP
- UN Women
- Jordanian National Commission for Women

## **Public Disclosure of No-Objection Process**

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Regardless of the exact process, the GCF recommends that the NDA publish detailed information regarding its no-objection procedure to improve transparency for all stakeholders. Furthermore, the GCF encourages the NDA to provide a clear set of criteria for assessing projects. These criteria should be designed to ensure that the process incorporates GCF standards on environmental and social impacts and financial reporting. It is also strongly recommended that the no-objection process be seen as a mechanism to

promote fluid dialogue between the NDA and stakeholders, such that community and national ownership of proposed projects/programs are strengthened.

## 5. NDA Responsibilities During Project / Program Implementation, Monitoring, and Management

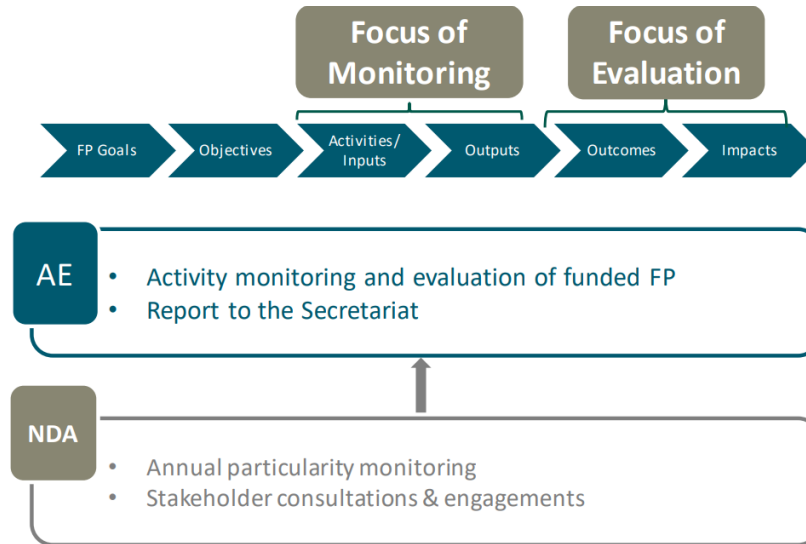
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Implementation, monitoring and management of GCF-funded projects and programs involves coordination between various units of the GCF, the NDA, AEs and executing entities (EEs), and local stakeholders to ensure funded activities deliver the greatest possible benefits in a cost-efficient manner. NDA responsibilities during this process may vary based on the nature of the activities involved and the terms of the FAA. In general, the NDA should attempt to leverage GCF engagements to strengthen capacities at the national level (i.e., within the government and among AEs and EEs) and ensure that local stakeholders are sufficiently engaged during project/program implementation. For this purpose, the NDA should ensure that AEs and EEs are able to monitor and report on the implementation and impacts of GCF-funded activities, and that lessons learned are properly communicated to the GCF and the NDA (if necessary). In summary, the general roles and responsibilities of the NDA during the implementation, monitoring, and management of GCF-funded projects and programs include:

- Ensure continued country ownership and stakeholder engagement throughout the term of the project/program.
- Support monitoring, evaluation and learning by working with AEs to plan for evaluations, reviews, and impact assessments.
- Facilitate and support stakeholder consultation for reporting and/or participatory monitoring as needed.
- Participate in performance assessment reviews and evaluation workshops.

Figure 11 indicates the timing of NDA and AE/EE monitoring and evaluation activities during the GCF project/program activity cycle.

Figure 7. NDA and AE monitoring and evaluation responsibilities



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This document is a result of the collaboration between the Ministry of Environment (MoENV), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Clima Capital Partners LLC (CLIMA) as part of the “Jordan National Designated Authority Operational Manual for the Green Climate Fund” project under the GCF Readiness Program of Jordan.

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