

# GCF IN BRIEF: READINESS



The GCF Readiness Programme provides resources for strengthening the institutional capacities of National Designated Authorities/focal points (NDAs) and direct access entities to effectively engage with the Fund. It also assists countries in undertaking adaptation planning and developing programming frameworks to build out their long-term climate action agenda.

All developing country Parties to the UNFCCC can access the GCF Readiness Programme, and through it, the Fund aims to ensure a minimum of 50 percent of its funding is targeted towards particularly vulnerable countries, including LDCs, SIDS and African States.

## Support available

Developing countries can access up to USD 1 million per country per year for all readiness activities (excluding adaptation planning), and up to USD 3 million per country once off for the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and/or other adaptation planning processes. Countries may submit multiple requests over different timeframes based on the needs of the country. The programme works through grants and technical assistance.

In March 2018, the GCF Board approved an additional USD 60 million to be made available for the execution of the Readiness Programme. This amount is on top of USD 130 million approved for the programme since its launch.

## Strengthening country ownership through readiness results

Readiness support is designed to help developing countries exercise ownership of climate change funding and integrate it within their national climate action plans. Support can be directed toward a range of outcomes to strengthen country-driven engagement with the Fund, including:

- Establishing or strengthening the NDA function in settings where the NDA has limited capacity and resources;
- Developing the no-objection procedure required for NDA approval for all GCF project activities within their country;
- Articulating country programmes and identifying a pipeline of fundable projects;
- Supporting stakeholder engagement, including through national and regional dialogues;
- Helping to identify and build the capacity of direct access entities to engage with the Fund;
- Formulating adaptation planning processes; and
- Engaging and mobilising the private sector.

## Applying for readiness

Requests for readiness support must be initiated by a country's NDA using the GCF's readiness template. This includes requests for adaptation planning support and for support on behalf of a direct access entity.

## Quick facts

- 203 readiness requests approved in 115 countries, including 129 requests approved from LDCs, SIDS and African States.
- USD 115.8 million in funds approved, and USD 41.9 million disbursed for 179 requests in 106 countries, including for 115 grants/technical assistance in LDCs, SIDS and African States equivalent to 26.7 million.

## Contact

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The funding itself can be managed by different entities depending on the type of support requested. This may be the NDA itself (following an assessment of its financial management capacities), or a delivery partner selected by the NDA. Readiness support delivery partners may be entities accredited to the Fund or other institutions selected by the NDA that have signed a readiness framework agreement with GCF.

The entities managing and receiving readiness funds will need to complete appropriate financial checks and legal arrangements prior to funding approval and disbursement.

**Frequently asked questions** (Visit <https://www.greenclimate.fund/gcf101> for more questions and answers)

*What should an NDA consider in choosing a delivery partner?*

The NDA has flexibility in selecting a delivery partner to implement readiness activities, and should choose a partner that is best suited to carry out the activities envisaged. Some factors to consider include familiarity with national climate change plans, required expertise (e.g. climate, economic, financial), track record in building sustained capacity, completion of relevant financial and legal arrangements with GCF, and avoiding potential conflicts of interest. The GCF Secretariat maintains an overview of delivery partners and can provide guidance.

*What does GCF look at when reviewing readiness proposals?*

A main thrust of the GCF Readiness Programme is building countries' long-term capacity to translate national climate change plans into a pipeline of transformative mitigation and adaptation projects that could attract GCF and other sources of climate finance. In considering readiness proposals for approval, GCF looks at several factors. These include ensuring the proposal is of high-quality, that it is tailored to national and local contexts, and that an explicit link is made between the country's context and the purpose(s) for which the funds will be used. For instance, a request for funds to launch a NAP process should articulate how adaptation planning support will respond to and advance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national development plans.

*How long does it take for a readiness support proposal to be approved?*

GCF aims to process readiness proposals as quickly as possible while ensuring proposed activities are in line with the objectives of the Readiness Programme and the Fund's mandate. Actions have been taken to improve the timeliness of feedback and communicate a decision to NDAs, entities and delivery partners. As a result, the GCF Secretariat review and feedback cycle has been reduced from six months to two months. The choice of delivery partner, conclusion of legal arrangements, and other factors can have an impact on approval times.

*How long does it take until funds are disbursed?*

GCF aims to release funds as expeditiously as possible, taking account of several key steps that must be completed before a first tranche can be released. This includes the completion of legal arrangements, which can be a lengthy process and also depends on the responsiveness of the delivery partner to conclude key documentation. Once the legal arrangements become effective, and all related documentation has been completed by the delivery partner, the Secretariat endeavours to release the first tranche in less than three weeks.

## Step by step: Accessing readiness support

Following is a condensed version of the steps outlined in the GCF Readiness Guidebook. Please consult this resource for more details.

1. Complete the readiness template and submit to [countries@gcfund.org](mailto:countries@gcfund.org).
2. We review the request, planned activities, and proposed budget. GCF also reviews the Financial Management Capacity Assessment, where applicable.
3. Following approval, legal arrangements are concluded in the form of a grant agreement with the grant recipient which incorporates the Standard Conditions.
4. Carry out the readiness activities in line with the agreed work plan and budget.
5. GCF and the grant recipient take stock of achievements and progress towards the end of the grant period, and agree on next steps