



The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable
Development and Information Technology

Green Climate Fund

Operations Manual for Saint Vincent & the Grenadines



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Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

AE	Accredited Entity
APR	Annual Performance Report
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
CPD	Central Planning Division, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology
CWSA	Central Water and Sewerage Authority
DAE	Direct Access Entity
FP	Focal Point
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IDA	International Development Agency
IAE	International Access Entity
IE	Implementing Entities
IFI	International Financial Institution
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
ITAP	Independent Technical Advisory Panel
J-CCCP	Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership Program
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MFEPDIT	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology
MHIHLSPP	Ministry of Housing, Informal Human Settlements, Lands & Surveys, and Physical Planning
MHWE	Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NDA	National Designated Authority
PMU	Project Monitoring Unit, part of the CPD
PPCR	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
PPF	Project Preparation Facility
PSF	Private Sector Facility
SAP	Simplified Approval Process
SPCR	Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience
SVG	Saint Vincent & The Grenadines
SVG MO	SVG Meteorological Office
UN	United Nations
WBG	World Bank Group

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose & Audience

This Operations Manual is designed to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (GoSVG) through provision of a set of tools that cover all aspects of its engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in a structured fashion and divided by theme of intervention. This Manual covers the role and responsibilities of the National Designated Authority (NDA)/Focal Point (FP) in supporting national stakeholders access the GCF funds and nominating direct access entities, its role in conveying relevant national stakeholders and carrying effective consultation with them, and it lays out the processes and criteria for supporting access to funds and nomination of direct access entities. Last, it provides a thorough review of the structure and stages through which the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as set by the GCF is applied. This Operations Manual will primarily serve the NDA/FP in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to strengthen its engagement with the GCF throughout the various programs and products offered by the GCF, but can be also an informative tool in guiding the NDA in setting its function within the country according to high governance standards and ensuring adequate processes and effective stakeholders inclusion and consultation are in place

1.2. Overview of the Green Climate Fund

The GCF is a global fund that was set up by the 194 countries, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at their meeting in Cancun (Mexico) in 2010, as part of the Convention's financial mechanism to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change. GCF helps developing countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. The objective of the GCF is to "support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country Parties using thematic funding windows". The GCF has set up a goal of raising US\$100 billion by 2020, and has received pledges of financing in excess of US\$11 billion as of December 31, 2018.¹

The GCF is based in South Korea, and is governed by a Board of 24 members comprised equally of developed and developing countries, representing the United Nations Regional Groups. It makes decisions based only on the consensus agreement of all Board members. The Board is supported by a Secretariat which manages the fund's activities and operations.²

¹ Source: The Green Climate Fund (<https://www.greenclimate.fund/who-we-are/about-the-fund>)

² Source: The Green Climate fund, Governance (<https://www.greenclimate.fund/who-we-are/about-the-fund/governance>)

The operational priorities of the GCF are: (i) Scale up investments in developing countries;

(ii) maximise impact by supporting scalable and replicable projects and programmes;

(iii) invest the full amount pledged for the 2015-2018 programming period, while balancing adaptation and mitigation investments; (iv) ensure that the GCF is responsive to developing countries' needs and priorities, including by enhancing country programming and direct access; and (v) proactively communicate GCF's ambition in terms of scale and impact, as well as its operational modalities.

In addition, in allocating its resources, the GCF aims to a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation over time and to allocating at least 50% of its adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries including Small State Island Development States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and African States.³

To ensure that the GCF achieves its mandate of promoting a "paradigm shift" towards de-carbonisation and climate adaptation, the GCF has developed a process which countries and institutions must undertake if they wish to access the fund's financial resources. This process begins with establishing a basic institutional structure in every country that wishes to apply for GCF financing.

The current assignment by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aligns well with the operational priorities of the GCF as laid out above. More specifically Component A of the assignment, which objective is: "To strengthen the capacity of the National Designated Authority and Focal Point to unlock and coordinate climate change financing to accomplish Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' national objectives", aligns well with priorities (iv) and (v) above, and Component B, which objective is: "To develop a strategic framework for engagement with the Green Climate Fund including the preparation of a country programme", aligns well with priorities (i) and (ii) above.

1.3. Rationale for SVG's National Designated Authority

Being part of a pool of the world's most climate vulnerable nations, SVG has received international donor assistance to enhance its islands resiliency and capacity to adapt to climate change. However, the GCF provides a unique aspect to the GoSVG, by creating avenues for a far greater degree of local ownership. This represents a unique opportunity for stakeholders in SVG, but it also requires significant capacity to coordinate and consolidate competing views and needs across the range of public and private stakeholders in SVG, so these can be conveyed clearly to the GCF.

³ Source: The Green Climate Fund, Key Features (<https://www.greenclimate.fund/who-we-are/about-the-fund>)

The initial preference of the GoSVG was to designate a specific individual as a focal point for the government's interactions with the GCF. However, the government of SVG is currently in the process of transitioning from having a single Focal Point, towards establishing a National Designated Authority which has taken a primary responsibility for coordinating all GCF related initiatives and activities within SVG and ensuring alignment between GCF climate finance objectives and the specific investment criteria and the climate change objectives of the GoSVG. The NDA in SVG is the Economic Planning & Sustainable Development Division, in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology, being represented by Mr. Recardo Frederick., Director of Planning

1.4. The Operations Manual's Structure

This document explains the GCF procedures and requirements, providing a practical guide to how SVG can achieve these requirements and unlock GCF financial support. This Operations Manual is structured sequentially, with the chapters following the GCF procedures to unlock climate financing. Each chapter begins with an explanation of GCF requirements, before providing an outline of the steps necessary to meet these requirements.

The structure of the manual is as follows:

1. **Roles & Responsibilities:** The institutional requirements of SVG's National Designated Authorities (NDA)
2. **Supporting access to funds:** The required role of SVG's NDA in supporting funding applications
3. **Nominating Direct Access Entities (DAEs):** Procedures & mechanisms to nominate prospective direct access entities, and
4. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Building a system to monitor, evaluate and report on the GCF financed activities in SVG, for the GCF Secretariat and Board.

At the end of this Operations Manual are a series of Appendices drawn directly from the GCF website, to ensure familiarity of the users with the GCF resources and to preserve the integrity of information as provided by the GCF. Furthermore, content of the four following primary sections of this report builds upon the GCF's design and policy documents, and references are provided where relevant.

2. Roles & Responsibilities - Institutional requirements of the National Designated Authority of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

SUMMARY BOX

- Who is the NDA?
- Why is the NDA necessary?
- Role and Responsibilities of the NDA
 - Convene National Stakeholders
 - Provide nomination letters for Direct Access Entities
 - Approve “Readiness Support” funding from the GCF to DAEs
 - Provide “No-Objection letters” for GCF funded national programs/projects
 - Ensure that GCF approved funding within SVG aligns with strategic national priorities
- The NDA’s timeline of responsibilities within the cycle of engagements with the GCF

2.1. Who is the NDA?

The National Designated Authority is a government entity that is tasked with coordinating and conveying the climate change related activities and interests of the stakeholders in SVG to the GCF Secretariat. To date, the Policy Planning and Administration team at the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology (MFEPDIT) has led the interactions between the GCF and the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

It is important to note that the NDA is typically not seen as a source of financing, but rather as an intermediary and a focal point for coordination between national stakeholders and the GCF. Also, while it is possible for the NDA to pursue obtaining an accredited entity status in order to access GCF funding to directly channel it to climate change related projects, it might involve potential challenges and issues of potential conflict of interest. It is therefore; important for the NDA to decide how to approach the issue of potential conflict of interest if it envisages having a national accredited entity in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; either by choosing another governmental entity than MFEPDIT to potentially become an accredited entity, or by pursuing accreditation of the NDA, taking into considerations lessons learned and advice from the GCF Secretariat and other NDAs who are also accredited entities.

2.2. Why is an NDA necessary?

The GCF provides financing to address two primary concerns: the need to reduce global CO₂ emissions and the need to help countries adapt to the effects of global climate change. To ensure that funding from the GCF aligns with these aims, the GCF requests that countries either nominate an individual as a Focal Point or establish a National Designated Authority to lead the coordination efforts between the country and the GCF. The FP/NDA is; therefore, the essential intermediary between the GCF and entities, which intend to receive GCF financing for climate related projects or programs.

Broadly speaking, the GCF assigns five core responsibilities to FPs/NDAs⁴ which are elaborated extensively in subsequent Paragraphes as follows:

1. Convene national stakeholders (Para 2.3.1)
2. Provide nomination letters for Direct Access Entities (DAEs) (Para 2.3.2)
3. Approve "Readiness Support" funding from the GCF to DAEs (Para 2.3.3)
4. Provide "No-Objection letters" for GCF funded national programs/projects (Para 2.3.4)
5. Ensure that GCF approved funding within SVG aligns with strategic national priorities (Para 2.3.5)

For the FP/NDA to successfully perform these responsibilities, SVG's national climate change plans are essential to guide and inform the above responsibilities. From the GCF's perspective, national climate change plans form the basis of discussions between the GCF and SVG because they outline the strategic goals that SVG has set and the process by which the government seeks to achieve these goals and to help the GCF identify where some goals promoted by the national government may diverge from the stated aims of the GCF itself. Table 1 demonstrates the priority sectors for GoSVG that also fall under GCF investment priorities.

Table 1: GCF Result Areas

Emissions reduction from ⁵ :	Enhanced Climate Resiliency of:
Low emission transport	Most vulnerable people and communities
Energy generation and Access	Ecosystem and ecosystem services
Forests and Land use	Infrastructure & built environment
Buildings, cities and industries and appliances	Health and well-being, and food and water security

2.3. Role and Responsibilities of the NDA

⁴ GCF, "GCF Accreditation Introduction", 2017, page 12

⁵ GCF, "GCF Accreditation Introduction", 2017, page 15

The NDA's first three responsibilities present building the infrastructure/foundations for the NDA function concerning activities within the country, and the last two responsibilities present the support and facilitation by the NDA for GCF fund mobilization into projects and programs in SVG. The link across all of these requirements is the need to demonstrate that nationally agreed climate action plan(s) align with the actions of institutions working with the GCF in the country. Given the broad implications of climate change and the competing interests of key stakeholders, a failure to ensure close coordination between all actors can inhibit and potentially undermine the success of GCF financed projects. For these reasons, the five responsibilities of the NDA are considered the essential bedrock of a country's relationship with the GCF.

As examples of stakeholder engagement and consultations carried by the NDA within the process of delivering Components A and B (Referred to in paragraph 1.2 above) of this assignment, relevant stakeholders were identified, including public sector entities, private sector corporates, financial institutions, NGOs, think tanks and business associations. In its consultations, the NDA presented an effective format for dialogue and engagement, which allowed identifying common concerns and showed participants the multiple sectoral implications of each single climate change vulnerability/challenge and the various forms of impacts it has. This created a more synergetic view among the stakeholders/participants on how to engage with the GCF through the NDA in view of having a coordinated national view of priorities and funding needs to finance climate change initiatives in the country.

2.3.1. Convene National Stakeholders:

As the coordinating body between the GCF and organisations seeking financing for climate projects, the NDA plays a key role in convening national stakeholders. Continuity of engagement with national stakeholders is important to ensure steady flow of information and feedback. For SVG, the NDA will need to demonstrate to the GCF that it has a clear overview of whom the national stakeholders are, that the NDA has demonstrated (through well structured, inclusive and targeted consultations, meeting schedules, attendance notes, email correspondence, etc.) that it has engaged those stakeholders to gather their inputs.

Also, transparency, openness and inclusivity are important aspects of the GCF and are necessary to ensure that any projects/programs that are approved for financing, do not immediately run-up against local opposition. Inclusiveness is in particular important from the GCF standpoint, hence it places a strong emphasis on gender and how the programs/projects that it approves have considered the gender aspects of their project/program.

2.3.2. Provide nomination letters for Direct Access Entities:

To ensure alignment with the national climate change strategies and plans, the NDA play key role in assessing and deciding which national organizations can best fit the mandate of an accredited entity on the national level. Therefore, organisations that wish to become an Accredited Entity (AE) have to get a "Nomination Letter" from the NDA to the GCF Secretariat. The applicant institution would have undergone a vetting process by the NDA before issuing the Nomination Letter; the vetting process by the NDA ensures the applicant fit the GCF requirements for accreditation and accredited entities. The Nomination Letter has two objectives: It ensures that GCF funding proposals are only sent by entities that have the full support of the national FP/NDA. In this context, the Country Strategic Framework being prepared under Component B of this assignment - To develop a strategic framework for engagement with the GCF including the preparation of a country programme - will inform and serve the work of the NDA in deciding which accredited entities might best serve the Country's Strategic Framework and projects identified for funding by the GCF.

There are two types of accredited entities: (i) International Access Entities and (ii) Direct Access Entities. They have different modalities and procedures for accreditation and for access to financing from the GCF.

- (i) Direct Access Entities are sub-national, national or regional organizations that need to be nominated by developing country NDA/FPs.
- (ii) International Access Entities include UN agencies, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and regional institutions. GCF considers these organizations to have the wide reach and expertise to handle a variety of climate change issues, including ones that cross borders and thematic areas.
To note, International Access Entities do not need to be nominated by developing country NDAs/FPs.

2.3.3. Approve "Readiness Support" funding from the GCF to DAEs:

Many institutions may lack the necessary procedures and institutional structure necessary to meet GCF requirements to access GCF financing. Accordingly, the GCF makes provisions for DAEs to apply for "Readiness Support" financing through the NDA, which can be used to build institutional capacity to meet GCF standards. However, the NDA must approve the "readiness support" funding for prospective DAEs and other Delivery Partners for the GCF to release the funds. This ensures that if multiple entities require training and capacity building, then funding can be more effectively deployed and co-ordinated within a national view.

Within SVG, it would be intuitive for the NDA to first convene a nationwide stakeholder round-table, to determine all potential organisations that would be interested to

become Accredited Entities (AEs) with direct access to GCF funds. Based on outcome of consultations, the NDA would need to decide whether there is a need for accreditation of an institution or institutions within the country, or it could rely on other regional accredited entities, such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Climate Change Community Centre (CCCCC) or international accredited entities, such as the World Bank Group (WBG), including the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

In case SVG decides to support accreditation of national institutions, it will need to determine a process for assessing potential applicants against the GCFs requirements, and will need to broadly filter these potential applicants based on how well prepared they are to meet the GCF criteria. The GCF provides a self-assessment tool that can be used by potential applicants or with assistance by the NDA to have a first assessment of their readiness. Additionally, the NDA could introduce a checklist covering the requirements by GCF for institutions to become accredited and run that with potential national candidates.⁶ The NDA could then schedule bi-annual training for all applicants that have reached a certain preparedness level and could require all training literature (including this guide and toolkits) to become available to participants.

2.3.4. Provide “No-Objection letters” for GCF funded national programs/projects:

The purpose of the no-objection procedure is to ensure consistency with national climate strategies and plans and country-driven approaches, and to provide for effective direct and indirect public and private sector financing by the GCF. A no-objection is a condition for approval of all funding proposals submitted to the Fund.

Applications by DAEs and Delivery Partners for financing from the GCF can only be approved once they have submitted a “No-objection letter” from the national FP/NDA to the GCF Secretariat. This letter is an essential part of the decision-making process for the GCF, as it also provides a form of guarantee/assurance that the national government has identified no significant risks/concerns from key stakeholders that would prevent or significantly delay/change the proposed project/program.

Communication of no-objection to funding proposals is key to successfully implement this requirement, it is again essential that the national FP/NDA is able to effectively convene national stakeholders so that areas of potential conflict/concern are well known and mitigation mechanisms are in place.

⁶ Source: Green Climate Fund (https://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/getting-accredited/self-assessment-tool#p_p_id_56_INSTANCE_ZG420C2NDpjZ_)

Given the significance of a “no objection letter”, SVG’s NDA has developed a transparent process demonstrating its approach to engagement with relevant stakeholders to ensure their input is reflected in project proposals before issuing a “no-objection” letter. As the GCF grants significant flexibility to each country to determine this process, SVG’s NDA has developed its own processes as laid out under “Section 4.4.6: Process of no-objection letter”

2.3.5. Ensure that GCF approved funding within SVG aligns with strategic national priorities:

NDA/FPs plays key role in ensuring alignment between GCF funding proposals for projects and programmes and SVG’s national climate change policies and plans, in addition to alignment with the overall national development and economic policies and strategies.

This primarily includes Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), 2016, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ National Adaptation Planning (NAP), 2018, the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), 2015, and others⁷. This exercise also ensures that GCF projects align with the national government’s strategic aims and consistent coordination.

2.4. The NDA’s timeline of responsibilities within the cycle of engagements with the GCF

The following presents a consolidated view of the responsibilities of the NDA throughout the GCF cycle of engagement in the pre-accreditation phase, the accreditation phase, the post accreditation phase, and on an on-going basis. Figure 2 demonstrates the sequence and timeline of this cycle of engagement.

Pre-Accreditation Phase

- ⇒ The NDA disseminates the accreditation procedures to prospective national entities through its own website, newsletters and other communication channels
- ⇒ The NDA guides and supports prospective national entities in their applications processes and guidelines

Accreditation Phase

- ⇒ The NDA will receive all application for consideration for accreditation from prospective national entities

⁷ Other national policies include: National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) 2013-2025, National Environment Management Strategy (NEM) 2010, Environmental Management Framework (EMF) 2016, International Conference on the Small Island Developing States Nation Reports 2013, National Energy Policy (Sustainable Energy) 2009, National Emergency and Disaster Management Act 2006, and others.

- ⇒ The NDA will assess the application against the GCF's Fiduciary Standards, E&S Standards, and Gender Policy.
- ⇒ The NDA will endorse applications if deemed of high potential
- ⇒ The NDA will nominate the entities aspiring to become accredited, to manage projects supported by the GCF
- ⇒ The NDA will facilitate the communication of nomination of potential entities to the GCF

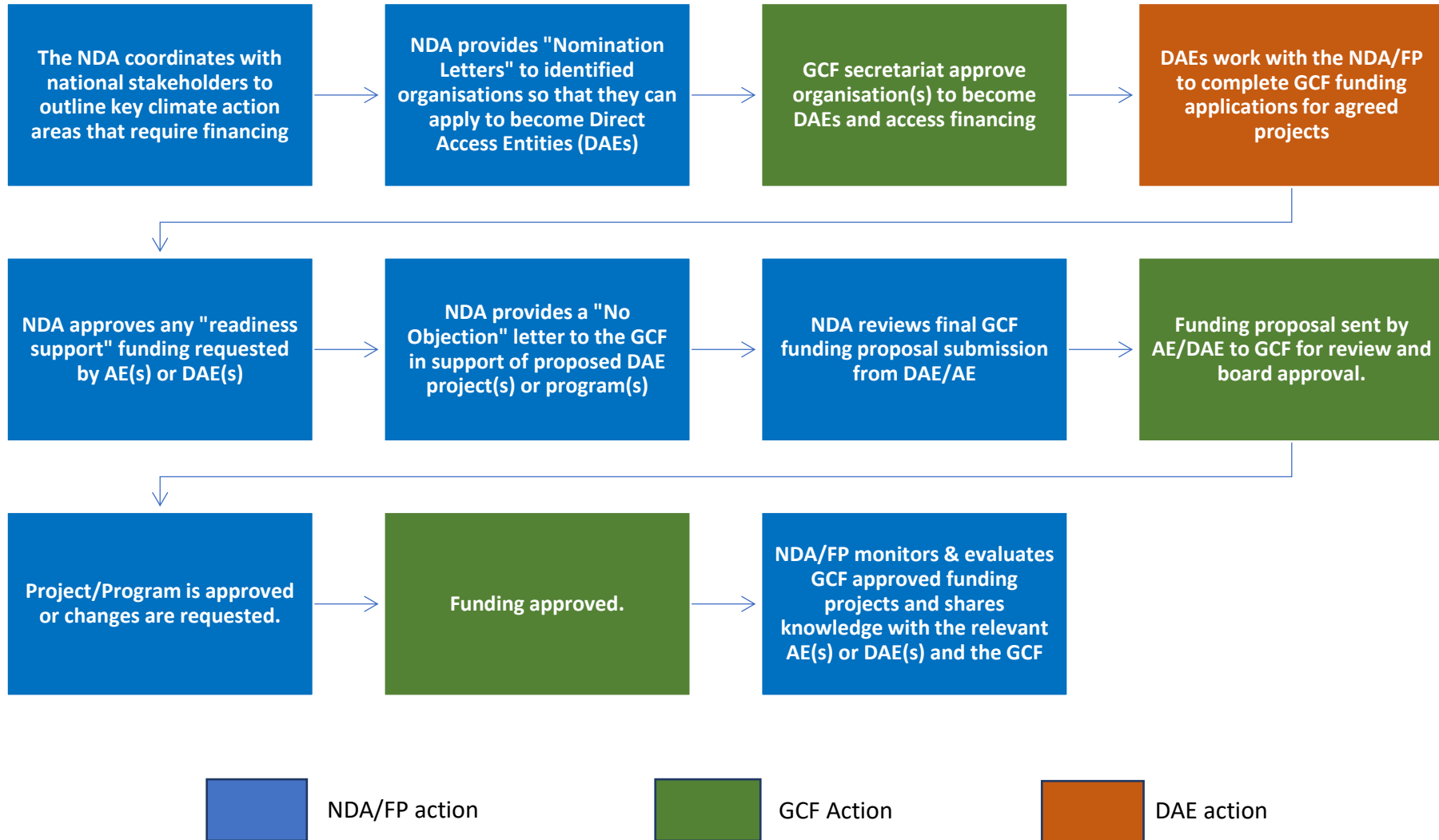
Post Accreditation Phase

- ⇒ The NDA will review funding proposals to make sure they are in line with the country's national climate change priorities and strategies
- ⇒ The NDA will participate in pre-screening of project concepts alongside the GCF Secretariat
- ⇒ The NDA will endorse project proposals that would be presented the GCF for funding
- ⇒ The NDA will engage, collaborate, and consult with stakeholders to identify priority projects to be financed by the GCF. A provisional list of key stakeholders is provided in Appendix 1.
- ⇒ The NDA will facilitate the communication between prospective and accredited entities and the GCF
- ⇒ The NDA will communicate no-objections letters to projects and programmes to the GCF
- ⇒ The NDA will communicate objections to projects and programmes to national accredited entities

On-going Responsibilities

- ⇒ The NDA will prepare a national progress report on the implementation of projects and programmes funded by the GCF
- ⇒ The NDA will assess compliance with the GCF Fiduciary Standards, E&S Standards, and Gender Policy
- ⇒ The NDA will be involved in monitoring the implementation of projects and programmes by the implementing entities to ensure compliance with the GCF Fiduciary Standards, E&S Standards, and Gender Policy
- ⇒ The NDA will coordinate and provide leadership on the deployment of Readiness and Preparatory support in SVG

Figure 1: Timeline of responsibilities for SVG's NDA



3. Nominating Direct Access Entities (DAEs) - Procedures & mechanisms to nominate prospective direct access entities

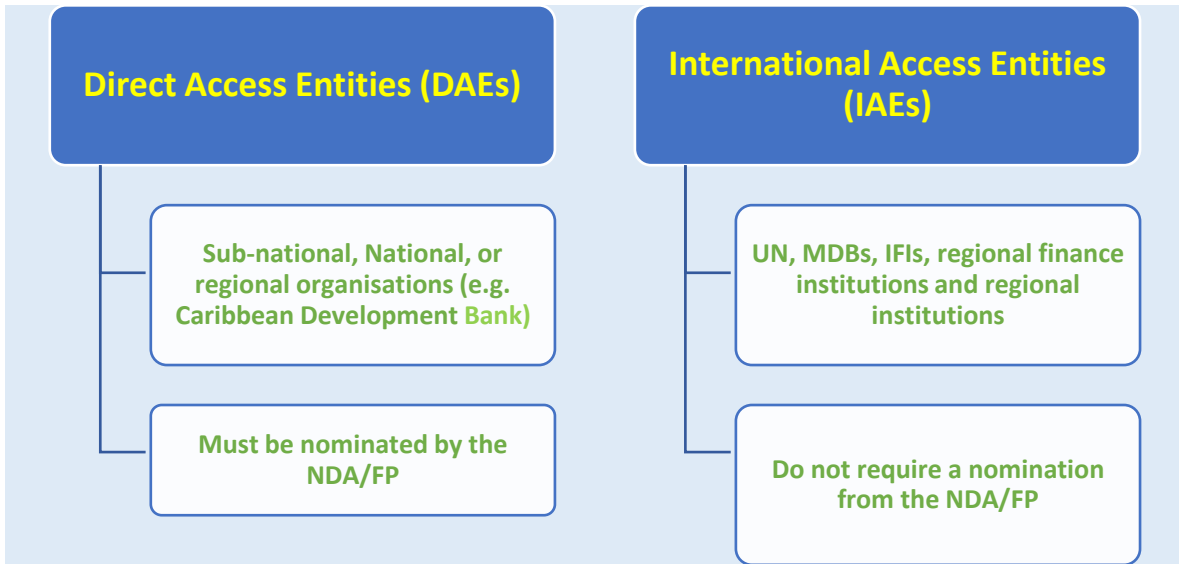
SUMMARY BOX

- Overview
- Basic requirements of an Accredited Entity Role and Responsibilities of the NDA
- Fit-for-purpose approach to accreditation
- The accreditation process
- Fast track accreditation process
- Readiness support to accreditation of aspiring AEs

3.1. Overview

A key function of the NDA is to help organisations within SVG to access financing directly from the GCF. Organizations seeking GCF financing must submit their project funding proposals to GCF through an accredited entity, subject to approval of the NDA through a no-objection letter. The GCF allows any and all entities, including international, regional, national and sub national and public and private entities, to become AEs. However, to become accredited, entities must apply for accreditation through one of two modes of access:

Figure 2: Overview of Accredited Entity Categories⁸



⁸ Regional organizations such as the Caribbean Development Bank don't require a nomination letter from an NDA

DAEs present an appropriate category for SVG to access climate finance sources, even if the existing institutional capacity of the proposed DAEs may be limited, as the NDA may receive financing from the GCF to help develop the institutional framework and resources to apply for accreditation. This type of assistance is called “Readiness & Preparatory Support”. In SVG, a government ministry, a municipal authority, a national utility, or indeed a private financial institution could all be considered eligible for accreditation by the GCF to become an DAE.

Before organisations can seek accreditation to become a DAE for SVG, the NDA must establish whether the potential DAE applicant meets the basic requirements of the GCF accreditation process, and that the organisational aims of the applicant are compatible with SVG’s national climate action strategy.

The GCF Secretariat and the Accreditation Panel decide within six months after receiving necessary and complete documentation whether to recommend an application to the GCF Board. If organizations also apply for readiness support, this process may take longer.

For organizations meeting fast-track requirements – i.e. those already accredited to the GEF, Adaptation Fund or the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) – a decision should be communicated within three months.

3.2. Basic requirements of an Accredited Entity

To become an Accredited Entity, the GCF asks applying organisations to demonstrate that they can meet the following requirements:

- 3.2.1.** Does the organisation have a full **Legal Personality** to undertake the intended activities it has applied for as a GCF Accredited Entity?

A “Full legal personality” implies that the organisation is able to undertake contractual obligations as a recognised legal entity, registered in a sovereign nation. This is essential to distinguish between groups of concerned/passionate/engaged individuals, and organisations with formal structures and legal rights/responsibilities.

- 3.2.2.** Does the organisation have **policies, procedures and guidelines** at an institutional level that are sufficiently robust to meet the GCF’s standards?

Beyond the legal aspects, the GCF has three core sets of standards for aspiring AEs.

- A. The fiduciary standards of the GCF.
- B. A gender policy that meets the standards of the GCF.

C. Environmental & Social Safeguards (ESS) policies that meet the GCF standards⁹.

Aspiring accredited entities must therefore, demonstrate that their Environmental & Social Safeguards (ESS), Fiduciary Standards, and Gender Policy meet the GCF standards as summarized in Table 3.

Table 2: (Left) overview of GCF ESS standards, (Right) overview of GCF fiduciary standards

Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)		Basic Fiduciary Standards	Specialised Fiduciary Standards	Gender Policy
Institutional ESMS Policy-level: Performance Standard (PS) 1: Assessment and management of relevant PS1-8 environmental and social risks and impacts through an environmental and social management (ESMS)		Key administrative and financial capabilities	Project Management	Policies, procedures, and competencies
Project Level:			Grant award and/or funding allocation mechanisms	
PS2	Labour and Working conditions	Policies, procedures, and, competencies		
PS3	Resource efficiency and pollution prevention			
PS4	Community health, safety and security			
PS5	Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement			
PS6	Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources			
PS7	Indigenous peoples			
PS8	Cultural heritage			

3.2.3. Can the organisation demonstrate **a track record of implementing the policy, procedures and standards** that it has set itself?

During the accreditation process, it is essential for the aspiring AE to demonstrate all of these standards are part of the organisational structure. For further details on the GCFs gender and ESS standards, see appendix 2.

3.3. Fit-for-purpose approach to accreditation

To assist the GCF in ensuring that organisations are appropriately accredited, the NDA of SVG should undertake a “fit-for-purpose” assessment of the aspiring AE, following the GCF requirements. This assessment focuses on examining the capacity, track record and institutional structures of the aspiring AE and determining whether they meet the GCFs expectations across four thematic areas:

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

⁹ Relevant GCF links: the [initial guiding accreditation framework](https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/114264/1.7_-_Environmental_and_Social_Safeguards.pdf/e4419923-4c2d-450c-a714-0d4ad3cc77e6), fiduciary standards, Interim Policy on Prohibitive Practices, ESS, Information Disclosure Policy for E&S report disclosure requirements, and gender policy. See E&S Safeguards Policy: https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/114264/1.7_-_Environmental_and_Social_Safeguards.pdf/e4419923-4c2d-450c-a714-0d4ad3cc77e6

See Gender Policy: https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/114264/1.8_-_Gender_Policy_and_Action_Plan.pdf/f47842bd-b044-4500-b7ef-099bcf9a6bbe

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 accredited entities from SVG, 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 organisation applying per se, rather, fit-for-purpose aims to assess the capacity of the aspiring DAE 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.

3.3.1. Mandate and Track Record

Under the Fit-for-purpose framework, the GCF expects to see that the aspiring DAE can show an alignment of its previous activities and current structure, with the objectives of the GCF. The GCF also requires aspiring DAEs to have at least three years of operations, to demonstrate their track record.

3.3.2. Project Size experience

The GCF then assesses the likely size of projects/programs that the aspiring DAE would be seeking financing for, to determine whether the organisation has sufficient experience and the institutional capacity to manage a project of that size.

The ranking of project by size of funding is shown in the graph below:

Figure 3: GCF project size classifications by USD million



3.3.3. Fiduciary functions

The track record and competencies of the AE in their managing of financial accounts, risks and responsibilities is very important to the GCF. Owing to the need to preserve donor funding and to mitigate risks, the GCF sets strict standards on the level of organisational capacity that an AE requires before it can receive GCF funding for certain fiduciary functions. For example, if the AE wishes to lend money as part of its 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. An overview of the fiduciary skills required can be seen in the table below.

The GCF identifies four fiduciary categories available to accredited entity. When an accredited entity seeks funding for a specific project or proposal, the GCF will assess the fiduciary category that funding will require and then conduct an assessment of whether the AE meets those requirements. For example, the GCF requires AEs to be able to perform an extensive array of fiduciary functions before it is able to 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 utilising those funds, the greater the level of fiduciary requirements (See table 5).

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

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

Source: GCF Power Point Presentation February 2017

3.3.4. Environmental and Social Risk categories (ESS)

Similarly, to the fit-for-purpose approach adopted for fiduciary functions, the GCF places very high standards on ensuring that AEs who wish to work in projects that have a high level of ESS risk, have sufficient institutional knowledge, track record and capacity to deliver those projects. The table below provides a broad overview of how the GCF classifies ESS risks, and how this informs the requirements that the GCF has for AE funding proposals.

Table 4: Overview of GCF ESS categories by risk factor

Risk Level	Intermediation	Funding proposals
High	<p>Intermediation 1 (I-1)</p> <p>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>Category A</p> <p>Activities with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented.</p>
Medium	<p>Intermediation 2 (I-2)</p> <p>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>Category B</p> <p>Activities with potential mild adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are few in number, generally site-specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures.</p>
Low to non-existent	<p>Intermediation 3 (I-3)</p> <p>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>Category C</p> <p>Activities with minimal or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts</p>

3.4. The accreditation process¹⁰

The accreditation process is designed to check if an entity has fiduciary, environmental and social, and gender policies and procedures and demonstrated evidence of implementing these policies and procedures. The application form for accreditation for the Green Climate Fund is composed of the following sections:

¹⁰ GCF, "GCF Accreditation Introduction", 2017, page 27, 28 and 29

- i. Background and contact information of the applicant entity
- ii. Information on the ways in which the institution and its intended projects/programmes will contribute to furthering the objectives of the Green Climate Fund
- iii. Information on the scope of intended projects/programmes and estimated contribution requested for an individual project or activity within a programme
- iv. Basic fiduciary criteria
- v. Applicable specialized fiduciary criteria
- vi. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)
- vii. Gender

The accreditation process itself starts with the NDA/FP nominating regional or national institutions to become accredited by the GCF. They must then undergo a vetting process to determine their fit and once they are deemed accredited, they can begin developing work programs and funding proposals. By giving this power directly to national and regional entities, the GCF aims to put ownership in the hands of the country. This is designed to help ensure that funds better align with agreed national climate goals. Establishing specific procedures to regulate nomination and proposal screening standards is essential for the standardization of these functions. There are three stages that an aspiring DAE must complete before they can become accredited.

- i. **Stage I:** A review of the accreditation application documents,
- ii. **Stage II:** Board decision on the application, and
- iii. **Stage III:** Finalisation of legal agreements between the GCF and the aspiring DAE.

Much of the review is checklist based; therefore, it is essential that the NDA/FP and the aspiring DAE check all the criteria. If all the documentation is correct, no readiness support funding is requested and the aspiring AE meets all the necessary requirements, the Accreditation process will take approximately six months, depending on the level of responsiveness of the proposed AE and the number of gaps in its application. Where entities meet the fast track requirements, this can be reduced to three.

3.4.1. Stage I:

In Stage One, the following processes take place:

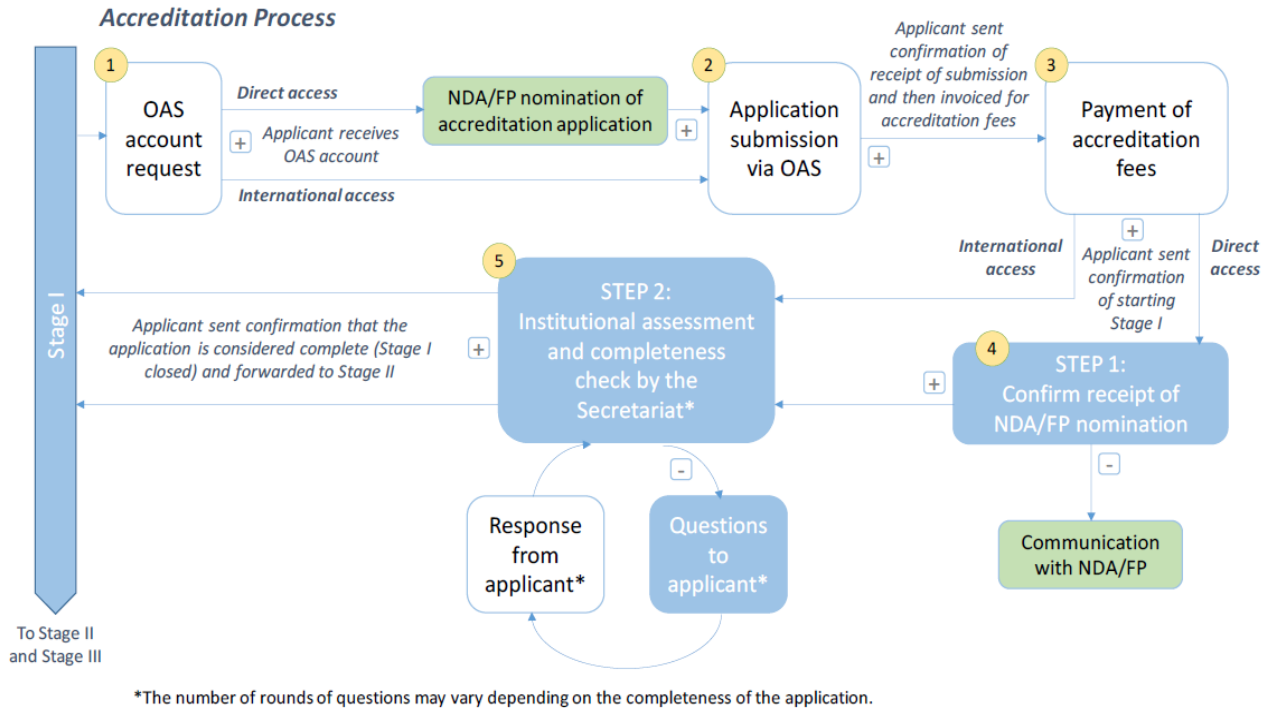
- ⇒ *Initial meeting - NDA and interested AE:* Aspiring AE meets with the NDA to confirm their interest in becoming accredited.

- ⇒ *Accreditation System account*: If the NDA agrees to support this process, the NDA requests an Online Accreditation System account (OAS).
- ⇒ *Nomination Letter - issued by NDA and submitted on OAS*: Once this is received, the NDA/FP provide the aspiring AE with a Nomination Letter, which is then submitted on the OAS portal alongside the other submission documents.
- ⇒ *Confirmation and invoice by GCF*: Once the GCF receive these forms via OAS, they will confirm receipt of the application and will invoice the aspiring AE for the accreditation fees (if applicable).
- ⇒ *Start of Stage I*: 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 aspiring AEs 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 liaises with the aspiring AE to confirm certain details. If everything is satisfactory, the GCF will progress the aspiring AE to Stage II. Figure 4 below lays out the process and steps within Stage I.

Figure 4: Flow chart of Accreditation Stage I



Accreditation Stage I



Source: GCF

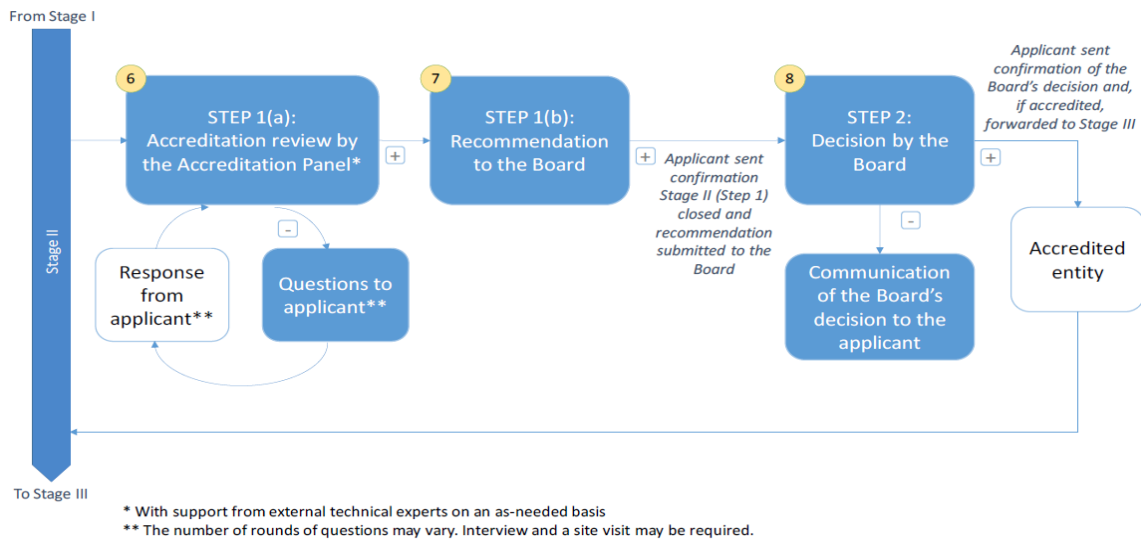
3.4.2. Stage II:

During Stage II, the Accreditation Panel will review the aspiring AE application, asking questions where needed. The Panel will then make a recommendation to the Board and confirm this progression to the aspiring AE. The Board will then decide and if they approve the application; the aspiring AE will be notified that they have proceeded to stage III.

Figure 5: Flow chart of Accreditation Stage II



Accreditation Stage II



Source: GCF

3.4.3. Stage III:

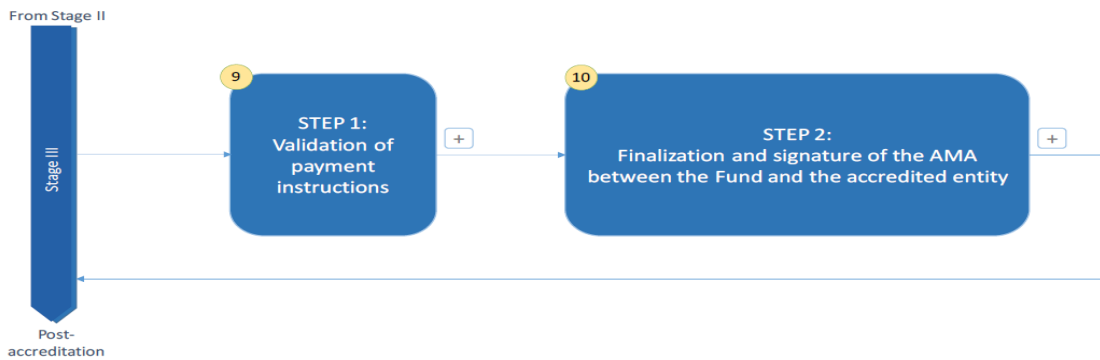
In stage three, the aspiring AE will validate the payment instructions for receipt of GCF funds and will negotiate and sign an Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) with the GCF, to become an accredited entity. An example of an AMA can be found on the GCF website¹¹.

Figure 6: Flow chart of Accreditation Stage III

¹¹ Accreditation Master Agreement: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/383071/AMA - WWF.pdf/84f72986-299c-4cde-b76c-2b35c88b4213?version=1.2>



Accreditation Stage III*



Post-accreditation Process

Project and programme funding proposal preparation, assessment and approval process as per the Fund's investment framework and results management framework

Source: GCF

3.5. 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)

Recognizing that certain entities have completed the accreditation process of other funds/institutions against fiduciary and environmental and social standards that may be comparable to the GCF's fiduciary standards and ESS, the fast-track process allows for eligible entities to focus their application on the GCF's accreditation requirements (gaps) that have not been assessed in other accreditation processes. The fast-track process also allows for the accreditation review to focus on how the entity addresses the gaps.

The following table outlines the terms and additional requirements for these three institutions under which a fast track accreditation process could be applicable:

Table 5: Fast track accreditation approved AEs

		DG DEVCO entities	Adaptation Fund (AF)	Global Environment Fund (GEF)
Eligibility	1.Accredited before	14 th December 2016	14 th December 2016	14 th 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)	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. Publish guidelines for processing cases, including standardised procedures for handling complaints received and managing cases through the whole investigative process. Have publicly available TORs that outline the purpose, authority and accountability for the investigation function of the GCF basic criteria. Anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing.	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.	1. 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

3.6. Readiness support for accreditation of aspiring AEs

To support aspiring AEs to meet the GCFs requirements, the fund provides **readiness support** services and funding to assist with the following:

- i. Support AE's undergoing fast-track accreditation,
- ii. Awareness raising of the accreditation process & required standards,
- iii. Institutional gap analysis for aspiring AEs, and
- iv. Developing tailored capacity building plans for aspiring AEs, to address identified gaps in their institutional structure that prevent GCF accreditation.

4. Supporting access to funds - NDA/FP required role in funding applications

SUMMARY BOX

- Overview
- GCF funding streams available for SVG
 - Conventional GCF funding application
 - Project Preparation Funding (PPF) Application
 - Private Sector Facility (PSF) application
 - GCF Request for Funding Proposal (RFP)
 - Simplified Approval Process (SAP)
- Concept Notes
- The “No-Objection” Letter

4.1. Overview

As the core coordination body between the GCF and national accredited entities, the FP/NDA plays a key role in supporting access to funds. The GCF architecture is designed such that funding is channelled from the GCF via Accredited Entities into specific programmes and projects, which can then distribute loans, grants, equity and guarantees. However, the NDA is expected to play an oversight and coordination role in each step of this process.

The FP/NDA is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Ensuring that all project(s)/program(s) proposal(s) are in-line with the agreed climate change plans of SVG, and that they align with the requirements of the GCF,
2. Deciding which funding stream is the most suitable for the proposal, given the level of funding required, expected project outcomes and the level of risk associated with the project, and
3. Conducting a transparent stakeholder engagement process before providing the AE or DAE with a “No-Objection” letter for project funding approval.

Recognising that SVG has also already received financial support from an array of international climate development finance sources, the NDA must also ensure that the GCF is the most suitable provider of financing for the project. Specifically, the NDA plays an important role in assessing whether any deficiencies/areas in need of further development, that have been identified in the findings from previous climate projects, are addressable through existing funding sources.

An effective exercise for SVG would be to align the existing SVG climate objectives along the eight areas of GCF climate financing shown in table 1. This process can then open up a wider strategic discussion about total funding needs and budget priorities for SVG.

Once an organisation or government agency has become an Accredited Entity, they will still need to work closely with the NDA/FP to access financing for specific projects and programmes. The AE must work alongside the NDA to ensure that their project/program concept note meets the requirements of the GCF. Once a Concept note has been drafted, submitted to the GCF, and received feedback from the GCF Secretariat, the AE drafts a funding proposal and the NDA provide the AE with a “No-Objection” letter. Once these stages are complete, the application for funding can be sent to the GCF.

Table 6: Basic funding proposal work flow

Stages	Activity name	Responsible organisation(s)
One	Generate funding proposal	Accredited Entity (In consultation with the NDA)
Two	Develop Concept Note	Accredited Entity (In consultation with the NDA)
Three	No objection letter	NDA/FP
Four	Submit funding proposal	Accredited Entity (in consultation with NDA)
Five	Proposal review	GCF Secretariat and Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP)
Six	Proposal approval decision	GCF Board
Seven	Legal Agreements	Accredited Entity and GCF Trustee

4.2. GCF funding streams available for SVG

The GCF has a number of different funding mechanisms available, that are determined by the size of the project/program and level of funding required. Broadly, all GCF funds must meet six high level investment criteria, which are outlined below. These six criteria should be applied to investments across the eight GCF sub-sectors in Table 1.

Table 7: GCF high level investment criteria

GCF High level investment criteria	
Impact potential	Potential of the programme/project to contribute to the achievement of the Fund's objectives and result areas.
Paradigm shift potential	Degree to which the proposed activity can catalyse impact beyond a one-off project or programme investment.
Sustainable development potential	Wider benefits and priorities, including environmental, social, and economic co-benefits as well as gender-sensitive development impact.
Responsive to recipients needs	Vulnerability and financing needs of the beneficiary country and population in the targeted group.
Promote country ownership	Beneficiary country ownership of and capacity to implement a funded project or programme (policies, climate strategies and institutions).
Efficiency & effectiveness	Economic and, if appropriate, financial soundness of the programme/project, and for mitigation-specific programmes/projects, cost-effectiveness and co-financing.

The GCF offers five funding streams, with distinct funding application processes. The first is a conventional funding application, which presents the prototype of approval processes. The second is the Project Preparation Funding (PPF), which is tailored to support project preparations and usually involve a budget equal or smaller than US\$1.5 million. The third is the Private Sector Facility (PSF), an application process tailored to private sector mandates. The fourth is a GCF Request for Proposals (RFP), which responds to requests by the GCF which accredited entities and external entities can apply to. Finally, there is also a fast approval process (SAP), which is tailored to small investment projects requiring funding equal or below US\$10.0 million.

4.2.1. Conventional GCF funding application

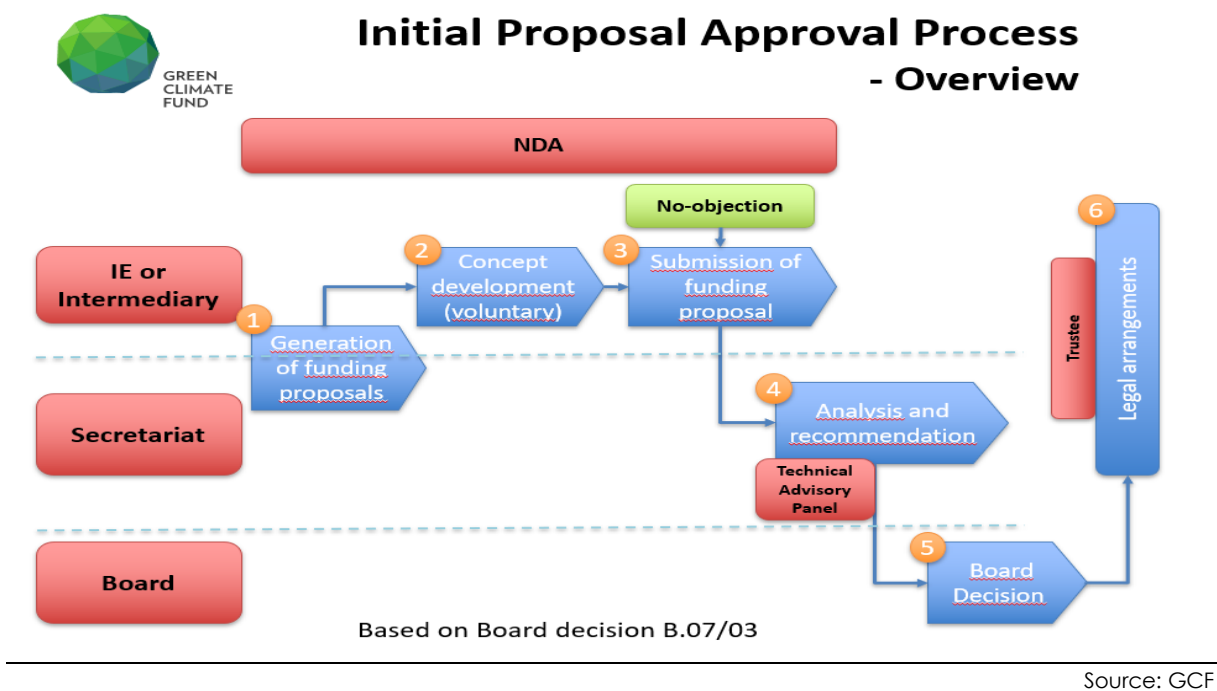
The most common method for DAEs to access financing through the GCF, is to submit a Concept Note, with supporting documentation (including a "No Objection letter from the NDA/FP), to the GCF secretariat. The process includes the following steps:

- ⇒ Generation of funding proposals by the accredited entities
- ⇒ Development of concept notes on voluntary basis by the accredited entity

- ⇒ Submission of a funding proposal to the GCF, ahead of which a no-objection letter is obtained from the NDA
- ⇒ The GCF Technical Advisory Panel review the proposal, send back to the accredited entity for further review and amendments, or to the GCF Board of Directors for approval
- ⇒ Board decision is made
- ⇒ Trustee of the GCF to draft the legal agreement in order to execute the funding

This process is illustrated in Figure 7 - flow diagram below¹².

Figure 7: GCF funding proposal flowchart

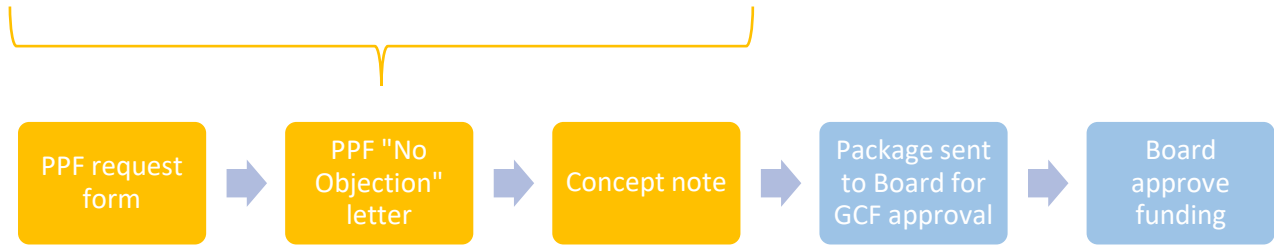


4.2.2. Project Preparation Funding (PPF) Application

Applicable only for projects with funding requirements classified as “micro” or “small” by the GCF, the Project Preparation Funding (PPF) application this is a fast track funding application, designed to help increase access to climate financing for AE(s). Each AE can request up to USD \$1.5mn of funds from the PPF.

To complete a PPF submission, the AE must submit three documents:

¹² GCF “4.3. Process_Flow_chart”, 2017, page 1



The NDA/FP should assist the AE across these three project stages by helping the AE to complete the PPF request form, helping the AE to engaging stakeholders in the project/program design so the NDA can provide a “No Objection letter” and finally the NDA/FP should assist with the creation of the Concept Note where necessary.

Once the project receives funding, the AE becomes responsible for implementing the approved project/program. However, it is important that the FP/NDA also ensures that the AE reporting standards meet the requirements of the GCF. This is essential to ensure consistency between parties, and deliveries as indicated at the time of submission of funding proposal and implementation.

Eligible projects for PPF funding include:

1. Pre-feasibility, feasibility studies and project design,
2. Environmental, Social and Gender studies,
3. Risk Assessments,
4. Identification of programme/project level indicators,
5. Pre-contract services, including revision of tender documents,
6. Advisory services and/or other services to financially structure a proposed activity, and
7. Other project preparation where necessary.

4.2.3. Private Sector Facility (PSF) application

The Private Sector Facility¹³ is an initiative by the GCF that aims to encourage institutional investors such as banks, pension companies and insurance companies, to co-invest alongside the GCF. The PSF uses a flexible range of financial instruments including debt, equity, and guarantees. It can also combine these instruments with concessional funding to promote private sector investing in the GCF areas of core activity by:

- De-risking investments, including foreign exchange and investors' default;
- Bundling small projects into portfolios, providing scale and making them attractive to institutional investors;

¹³ GCF, 2018, <https://www.greenclimate.fund/what-we-do/private-sector-facility>

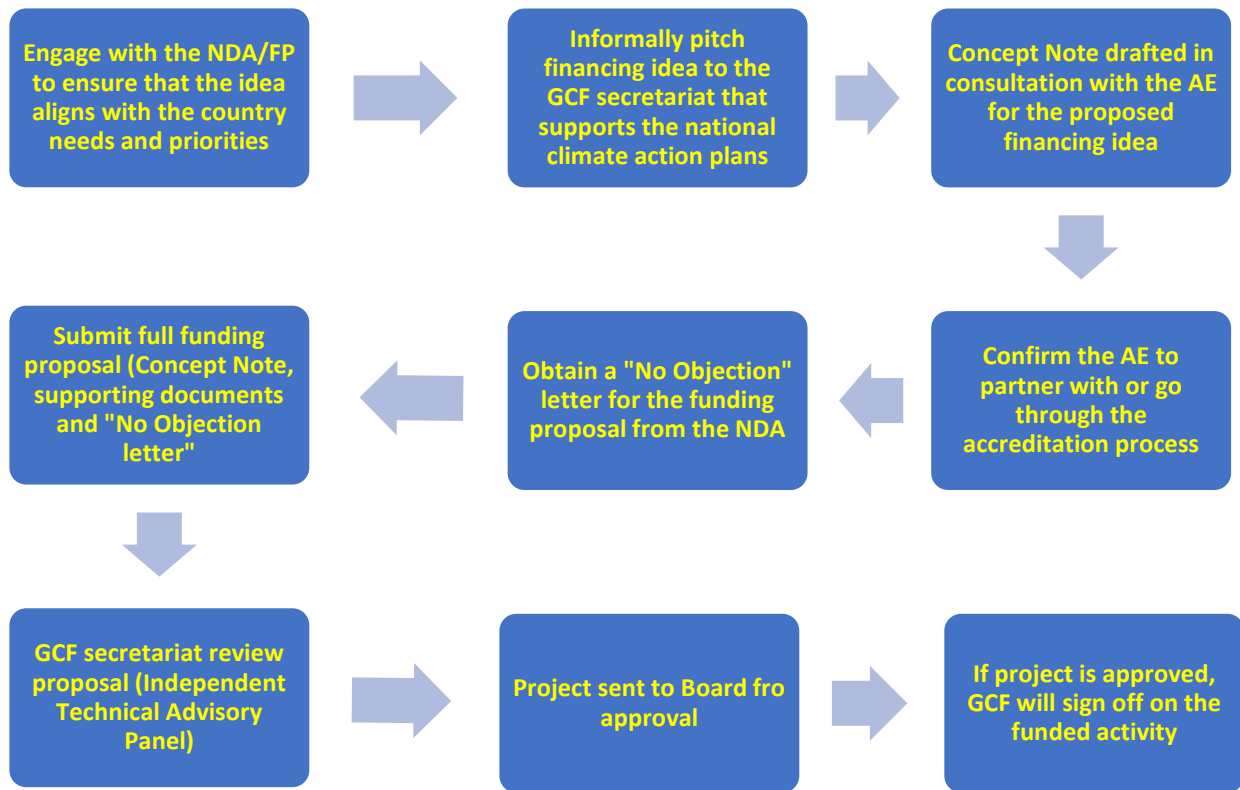
- Supporting capacity building amongst different groups and local institutions;
- Helping develop public-private partnerships for infrastructure resilience projects;
- Encouraging innovation, for example by overcoming scale problems and fragmentation within the supply chain; and
- Being active in the clean energy, climate resilience and sustainability communities.

To qualify for this financing stream, the entity must have three years of operational history and it can either apply to become an AE or it can partner with an existing AE in the country. The Private Sector Facility applicant must also demonstrate that they meet the six project investment criteria outlined by the GCF. These include:

- i. Demonstrating **Impact potential** for SVG.
- ii. Demonstrating **Paradigm Shift** potential.
- iii. Showing **Sustainable Development potential**.
- iv. Addressing **the Needs of the Recipient**.
- v. Fostering **Country Ownership**.
- vi. Demonstrating **Efficiency & Effectiveness**.

As this arrangement is more informal than the conventional GCF approach, it can follow a variety of formats. Below is a suggested work flow for helping NDA/FP to engage with the PSF:

Figure 8: Suggested PSF funding proposal approach



4.2.4. GCF Request for Funding Proposal (RFP)

In addition to making requests directly to the GCF via a national NDA, it is also possible for AEs to respond to **Requests for Proposals** put out by the GCF. As of July 2018, the GCF had three separate RFP funding streams:

1. Micro- Small-, and Medium-Sized Enterprises Pilot Programme
2. Enhancing Direct Access
3. Mobilising Funding at Scale Pilot Programme

These funding sources are constantly changing, but they can provide alternative solutions for institutions and AEs to access GCF financing. Keeping abreast of these RFPs is an important role for NDAs/FPs.

4.2.5. Simplified Approval Process (SAP)

The Simplified Approval Process is a pilot financing approach that the GCF introduced in October 2017. It reduces the volume and complexity of the paperwork that is required to submit a funding application to the GCF and over-time the scheme aims to allocate at least 50% of its portfolio to Direct Access Entities (DAEs).

The SAP pilot has three project eligibility requirements, which are:

1. The project/program is ready for scaling up and has the potential for promoting a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development;
2. The project requires a GCF financing of up to USD 10 million of the total project cost;
3. The environmental and social risks and impacts are classified as minimal to none.

SAP funding is geared towards projects such as early warning and other monitoring systems, Household-level facilities such as rainwater harvesting and small-scale renewable energy, Small-scale rural and urban community-based projects such as village water supply and drainage, and climate-resilient agriculture. The key behind all of these projects however is that they have no Known Risk Factors, or that these Risk Factors are well understood, small and are clearly addressable.

4.3. Concept Notes

Concept notes provide basic information about a project or programme that an Accredited Entity is submitting to the GCF for funding approval. Concept Notes provide Accredited Entities with a chance to seek initial feedback on whether their proposal matches the GCF's objectives and mandate, whilst providing a useful way to share funding ideas with the GCF secretariat. While Concept Notes are not mandatory, they are strongly encouraged and provide an invaluable opportunity for the DAE to receive guidance from the GCF Secretariat and Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP) before the project documents are submitted for Board approval.

The GCF concept note requires applicants to outline the context and baseline for the project/program that the AE is proposing. The Concept note should then outline the project/programs proposed components, activities and outputs, while explaining how these will help to address the climate challenge for which funding is being sought. Lastly, the concept note must include the cost components of the program and evidence that the entity requesting funding has discussed the proposal with the NDA and other stakeholders.

Prior to submitting a concept note, the DAE must make sure that it has undertaken the following actions:

1. Informed the NDA/FP about the proposed activity to be implemented in their country and commence consultations with a view to confirming it is in accordance with the country's strategic framework and priorities; and
2. Informed the GCF Secretariat that the DAE has commenced consultations with the NDA/FP

The Concept Note is an especially important section to cover aspects of Gender, Safeguards and reporting mechanisms that the DAE intends to address in the project/program.

4.4. The “No-Objection” Letter

4.4.1. Purpose: The “No-Objection” letter is designed to foster a transparent policy procedure so that DAE applications for financing through the GCF are consistent with the country’s national strategy. Also, the “No-Objection letter” is a mechanism to ensure that projects align with the GCFs strategic goals and SVG’s national strategies.

4.4.2. Objectives: The goal of a no-objection procedure is to:

- i. Develop coherence between national climate strategies and country driven approaches;
- ii. Facilitate genuine country ownership over financing and project development;
- iii. Provide effective direct and indirect public and private sector financing;
- iv. Give public and private stakeholders the opportunity to reject a component.

4.4.3. Process of Stakeholders Consultation: A no-objection procedure is a condition for approval. If not implemented correctly, it can hinder the development of legitimate projects, conflict with national law and perhaps compromise country ownership. Engaging all stakeholders throughout the no-objection letter procedure is essential for its success. An effective institutional process within the NDA can significantly streamline the “No Objection” process, by identifying key stakeholders and clearly demarcating their areas of potential engagement. See Figure 9.

4.4.4. Public Disclosure: Regardless of the exact process, the GCF recommends that the SVG’s NDA publishes its “No Objection” letter procedure so that it is transparent and clear for 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 GCF standards on Gender, the environment and financial reporting are incorporated. 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.

4.4.5. The NDA's governance and institutional responsibilities to the "No Objection":

- ⇒ *Alignment with climate change policies and priorities and with gender policies:* GCF guidelines expect NDAs to verify that project proposals are aligned with their countries' gender policies, as well as with their climate change policies and priorities, through the use of the no-objection procedure.
- ⇒ *Approach to stakeholder consultation:* The GCF also requires that each proposal for GCF funding will come with a description of how the NDA's "No Objection" procedure and national consultations that was conducted to ensure country ownership and, if not satisfactory, the GCF Board may reject the project/program proposal. See Figure 9 – Proposed Process for stakeholders' consultation and approval of "No-objection" letter.
- ⇒ *No-Objection for a programme:* For a funding proposal that is structured as a program with multiple projects and/or activities, only one "No Objection" letter is needed. However, this "No Objection" letter must then cover all the projects/activities within the program.
- ⇒ *No-Objection communication/coordination between NDA and GCF:* The GCF requires the NDAs official representative to sign the "No Objection" letter and the document must be sent by the NDA to the GCF directly, alongside any and all other necessary documents for the project/program submission. The GCF will then receive the proposal and if the "No Objection" letter is absent, it will inform the NDA. At this time, The NDA will have 30 days to provide a "No Objection" letter to the GCF secretariat or the proposal will be suspended by the GCF secretariat. Once the "No Objection" letter has been received, it will be treated as a formal document and will be made publicly available online. It is important to emphasise that a "No Objection" letter means that the government of SVG has no objection to the funding proposal, that the government believes the funding proposal is in-line with their national priorities, plans and strategies, and that the funding is consistent with other projects/programs that are underway in SVG.
- ⇒ *Gender considerations:* A particular area of focus for the GCF is the consideration given the gender. The Fund will expect that NDAs use, as appropriate, their national gender competencies in order to review climate change plans, programmes and projects¹⁴. In the context of SVG, it would therefore be extremely advantageous to engage prominent national

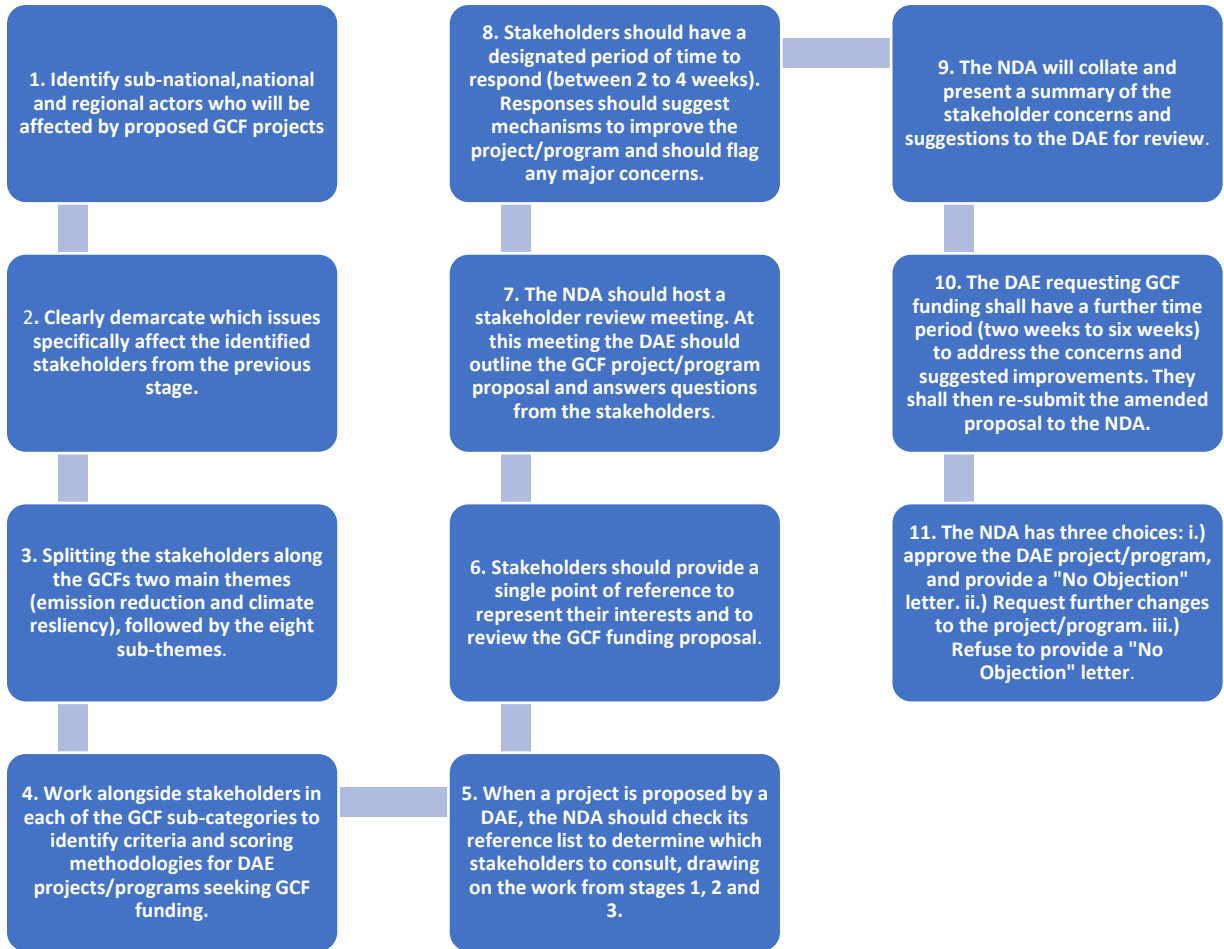
¹⁴ GCF,2018, "Annex XIV: Gender action plan 2015–2017", GCF/B.09/23, Page 89 found in doc: "1.8 - _Gender_Policy_and_Action_Plan".

stakeholders such as the Women in Agriculture (NGO) and The National Women's Council (NGO) at the earliest opportunity.

4.4.6. Process of no-objection letter: A proposed "No Objection" letter process has been developed and agreed on with the NDA. This process is adapted to the country's context and stakeholders mix, size and structure.

1. When a project is proposed by a DAE, the NDA will check its reference list of relevant stakeholders, which was developed by the NDA with cross reference to the two main themes of mitigation and adaptation, and by sector of activities. It will then determine which stakeholders to consult.
2. The NDA would make public on its website and through targeted communication to the relevant stakeholders identified under #1, that it intends to host a stakeholder townhall review meeting.
3. At this meeting the DAE should outline the GCF project/program proposal and answers questions from the stakeholders.
4. Stakeholders should have a designated period of time to respond (between 2 to 4 weeks). Responses should suggest mechanisms to improve the project/program and should flag any major concerns.
5. The NDA will collate and present a summary of the stakeholder concerns and suggestions to the DAE for review.
6. The DAE requesting GCF funding shall have a further time period (two weeks to six weeks) to address the concerns and suggested improvements. They shall then re-submit the amended proposal to the NDA.
7. The NDA has three choices: i.) approve the DAE project/program, and provide a "No Objection" letter. ii.) Request further changes to the project/program. iii.) Refuse to provide a "No Objection" letter.

Figure 9: Proposed Process for stakeholders' consultation and approval of "No-objection" letter



5. Monitoring & Evaluation - Building a system to monitor, evaluate and report on the GCF financed activities in SVG, for the GCF Secretariat and Board

SUMMARY BOX

- M&E deliverables during disbursement of GCF funds
 - Accreditation Stage
 - Implementing projects Stage
 - GCF's assessment documents
- Accredited entity compliance
- Funded activity monitoring
- Guidelines for Gender

Activities financed by the GCF must be continuously monitored to ensure their long-lasting success in SVG. In developing a robust Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework and process, the GCF places specific focus on two core requirements:

- i. **Accountability:** Misconduct can be avoided by creating a clear accounting system where individuals are ultimately responsible for the completion of their assigned task or for the outcome of an assigned group. Assigning definite roles and responsibilities to the NDA/FP is crucial for the success of this principle.
- ii. **Transparency:** To gain support within SVG among all stakeholders, public and private, it is important to intentionally share information regarding the financing mechanisms being accessed and their purpose. Being transparent will help create open communication about climate financing with the goal of creating an atmosphere that encourages the advancement of environmentally sustainable technology and policy. Transparency will be key when creating a communication strategy and public awareness campaign later in this component.

Once an organisation has become accredited through the GCF, it also assumes primary responsibility for ensuring that it has a clear M&E framework and process in place for any project/program funding it receives from the GCF. As an Accredited Entity, the GCF also requires an annual self-assessment review of the AE's operations over the year, for every year that the organisation remains accredited with the GCF. In these reviews, the AE must demonstrate that its institutional standards continue to meet (and ideally exceed) the standards the GCF set for accreditation.

However, the primary focus of the GCF M&E framework is to ensure that GCF financing is delivering its stated outcomes and that funds are not being misused. Therefore, for

each project/program that has received GCF funding, the AE is required to provide three sets of deliverables¹⁵:

- i. A logframe and identification of indicators in the original funding proposal,**
- ii. Annual Performance Reports from projects/programmes, and**
- iii. Interim and final evaluations at the project/programme level.**

These reports and evaluations will rely on the project baselines established in the project/program concept notes, to measure progress towards the stated targets of the GCF funded project/program.

5.1. M&E deliverables during disbursement of GCF funds

5.1.1. Accreditation Stage - The GCF Accreditation Master Agreement¹⁶ usually includes a Results Management Framework - Monitoring and Accountability, which defines the large lines of commitment by the AE.

5.1.2. Implementing projects Stage – M&E framework covers four stages and areas; (i) the project's first disbursement, (ii) the project's further disbursements, (iii) a general oversight and overview of implementation by the GCF's Portfolio Management Unit which oversees the project implementation and work of the AE, and (iv) AE's performance reports. These four areas are aligned with the project implementation cycle, which could be described as follows:

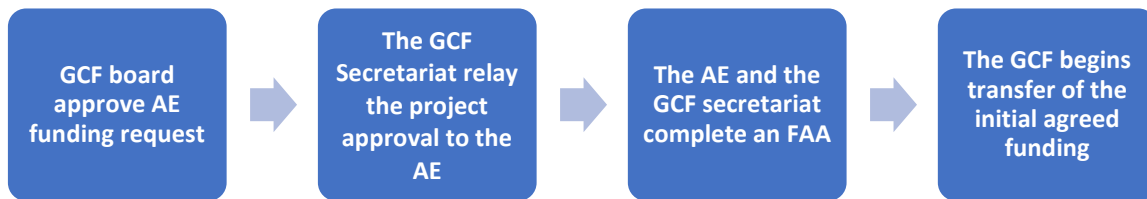
- ⇒ The first step in GCF project implementation is the creation of a legal agreement between the GCF and the implementing AE, which is called a Funded Activity Agreement (FAA). Once an FAA has been signed, the GCF then begins transferring financial assistance to the Accredited Entity in the form of a loan, grant, equity, or guarantee - depending on the nature of the approved project.
- ⇒ Typically, the GCF completes a series of financial disbursements during the life of a project/program, a process that allows the GCF to assess the impact of the climate finance initiatives it supports and monitor its delivery without disbursing all funds immediately. This can also allow the GCF to delay the release of further funds if concerns are raised through M&E reports.

¹⁵ GCF, “GCF Accreditation Introduction”, 2017, page 19

¹⁶ See various Accreditation Master Agreements: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/library/-/docs/list/383065>

- ⇒ The GCF assessments are designed to make sure that AE's projects are effective in dealing with climate change and that they comply with funding's (grants, loans, equity, guarantee) conditions and covenants, while observing the implementation schedule of the project. This helps ensure timely implementation by the AE.
- ⇒ By utilising project timelines provided by the AE, the GCF is able to maintain an overview of projects stated deliverables, while the GCF can track the project/program progress through the AE's requirement to produce independent evaluation reports at regular intervals. These reports must be produced at the mid-point of the project, and at the end, where a final evaluation is conducted after the project has closed.

Figure 10: The workflow for initial release of GCF fund

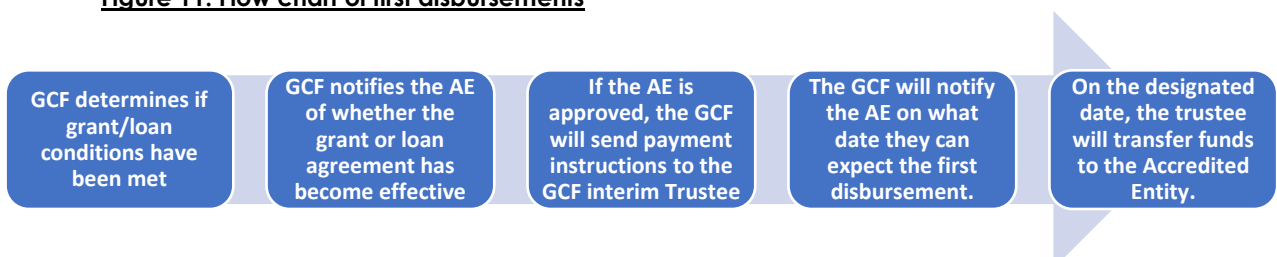


5.1.2.1. First Disbursement:

Following the FAA signing, GCF will take steps to ensure the implementation of the FAA agreement is effective. For instance, FAAs covering GCF's transfer of grant payments will stipulate conditions that must be fulfilled and, in some cases, the recipient AE may have to fulfil certain pre-conditions before the grant or loan is judged to be effective. The GCF will determine if the AE has fulfilled those conditions and once it is satisfied these conditions have been met, it will notify the AE that the grant or loan agreement has become effective.

Once the funding agreement has become effective, payment instructions are sent to the GCF's Trustee and the GCF will inform the Accredited Entity of the expected date of the first disbursement. The trustee will then transfer funds to the Accredited Entity.

Figure 11: Flow chart of first disbursements



5.1.2.2. Further disbursements:

Once the project has been approved by the GCF board, an FAA has been signed and the first GCF funds have been released by the trustee, the Accredited Entity can then request further disbursements from the GCF. These requests are normally based on information provided the GCF's its Annual Performance Review and they are based on the requirements outlined in the FAA between the AE and GCF. For example, grant projects normally require that 70 percent of the previous disbursement it has received has been accrued or committed before further funds can be requested. The GCF review also assesses other financial reports provided by the Accredited Entity, for example if they involve project implementation delays.

It is crucial to note that for further disbursements, the primary contact point is the GCF's Office of Portfolio Management, not the secretariat. The GCF Office of Portfolio management is responsible for ensuring that the AE's agreed disbursement goal is achieved and that any implementation delays are addressed. These are the two primary criteria by which the office will decide whether to continue disbursements to the AE for their project(s)/program(s) after the first disbursement has been released.

5.1.2.3. GCF Implementation overview:

After the completion of the first disbursement, ongoing interactions with the AE is transferred from the operational units (Division of Mitigation and Adaptation or Private Sector Facility) to GCF's Portfolio Management Unit, which leads GCF's interaction with the AE during the implementation phase of the project to closure.

The purpose is to ensure that a GCF-financed project is being properly implemented and is accomplishing its intended objectives and also includes the unit's review of regular reports required from Accredited Entities, such as financial, audit and evaluation reports. These reviews incorporate performance reviews against the GCF's **investment framework**, as well as an assessment of whether any local impacts have emerged since project initiation, as well as any updates on variations to the original project, as indicated in the funding proposal. This includes working with the AE on corrective actions and possible restructuring if issues surface during implementation of the project. The Accredited Entity normally proposes these in its mid-term evaluation report.

5.1.2.4. AE Performance reports:

While Accredited Entities are primarily responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the funded activities they carry out, they are also required to report regularly to GCF.

This is done in the form of the various reports such as Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and Mid-term/Final Evaluation Reports. All reporting should align with GCF's Monitoring and Accountability Framework (**MAF**) and Performance Measurement Framework (**PMF**) for adaptation and mitigation.

5.1.3. GCF's assessment documents include:

- **Inception Report:** helps to review and sequence activities and, if necessary, to reorganise the project work plan and implementation schedule.
- **Annual Performance Report (yearly and final):** records the status of implementation of each project activity, updates achievement indicators against targets and identifies implementation-related problems and mitigation measures.
- **Mid-term Evaluation Report:** presents preliminary or initial evaluation findings, measures and reports on performance to date and recommends adjustments (activities and outputs) that may need to be made to ensure the successful implementation of the project.
- **Final Evaluation Report:** measures the overall impact, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, replicability and lessons learned of a project.
- **Yearly audits and financial information:** regular financial reports and yearly/final financial statements.

The Annual Performance Report includes a narrative report, accompanied by supporting qualitative and quantitative data as needed, describing progress by the Accredited Entity in implementing the project. The report is based on the logical framework submitted in the funding proposal that specifies project component outputs, outcomes and activities. The APR will also indicate challenges or problems (if any) encountered during implementation, as well as identifying lessons learned.

5.2. Accredited entity compliance

The accreditation of an entity to the GCF is valid for a fixed term of five years or less, depending on the terms of accreditation. During the five-year accreditation term, the GCF will monitor the compliance of the AE with the standards of the GCF and its obligations, as follows:

- i. **On an annual basis,** AEs should provide a self-assessment of their compliance with the GCF fiduciary standards, environmental and social safeguards and gender policy. For international entities, the self-assessment, should also include

a report on the support provided to direct access entities for accreditation or to build their capacity, as requested by the Board. The GCF Secretariat has developed a standard template for such reports, adequately considering the nature of the entities and their capacities;

- ii. **At the midpoint of the accreditation period**, the Secretariat will undertake a light-touch mid-term review of the compliance performance of the AE. The Secretariat has developed a series of standard terms of reference for the mid-term reviews; and
- iii. **If needed**, the GCF will initiate additional ad hoc compliance reviews. The GCF Secretariat is responsible for programming mid-term reviews and any ad hoc reviews, in coordination with the AE, and producing the relevant reports.

The GCF may decide to undertake additional ad hoc checks to follow up on the reports on compliance and performance submitted by AEs, including site visits that can be arranged in coordination with the NDA/focal point and the AE.

5.3. Funded activity monitoring

AEs are primarily responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of its funded activities, and will report accordingly to the GCF. Therefore, during the project/programme implementation period, reporting requirements to the GCF may include the following:

- i. **Annual performance reports (APRs)**, including financial management reports. Among other things, the financial management reports will include dates and amounts disbursed for each funded activity and compliance with financial covenants; and
- ii. **An interim evaluation report and a final evaluation report for each funded activity**. These project/programme-level evaluations should also assess the performance of the funded activity against the GCF investment framework criteria, including financial/economic performances as part of the project/programme efficiency and effectiveness criterion.

To note during the post-implementation period, the submission of APRs might be required. In some cases, it will not be cost-effective to contract the AE to provide post-implementation monitoring.

Contents for APRs should include:

- A narrative report (with supporting data as needed) on implementation progress based on the logical framework submitted in the funding proposal,

- Considerations on the *ongoing performance of the project/programme against the GCF investment framework criteria*, including updates on the indicators and a *report on ESS as well as gender*, and
- The report should align with the modalities set out in the GCF results management framework and its performance measurement frameworks for adaptation and mitigation, as amended and updated from time to time. Reporting requirements on ESS in the APR will be consistent with the GCF environmental and social management system.

Annual stakeholder engagement:

At the project/programme level, the AE should include **participatory monitoring**, involving communities and local stakeholders, including civil society organizations, at all stages of the project/programme cycle from the beginning. For participatory monitoring of the overall portfolio of GCF-funded projects and programmes in each country, the NDA/FP is encouraged to organize an annual participatory review for local stakeholders, notably affected people and communities, including women and civil society organizations. The participatory review will adhere to the following:

- i. The policy of the GCF is to communicate in English. In cases where participatory review requires materials in local languages in order to be effective and meaningful, the NDA, in cooperation with the AE, shall provide such materials in a timely manner in advance of the participatory review; and
- ii. The Readiness Programme, in coordination with the NDA, may provide support to such participatory monitoring and reviews.

5.4. Guidelines for Gender¹⁷

The GCFs Gender policy has **six primary objectives**, that underpin the decisions made by the fund when choosing to approve funding for project/program proposals by AEs. But the GCF also expects that once the funding has been approved, that the AE can continuously demonstrate that the funding it has been allocated is continuing to address its objectives on an operational basis. Where the AE is failing to address these objectives at an operational level, discussions may be held with GCF staff to find ways to alter/adjust the program/project delivery to improve its ability to achieve these objectives. If sufficiently serious, the GCF may even suspend additional payments until a solution can be found. Table nine layout the framework of the six objectives.

¹⁷ GCF,2018, “Annex XIV: Gender action plan 2015–2017”, GCF/B.09/23, Page 90 found in doc: “1.8_ _Gender_Policy_and_Action_Plan”.

Table 8: The SIX GCF objectives for Gender

Objective	Description of objectives
Commitment	<p>By adopting a gender-sensitive approach in its mandate on climate change, the Fund commits to contributing to gender equality, as enshrined in international agreements and national constitutions, and other human rights agreements.</p> <p>The Fund thereby also commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Understand the sociocultural factors underlying climate change-exacerbated gender inequality, and the potential contribution of women and men to societal changes in order to build resilience to, and the ability to address, climate change; (b) Adopt methods and tools to promote gender equality and reduce gender disparities in its climate funding; and (c) Measure the outcomes and impacts of its activities on women and men's resilience to climate change.
Comprehensiveness, in scope and coverage	<p>The Fund applies its gender policy to all its climate mitigation and adaptation activities, whether implemented by international, regional, national or subnational, public or private entities that are accredited to the Fund.</p>
Accountability	<p>After accreditation, and at the project/programme level, the Accredited Entity will be responsible for implementing the gender policy as it relates to the Fund-approved project/programme through in-country project identification and implementation, as well as for results reporting. The application of the Fund's guidelines on the initial socioeconomic and gender assessments and the Fund's environmental and social safeguards (ESS) as it relates to the project/programme is mandatory. Gender-related complaints and grievances that may occur in projects and programmes are processed through the Fund's redress mechanism.</p>
Country ownership	<p>The Fund informs national designated authorities (NDAs) and focal points (FPs) that proposed projects or programmes submitted to the Fund are required to be aligned with national policies and priorities on gender and with the Fund's gender policy. The Fund requires that women and men be provided with equitable opportunity to be included in stakeholder consultations and decision-making during project and programme preparation, implementation and evaluation.</p>
Competencies	<p>The Fund's accreditation process and fit-for-purpose approach recognize that there is a wide range of types of organizations and institutional capacities. In the accreditation process, entities will be required to have policies, procedures and competencies in place in order to implement the Fund's gender policy.</p>
Resource allocation	<p>The Fund's resource allocation for adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. The Fund seeks to ensure that its projects and programmes support initiatives addressing the inequity of climate change impacts and to provide gender-sensitive solutions to climate change mitigation, adaptation or readiness.</p>

In addition to the GCFs six gender objectives, the fund has **gender requirements under its M&E framework**, which outline a series of actions that it has determined as necessary in order to ensure that its gender objectives are incorporated into program/project designs and subsequently delivered.

Table 9: GCF Gender requirements for AE's under the Monitoring & Evaluation framework.

The AE gender requirements under the GCF M&E framework	
Action needed	Reason for action
A mandatory initial socioeconomic and gender assessment	Establishes a set of baseline data, from which the project/programs performance can be measured against.
	Requires the AE to explain and determine how the project/program can respond to the needs of women and men, in view of the specific climate change issue to be addressed.
	It helps AEs to identify the drivers of change and specific gender dynamics present in across the project(s)/program(s), thus allowing the AE to develop adaption or mitigation goals.
	Helps AEs to identify and design specific gender elements to be included within the project/programme activities.
	Provides an estimate of the implementation budget.
	May help inform AEs choice of output, outcome and impact indicators for the project(s)/program(s), and,
	It can help AEs to design project/programme implementation and monitoring arrangements within the existing institutional structure.
Gender equitable stakeholders' consultations	Needed to help set the gender parameters provided in the GCF policy, into the project/programme.
Inclusion of gender perspective in the application	A mandatory requirement to ensure that women's views have been solicited during the design of the project, to mitigate any risks of negative impact on women and to encourage greater socio-economic outcomes for women from the project.

Appendices:

1. Key SVG stakeholders

Public Sector	Financial Institutions	Private sector corporations	Business Associations	NGOs
The Central Water and Sewage Authority	Bank of SVG	Massy (important conglomerate)	Chamber of Industry and Commerce	Richmond Val Academy
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology	Credit Union Bank	Win Fresh	Hotel and Tourism Association	Sustainable Grenadines Inc
Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment	Nova Scotia Bank	ECGC (Flour and rice producers)	Inter-American Institute for Agriculture and Cooperation	Women in Agriculture
The SVG utility company	RBTT (Royal Bank of Canada)	Eastern Caribbean Group and Co	CARDI	National Women's Council
National Emergency Management organization	First Caribbean	Saint Vincent Coco Company	CRFM – Caribbean Regional Fishing Mechanism	Red Cross
International Airport Authority	Courts Saint Vincent	Flow and Digicel (Telecommunication Co)		National Youth Environmental Network
Port Authority	Saint Vincent Insurance			Rotary Club
Maritime Administration				
Tourism Authority				
Ministry of Agriculture				
Ministry of Transport				
Micro Finance Business Institute				

2. The GCF Environmental and Social Safeguard standards

I. Overview of the International Finance Corporation Performance Standards

1. The eight Performance Standards (PS) and the objectives of each are as follows:

1.1 PS1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts

- (a) Identify funding proposal's environmental and social risks and impacts;
- (b) Adopt mitigation hierarchy: anticipate, avoid; minimize; compensate or offset;
- (c) Improve performance through an environmental and social management system;
- (d) Engagement with affected communities or other stakeholders throughout funding proposal cycle. This includes communications and grievance mechanisms. ^[1]_{SEP}

1.2 PS2: Labour and working conditions ^[1]_{SEP}

- (a) Fair treatment, non-discrimination, equal opportunity;
- (b) Good worker–management relationship; ^[1]_{SEP}
- (c) Comply with national employment and labour laws; ^[1]_{SEP}
- (d) Protect workers, in particular those in vulnerable categories;
- (e) Promote safety and health; ^[1]_{SEP}
- (f) Avoid use of forced labour or child labour. ^[1]_{SEP}

1.3 PS3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention

- (a) Avoid, minimize or reduce project-related pollution;
- (b) More sustainable use of resources, including energy and water;
- (c) Reduced project-related greenhouse gas emissions.

1.4 PS4: Community health, safety and security

- ^[1]_{SEP} (a) To anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of the affected community; ^[1]_{SEP}
- (b) To safeguard personnel and property in accordance with relevant human rights principles. ^[1]_{SEP}

1.5 PS5: Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement

- (a) Avoid/minimize adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use; ^[1]_{SEP}
 - (i) Avoid/minimize displacement;
 - (ii) Provide alternative project designs; ^[1]_{SEP}
 - (iii) Avoid forced eviction.

- (b) Improve or restore livelihoods and standards of living;
- (c) Improve living conditions among displaced persons by providing:
 - (i) Adequate housing;
 - (ii) Security of tenure.

1.6 PS6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources

- (a) Protection and conservation of biodiversity;^{[1][1]}_[SEP]
- (b) Maintenance of benefits from ecosystem services;^{[1][1]}_[SEP]
- (c) Promotion of sustainable management of living natural resources;
- (d) Integration of conservation needs and development priorities.

1.7 PS7: Indigenous peoples

- (a) Ensure full respect for indigenous peoples;^{[1][1]}_[SEP]
 - (i) Human rights, dignity, aspirations;
 - (ii) Livelihoods;^{[1][1]}_[SEP]
 - (iii) Culture, knowledge, practices;
- (b) Avoid/minimize adverse impacts;^{[1][1]}_[SEP]
- (c) Sustainable and culturally appropriate development benefits and opportunities;
- (d) Free, prior and informed consent in certain circumstances.

1.8 PS8: Cultural heritage

- (a) Protection and preservation of cultural heritage;^{[1][1]}_[SEP]
- (b) Promotion of equitable sharing of cultural heritage benefits.

2. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) PS can be viewed at:

https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/8804e6fb-bd51-4822-92cf-3dfd8221be28/PS1_English_2012.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=jiVQlfe

II. Performance Standard Guidance Notes

3. A set of eight Guidance Notes, corresponding to each PS, offers guidance on the requirements contained in the PS. In addition, the World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of good international practice and are linked to the PS through PS2 and PS3.

4. The Guidance Notes and EHS Guidelines can be found at:

https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/6df1de8f-2a00-4d11-a07c-c09b038f947b/GN1_English_2012.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=meSEv.U

3. The GCF Gender standards

The GCFs Gender policy four objectives:

- I. To ensure that by adopting a gender-sensitive approach, the Fund will achieve greater, more effective, sustainable, and equitable climate change results, outcomes and impacts, in an efficient and comprehensive manner in both its internal and external procedures and activities;
- II. To build equally women and men's resilience to, and ability to address climate change, and to ensure that women and men will equally contribute to, and benefit from activities supported by the Fund;
- III. To address and mitigate against assessed potential project/programme risks for women and men associated with adaptation and mitigation activities financed by the Fund; and,
- IV. To contribute to reducing the gender gap of climate change-exacerbated social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

These four objectives are underpinned by six principles:

- I. **Commitment**
 - a. By adopting a gender-sensitive approach in its mandate on climate change, the Fund commits to contributing to gender equality, as enshrined in international agreements and national constitutions, and other human rights agreements.
 - b. The Fund thereby also commits to:
 - i. (a) Understand the sociocultural factors underlying climate change-exacerbated gender inequality, and the potential contribution of women and men to societal changes in order to build resilience to, and the ability to address, climate change;
 - c. Adopt methods and tools to promote gender equality and reduce gender disparities in its climate funding; and
 - d. Measure the outcomes and impacts of its activities on women and men's resilience to climate change.
- II. **Comprehensiveness, in scope and coverage**
 - a. The Fund applies its gender policy to all its climate mitigation and adaptation activities, whether implemented by international, regional, national or subnational, public or private entities that are accredited to the Fund.
- III. **Accountability**
 - a. The Fund accounts to its Board for gender and climate change results and outcomes, and reports annually in a transparent manner. Qualitative and quantitative gender monitoring, impact, and outcome indicators are included in the results management and performance measurement frameworks (GCF/B.08/07).

- b. Through the accreditation process and taking into account the fit-for-purpose accreditation approach, entities will be required to meet the Fund's gender policy. They will also be required to have policies, procedures and competencies in place with which to implement the Fund's gender policy. After accreditation, and at the project/programme level, the Accredited Entity will be responsible for implementing the gender policy as it relates to the Fund-approved project/programme through in-country project identification and implementation, as well as for results reporting. The application of the Fund's guidelines on the initial socioeconomic and gender assessments and the Fund's environmental and social safeguards (ESS) as it relates to the project/programme is mandatory.
- c. Gender-related complaints and grievances that may occur in projects and programmes are processed through the Fund's redress mechanism.
- d. The Fund's management and staff are accountable for gender results. This is reflected in the Fund's administrative policies and procedures, including human resource management and the procurement of contractors.

IV. Country ownership

- a. The Fund informs national designated authorities (NDAs) and focal points (FPs) that proposed projects or programmes submitted to the Fund are required to be aligned with national policies and priorities on gender and with the Fund's gender policy.
- b. The Fund requires that women and men be provided with equitable opportunity to be included in stakeholder consultations and decision-making during project and programme preparation, implementation and evaluation.

V. Competencies

- a. The Fund strives to reach gender balance in key advisory and decision-making bodies, including in the appointments of its members of the Board and Secretariat management and staff. The Secretariat also will appoint a senior staff member(s) with competencies in gender and social development in order to lead the implementation of the policy; the senior staff members(s) will report to the head of accreditation within the Secretariat. In addition, the Secretariat strives for the relevant gender and climate change competencies to be included in the Accreditation Panel, the Investment Committee, the Risk Management

Committee and the Private Sector Advisory Group, as well as amongst technical advisers.

- b. The Fund's accreditation process and fit-for-purpose approach recognize that there is a wide range of types of organizations and institutional capacities. In the accreditation process, entities will be required to have policies, procedures and competencies in place in order to implement the Fund's gender policy.
- c. NDAs/FPs and entities may request readiness and preparatory support from the Fund so as to enhance their capacity to implement the gender policy.
- d. The Fund commits to knowledge generation as experience is gained on gender and climate change. It also commits to capitalize on knowledge and expertise gained from other organizations. Such knowledge is to be used to strengthen the competencies of all stakeholders.

VI. Resource allocation

- VII.** The Fund's resource allocation for adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. The Fund seeks to ensure that its projects and programmes support initiatives addressing the inequity of climate change impacts and to provide gender-sensitive solutions to climate change mitigation, adaptation or readiness. When it is necessary to correct for climate change-exacerbated gender inequality which affects women, the Fund will target funds to support women's climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

4. SVG Team for GCF readiness project

The current project team from SVG, to support the readiness work for accessing GCF funding was outlined in the Inception report and is shown below:

SVG-GCF Project Team Member	Inception Phase
Office of Director of Economic Planning & PSIPMU	
NDA/FP Ricardo Frederick, Director of Planning	SVG
Marcelle Edwards John, Deputy Director of Planning	SVG
Giselle Myers, Senior Economist	SVG
Roxanne John	SVG
Sustainable Development Unit	
Janeel Miller-Findlay	SVG
Nyasha Hamilton	SVG
Yasa Belmar	SVG

5. Accreditation fees

Financial capacity	Threshold	Fee level for ESS & basic fiduciary standards	Fee level for specialised fiduciary standards	Others fees
Micro	Total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by the Fund, less than or equal to USD \$10 million for an individual project or activity.	Subnational and national entities in developing countries including SIDS and LDCs: no fee All other entities: USD \$1,000	USD \$500 each activity undertaken	Other fees may apply if the application is reviewed by the Secretariat or Accreditation Panel more than twice. The amount of the fee is to be determined on a case-by-case approach by the Secretariat.
Small	Total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by the Fund, above USD \$10 million and up to and including USD \$50 million for an individual project or Activity.	SIDS and LDCs: no fee Subnational and national entities in developing countries other than SIDS and LDCs: USD \$3,000 All other entities: USD \$5,000	USD \$1,000 each activity undertaken	
Medium	Total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by the Fund, above	USD \$10,000	USD \$3,000 each activity undertaken	

	USD \$50 million and up to and including USD \$250 million for an individual project or Activity			
Large	Total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by the Fund, above USD \$250 million for an individual project or Activity	USD \$25,000	USD \$7,000 each activity undertaken	

6. Nomination letter template

[Government Letterhead]

Mr. XXXYYY
Executive Director
G-Tower, 24-4 Songdo-dong, Yeonsu-gu
Incheon City, Republic of Korea

Date:
Reference:
Page:

Subject: Expression of nomination for the application for accreditation to the Green Climate Fund

Dear Mr. XXXYYY,

Pursuant to paragraph 47 of the Governing Instrument for the Green Climate Fund, [in my capacity as representative of the National Designated Authority] OR [in my capacity as focal point] for [country name], duly designated pursuant to the letter from [government ministry/authority] to the Fund dated [date], I hereby nominate the entity below for accreditation by the Green Climate Fund:

[Legal name of the applicant entity]

[Contact person: name]

[Contact details: telephone, address, email address]

[The NDA/focal point may wish to include information on how the entity being nominated can contribute to the country's programming priorities with the GCF]

Sincerely,

[Name of the contact point of NDA or focal point]

[Position/Title in Government]

[Division/Office]

[Ministry/Agency]

See link at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/gcf101/getting-accredited/accreditation-process#step-preparing-an-application>

PLEASE DELETE THIS PAGE FOR SIGNED NOMINATION LETTER

Note: Please use the table below when you send the scan copy of signed nomination letter by e-mail. Please fill out the table, copy and paste the table in your email text.

NDA/FP full name	
NDA/FP Surname (surname to be addressed in the acknowledgement letter)	
NDA Address	
Date of letter sent	
Reference no. of letter (if there is any)	
Name of the entity nominated	
Name of the contact person	
Contact details of the contact person (Address, telephone number, e-mail)	

See link at:

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574715/Letter to GCF 05 - Nomination of an entity for accreditation to GCF.docx/ffe4baa5-af3f-4fca-a68b-d8f7fe7948ba?version=1.8>

7. No Objection Letter template

To: The Green Climate Fund ("GCF")

[place], [date]

Re: Funding proposal for the GCF by [name Accredited Entity] regarding [name project/programme]

Dear Madam, Sir,

We refer to the project [or programme] [name project [or programme]] in [country] as included in the funding proposal submitted by [name Accredited Entity] to us on [date].

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of [name NDA/focal point], the National Designated Authority/focal point of [country].

Pursuant to GCF decision B.08/10, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

- (a) The government of [country] has no-objection to the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal;
- (b) The project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with [country]'s national priorities, strategies and plans;
- (c) In accordance with the GCF's environmental and social safeguards, the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with relevant national laws and regulations.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal has been duly followed.

[We also confirm that our no-objection applies to all projects or activities to be implemented within the scope of the programme.]

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the GCF website.

Kind regards,

Name:

Title:

The GCF link can be found here:

[https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574715/Letter to GCF 01 - No-objection_letter.docx/09728ebd-3848-48ab-b515-cff59f9ea87b?version=1.9](https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574715/Letter_to_GCF_01_-_No-objection_letter.docx/09728ebd-3848-48ab-b515-cff59f9ea87b?version=1.9)

8. Accreditation Application form

Link to pdf: [Accreditation Application form](#)

9. Key GCF weblinks

GCF accreditation process 101: https://www.greenclimate.fund/gcf101/getting-accredited/accreditation-process#p_p_id_56_INSTANCE_k99OxKVZYTEg

GCF Online self-assessment tool for entities seeking accreditation:

https://www.greenclimate.fund/gcf101/getting-accredited/accreditation-process#p_p_id_56_INSTANCE_k99OxKVZYTEg

Other Key documents on GCF Accreditation are available from the links below:

- [Introduction to Accreditation Framework](#)
- [Self-assessment Tool](#)
- [Online Accreditation System \(OAS\)](#)
- [OAS Account Request Form](#)
- [NDA/FP Nomination Letter for Application](#)
- [Application Form with Examples](#)
- [Fast-Track Accreditation Guidance](#)
- [OAS Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Letter on Accreditation and Confidentiality](#)
- [OAS User's Guide](#)
- [Accreditation Panel](#)
- [Checklist Stage I \(Secretariat\)](#)
- [Checklist Stage II \(Accreditation Panel\)](#)
- [Stage III - Accreditation Master Agreement Template](#)

