

GREEN CLIMATE FUND IN YOUR COUNTRY

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<http://bit.ly/1osTa6n>

» **HOW DO I FIND OUT IF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND IS GOING TO FINANCE PROJECTS NEAR ME?**

Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects and programmes can only take place in countries where approval has been given by a National Designated Authority (NDA) or “focal point,” usually housed within a government ministry (a full list is here: bit.ly/1RY9w1W).

NDAs and focal points are expected to engage in a process of multi-stakeholder engagement before issuing a “no objection” letter approving a project, although it remains to be seen if this will happen in practice. Contacting an NDA or focal point is a good starting point for finding out about activities that the GCF is considering funding in your area.

Non-governmental organizations may have further information on GCF activities, notably through www.gcfwatch.org.

It is also worth checking the official GCF website (www.greencimate.fund), which should list projects and programmes three weeks in advance of their approval by the Fund’s Board.

» **WILL COMMUNITIES BE CONSULTED BEFORE THE GCF APPROVES PROJECT FUNDING?**

Although there is no GCF minimum standard on consultation, the Fund’s Board has provided “best practice guidance” that recommends comprehensive stakeholder input when considering the development of a country’s strategic framework, country programme or funding proposals.

Civil society organizations can encourage NDAs or focal points to see them as partners and involve them as important stakeholders by reminding them of the existing GCF guidelines and of the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and GCF. Let them know you are holding them to account for their actions. Demand that they communicate transparently with all stakeholders and engage you in meaningful consultative processes.

Civil society groups can provide practical support by reaching out to communities potentially affected by project proposals and informing them of the potential negative or positive impacts. Possible actions include facilitating contact between communities and the NDA, focal point, or other relevant civil society organizations and actors in their region.

» **WHO DECIDES ON WHAT ACTIVITIES RECEIVE GCF FUNDING, AND HOW CAN THEY BE CONTACTED?**

The GCF Board is responsible for all funding decisions, as well as approving partner organizations (“accredited entities”) to manage and deliver projects and programmes. Accredited entities are responsible for implementing social and environmental safeguards, and should reach out to affected communities. Unfortunately, there is no obligation for the Fund to publish the contact details of these organizations or publicise proposed activities in advance of this process.

GCFwatch.org is a civil society platform for sharing information about GCF projects and programmes at a national level, as well as tracking policies and pledges to the Fund.

Although civil society groups are not involved in making Board decisions, two “active observers” can make interventions and raise concerns at GCF Board meetings and may help you reach out directly to individual Board members. Their contact details are on the GCF website.

Civil society organizations can take up local or national issues with NDAs or focal points in their own country. In addition, groups can come together with other organizations in their networks to create targeted campaigns across borders. Joint actions might include developing common standards of monitoring, or tracking the implementation of the project in their locality.

» CAN MY ORGANIZATION RECEIVE GCF FUNDING?

The GCF funds projects and programmes through partner organizations call “accredited entities”, which are approved to manage funds and apply safeguards. There are currently 20 such entities (listed here: bit.ly/1NcSkzj).

Becoming an accredited entity is a complex process, and requires a fairly high standard of proof that your organization can meet the Fund’s fiduciary standards and manage its environmental and social safeguards. It is best to first contact the NDA or focal point, and/or to reach out to the Fund’s Secretariat (accreditation@gcfund.org).

If you want to apply for project or programme funding without going through this process, your organization must partner with one of the accredited entities and ask them to submit a project or programme on your behalf. In this case, the entity would ensure that your project meets GCF standards, taking a management fee in return.

There are also various ways that your organization might receive smaller amounts of GCF money. Activities funded by the GCF will likely pass on work to one or more “executing entities”, which are the organizations that actually do the work on

the ground. The accredited entities (or further intermediaries engaged by them) are responsible for this sub-contracting.

» WHAT TYPES OF GCF FUNDING COULD MY ORGANIZATION ACCESS?

It is worth noting that GCF projects and programmes are approved on a scale of several million US dollars at a time (“micro” projects can be as big as US\$10 million, “small” up to US\$50 million, etc.).

Some GCF-funded activities will support local organizations that can issue smaller loans or grants. For example, the KawiSafi Ventures Fund – one of the first GCF projects to be approved – expects to support local financial institutions in lending money to solar developers and purchasers of solar equipment in East Africa (starting in Rwanda and East Kenya).

The GCF Board has also approved a couple of pilot programmes that could reach smaller enterprises and community organizations. A US\$200 million Enhanced Direct Access programme will support at least 10 national authorities to distribute money to small schemes in their countries. A US\$200 million pilot programme has also been approved to target domestic Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME).

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