



43rd Board Meeting of the Green Climate Fund

October 27-30, 2025, Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities

Intervention on

SAP055: Strengthening the Health Resilience of Communities Vulnerable to Climate Change in Benin's ABD (Adjohoun, Bonou and Dangbo) Zone

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b43-02-add02>

We appreciate this proposal from the National Fund for Environment and Climate (FNEC), which represents an important step forward in promoting Direct Access under the GCF. It stands as a positive example of a national entity taking leadership to address the pressing challenges at the intersection of climate change, ecosystems, and human health.

We commend the project's multi-stakeholder implementation structure. By engaging a broad network of national and local institutions—including relevant ministries, technical directorates, and CSOs—the proposal enhances prospects for sustainability and institutional learning. This inclusive approach ensures that the technical capacities and knowledge generated through the project remain in-country, embedded within existing systems, and can be more easily scaled up beyond the life of the project.

We also appreciate the integration of traditional knowledge systems, particularly the valorization of medicinal plants and community-based health practices. These elements represent not only a culturally appropriate entry point for climate-resilient health action but also a valuable contribution to preserving biodiversity and local knowledge that are often overlooked in adaptation planning. The inclusion of training local trainers to ensure wide dissemination of project knowledge and practices—helping sustain and expand results—is likewise welcomed.

Finally, the scale of the project provides an opportunity to test and refine methodologies, delivery mechanisms, and coordination frameworks before advancing to larger-scale replication. This stepwise approach enhances the likelihood that lessons learned will inform future programming, strengthening both institutional capacity and project management systems, and positioning FNEC for progressively larger, transformational investments in subsequent phases.

We encourage the Secretariat to view this project as an opportunity to strengthen the Direct Access architecture in practice—linking capacity building, local knowledge, and intersectoral collaboration to promote sustainable, country-owned and driven adaptation solutions.