In the past decade, governments around the world have set collective climate and sustainable development goals that go far beyond previous agreements and commitments in terms of scope and ambition.

The year 2015, in particular, marks the convergence of three independently adopted but deeply interrelated milestones: the 2030 Development Agenda, including the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

**2015 MILESTONES**

**SDGS 2030 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**
17 goals on boosting economic growth, reducing poverty, protecting the environment, and taking strong action on climate change. It is estimated that implementing the SDGs in developing countries will require approximately $4 trillion dollars per year.

**AAAA ADDIS ABABA AGENDA**
A global financing framework to mobilise resources for sustainable development. The AAAA re-affirmed the commitment made by developed countries to provide $100 billion in climate finance annually by 2020 to developing countries (Cancun 2010).

**COP21 PARIS AGREEMENT**
Unprecedented goals for climate change based on individual country plans called *Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*. The Paris Agreement re-iterated the $100 billion per year commitment and extended it to the year 2025, making the $100 billion a floor from which to scale up climate finance.
The global landscape of climate finance is highly fragmented and complex, involving multiple pathways, actors, institutions, and instruments. Funds provided by developed countries to developing countries for climate adaptation and mitigation actions are channelled through various multilateral funds – both within and outside the scope of the operating entities of the UNFCCC’s financial mechanism.

Developing countries indisputably need climate finance to flow at a sufficient scale and in a timely manner. While the options and possibilities for countries to access climate finance are expected to increase, with a multitude of funding channels, this can also make the process even more complicated and confusing. Which funds to turn to? For which activities? At what costs? These are a few of the many questions that climate change decision-makers must contend with. Each fund is administered with complicated rules and procedures, which makes it very challenging for developing countries to navigate when seeking to fund their domestic climate actions. There is currently no ‘one-stop-shop’ to provide useful and quick answers.

The Climate Finance Readiness E-book is a series of short briefs prepared by the South Centre to provide developing countries with a «help desk» to access and more effectively and efficiently utilise the complex web of climate finance information available to them. This brief will be updated periodically and will shine a spotlight on different geographical areas. The South Centre welcomes questions, comments, and suggestions for this series of briefs to continuously improve its help desk function on Climate finance.

ABOUT THE SOUTH CENTRE

The South Centre is the intergovernmental organisation of developing countries that provides research, analysis and policy support to developing countries for collective and individual action in the international arena.

The South Centre embodies an understanding, from a South perspective, of the new and emerging issues, and the challenges and opportunities they pose for the South.

We do our best to ensure that the data we release is complete, accurate and useful. However, challenges were encountered in the collection of some climate finance data, as there is limited access to data, and available data are, in some cases, inconsistent with each other.

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WHAT IS CLIMATE FINANCE?

Although there is no internationally agreed definition of the term climate finance, this brief typically refers to the new and additional financial resources provided by developed countries to support developing countries’ efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate variability and climate change. It is a commitment agreed to by developed countries under the UNFCCC and reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement (Article 9).

CLIMATE FINANCE FLOWS FROM DEVELOPED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Climate finance flows can be classified based on several dimensions, including the sources, instruments, disbursement channels, recipients and end uses. There is contestation about how the following estimates are measured, what is counted and whether all of it is new and additional funding or recycled from development finance.

Between 2015 and 2020, public climate finance flows from developed to developing countries increased at an average of 4.6% per year, reaching USD 40.1 billion in 2020. A significant portion of this flow occurred through bilateral, regional and other channels. In 2020, only 21% of public climate finance flowed through multilateral channels, including the operating entities of the UNFCCC.

The largest share of climate finance goes toward mitigation activities. However, the share of adaptation finance saw a significant increase in 2020, rising from 18% to 31%.

WHO PROVIDES CLIMATE FINANCE?

The UNFCCC specifies the nature and scope of climate finance as flows from developed countries to finance climate-related policies, projects and programmes, including for technology transfer and development, in developing countries. Thereby, the Convention states that developed countries (Annex II Parties) shall provide financial assistance to developing countries to enable them to address climate change and adapt to its adverse effects (Article 4.3 and 4.4).

OVERVIEW CLIMATE FINANCE

Climate finance flows from developed to developing countries increased at an average of 4.6% per year, reaching USD 40.1 billion in 2020. A significant portion of this flow occurred through bilateral, regional and other channels. In 2020, only 21% of public climate finance flowed through multilateral channels, including the operating entities of the UNFCCC.

The largest share of climate finance goes toward mitigation activities. However, the share of adaptation finance saw a significant increase in 2020, rising from 18% to 31%.

Source: Data from the UNFCCC Fifth Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows
At COP27, Parties agreed to establish a **Loss and Damage** Fund.

Distinct from mitigation and adaptation, *loss and damage* refers to the negative effects of climate change that societies cannot prevent or adapt to.

The new fund is still in the process of being developed, however, it is a significant step towards climate justice as developing countries disproportionately suffer from losses and damages caused by climate change.

**WHAT ARE SOME KEY FUNDS?**

**MITIGATION**
- CTF **Clean Technology Fund** CIF
- SREP **Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program** CIF
- FIP **Forest Investment Program** CIF

**ADAPTATION**
- AF **Adaptation Fund** UNFCCC
- LDCF **Least Developed Countries Fund** UNFCCC
- PPCR **Pilot Program for Climate Resilience** CIF

**CROSS-CUTTING**
- GCF **Green Climate Fund** UNFCCC
- GEF **Global Environment Facility** UNFCCC

Sources:
First report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement (2020). UNFCCC
The Adaptation Gap Report 2022, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is an operating entity of the UNFCCC’s financial mechanism and the world’s largest climate fund supporting climate action in developing countries. Since the launch of the GCF, it has approved **USD 11.4 billion for 209 projects**\(^1\). With the principles of country ownership and direct access at its core, the GCF aspires to be an innovative and transformative financing mechanism.

**What activities are funded?**

The GCF aims to allocate half of its funds to adaptation and the other half to mitigation. Also mandated by the Fund is that LDCs, SIDS, and African States get a minimum of 50% of its adaptation resources. This is encouraging for equity in the distribution of climate finance, where adaptation efforts remain under-funded. To date, 43% of approved project funding is intended for mitigation, 22% for adaptation, and 35% fall into both areas.

**Who can access funding?**

All developing countries are eligible to receive funds from the GCF. There are two modalities to channel finance:

i. direct access through national or subnational institutions; and

ii. international access through MDBs, UN agencies or international NGOs, as well as the international private sector.

Countries have chosen to use either or both modalities.

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\(^1\) As of 8 March 2023
Many international funds require recipient countries to use intermediary institutions—often multilateral institutions—to manage the received funding. Direct access allows national institutions from countries to access financial resources directly from the Fund, without passing through an intermediary institution. To gain direct access to finance from the GCF, countries need to put in place certain institutional arrangements. Most importantly, they need to establish a National Designated Authority (NDA) or focal points, who will select institutions to be accredited as direct access entities by the GCF.

**WHAT IS DIRECT ACCESS AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Direct Access and Country Ownership are two important principles of the GCF.

**NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY (NDA)**

NDAs are government institutions that serve as the primary interface between each country and the Fund. They develop work programmes, oversee and endorse proposals and provide broad strategic oversight of the GCF’s activities in the country.

Functions of the NDA include:

i. establish a no-objection procedure for the approval of project proposals
ii. ensure coordination between national priorities and GCF projects through multi-stakeholder consultations; and
iii. develop country project pipelines to receive funding from the GCF.

**DIRECT ACCESS ENTITIES (DAEs)**

The GCF finances projects through Accredited Entities (AEs) which may be national, regional, or international, as long as they meet the standards of the Fund. Furthermore, they may be public or private, including NGOs. AEs are accredited according to size and environmental and social risks of the projects they can implement. There are two types of AEs:

i. **Direct Access Entities (DAEs)** which are sub-national, national, or regional organisations nominated by NDAs

ii. **International Access Entities** which do not need to be nominated by NDAs

**TYPES OF NDAs**

Countries have nominated

- Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources, Energy, Agriculture and other closely related sectors
- Ministries of Finance, Economy, Public Investment, Development cooperation & other related sectors
- Public Environment Protection Agencies, Climate Change Divisions, Departments and/or Commissions

**TYPES OF DAEs**

Countries have nominated

- Ministry of Finance/Environment (e.g. Ethiopia, Rwanda)
- Public Environmental Agencies (e.g. Kenya, South Africa, Senegal)
- National Development Banks, National Banks & National Funds (e.g. Brazil, India, Namibia)
- Private Banks and Companies (e.g. Mongolia, Tanzania)
**What is GCF Readiness?**

It is a preparatory and support programme whose main purpose is facilitating the building and strengthening of national institutions in developing countries in order to enable those countries to implement projects on their own. It provides resources for strengthening the institutional capacities of National Designated Entities (NDAs) and Direct Access Entities (DAEs). It also assists countries in adaptation planning and in developing strategic frameworks to engage stakeholders, mobilise the private sector and develop a pipeline of projects.

**How much funding is available?**

The Readiness Support Programme provides up to **USD 1 million per country per year** for all readiness activities (except for adaptation planning). There is a **USD 300,000** limit to help establish and strengthen an NDA, and within that amount, a maximum of **USD 100,000** can be used for NDA-led stakeholder meetings. An additional, one-time **USD 3 million per country** is available for the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and/or other adaptation planning processes.

**In which areas do countries receive readiness support?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Support Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong></td>
<td>- Strengthening NDAs to coordinate country engagement with the GCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Training government, civil society and private sector stakeholders on climate issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enhancing Strategic Frameworks</strong></td>
<td>- Formulating Country Programmes, Entity Work Programmes, and long-term low-emission action plans</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Enhancing strategies to create enabling environment for climate finance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adaptation Planning</strong></td>
<td>- Developing national adaptation plans and other adaptation action plans</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Mobilising public and private adaptation investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transformational Pipeline Development</strong></td>
<td>- Developing concept notes, pipeline metrics/indicators, and implementation plans for projects and programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge Sharing and Learning</strong></td>
<td>- Sharing of best practices and methodologies at subnational, national, and regional levels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW ARE COUNTRIES BENEFITTING FROM READINESS SUPPORT?

Since the launch of the Readiness Support Programme, the GCF has approved 667 requests from 141 countries. Of the projects approved, 113 have completed their activities. Total funding approved amounts to USD 484 million, of which 60% has been disbursed.¹

**667** readiness grants approved

**141** countries with readiness activities

**USD 484M** approved funding

**USD 284M** disbursed funding

Approved projects in key activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NDA Strengthening</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptation Planning</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAE Support</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ As of 8 March 2023
**What is a delivery Partner?**

A Delivery Partner is an institution selected by the NDA to implement readiness activities. Delivery partners provide services such as: development of readiness request proposals; implementation and supervision; fiduciary management; progress reporting; and project completion and evaluation. A delivery partner is NOT an Accredited Entity - AE. The scope of work of a delivery partner is limited to implementing readiness activities and supporting countries through its expertise to access Climate Finance. Whereas an AE is accredited to carry out a range of activities including developing and submitting funding proposals and overseeing the management and implementation of projects and programmes.

**What the South Centre offers**

The South Centre offers to its developing country Partners:

- Greater ownership and direction of their allocated readiness and preparatory support funding from the GCF.
- Pathways to better integration of climate finance from multiple sources into efficient national climate change plans
- Strengthen and develop adaptation planning processes
- Strengthen institutional policy research capacities so that the NDA or focal points can effectively fulfil its role
- Opportunities to extract lessons learned from other countries & disseminate relevant information

**How the South Centre’s Works on Readiness**

**Pillar 1**

Strengthening of NDAs- AEs and Coordination Mechanisms

- Conduct an institutional gap analysis
- Build the capacity of AE and NDA
- Raise awareness on GCF & accreditation process
- Establish multi-stakeholder efficient coordination mechanisms

**Pillar 2**

Development of Strategic Frameworks and Country Programmes

- Identify programmes for potential funding by the GCF
- Enable a pipeline of projects
- Establish a national fund
- Support Private Sector and other stakeholders Mobilization

**Pillar 3**

Support to Adaptation Planning Processes

- Policy research and review of national adaption plans & INDCs
- Formulate or refine national adaptation plans
- Review and refine NDCs strategy and implementation
Readiness with South Centre

STEP-BY-STEP

**PROJECT PREPARATION**
1. NDA & South Centre-SC initial meetings and exchanges
2. Capacity & Needs Assessment
3. Project Proposal Developed
4. NDA & SC jointly submit Proposal to the GCF

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**
1. SC undergoes a financial management assessment by GCF
2. SC responds to GCF’s queries on the proposal if any, and revises proposal until approval

**APPROVAL**
1. Grant agreement signed between SC & GCF
2. First disbursement of Funds

**IMPLEMENTATION**
1. Implementation with the agreed work plan and budget
2. SC regularly reports to GCF
3. SC proposes revisions to the work plan, as needed

**COMPLETION & EVALUATION**
1. SC submits Completion & evaluation report to the GCF
2. SC-NDA jointly take stock of progress, and agree on next steps.

**OUR APPROACH**

- **FOCUS ON SOUTH EXPERTIZE**
  by prioritizing national capacities and other South expertise in project development & implementation

- **MAXIMIZE READINESS RESULTS**
  through a tailored country-specific approach aligned with other readiness activities, national climate and sustainable development plans

- **FACILITATE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**
  by establishing mechanisms to enable exchange of experiences between countries
The South Centre implemented the Project on ‘Strengthening and enhancing Lebanon’s institutional arrangements and capacity to enable and optimize access to the Green Climate Fund’ successfully completing it in 2022.

**Key Deliverables of the Project**

- Development of a Gap assessment report
- Stakeholder mapping
- Private sector pulse study
- Design of a no-objection procedure including templates, legal text, criteria, processes, among others
- Advanced draft of the country programme validated nationally
- Draft concept notes for potential future consideration under GCF country programming.

**Methodology of Work**

The project was implemented through research and analysis conducted with the help of several area experts and utilizing a series of inception meetings, South-South exchanges, private sector dialogues and NDA training and capacity building activities.
GCF Project Distribution by Region

209 Projects Total
- 87 in Asia-Pacific
- 85 in Africa
- 56 in LATAM & Caribbean
- 12 in Eastern Europe

GCF Projects by Entity Type

- 159 via International Entities
- 22 via regional Entities
- 28 via national Entities

Accredited Entities
24% of existing projects have a Direct Access Entity (DAE)

Type of Accredited Entities (AEs)
113 Total Number of AEs
- 41 - International
- 13 - Direct access (regional)
- 59 - Direct access (national)

GCF Projects by Thematic Area

- 66 - Mitigation
- 85 - Adaptation
- 58 - Cross-cutting

National Designated Authorities (NDAs)
96% of developing countries have designated an NDA

Areas of Readiness Activities
- 178 - NDA Support
- 104 - Strategic Framework
- 78 - DAE Support
- 96 - Adaptation Planning

Readiness Projects
667 Approved Projects
- in 141 countries
- for USD 484 M total
- USD 284 M disbursed
SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA

Compared to other geographical regions, Africa has received the largest share of GCF financing. A total of USD 4 billion, or 35% of overall GCF financing, has been allocated to the region. Of that amount, adaptation activities received the smallest share (23%) while mitigation and cross-cutting initiatives were allocated 39% and 38%, respectively. Many of the largest projects focus on expanding renewable energy and increasing access to modern energy services.

Country Programmes and Direct Access

Every country in Africa has a National Designated Authority (NDA). In addition, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Togo, Rwanda and Zambia have defined a country programme outlining their climate change priorities and needs. The region also boasts 4 regional and 18 national direct access entities (DAEs).

Source: Green Climate Fund, 8 March 2023
The readiness programme is active in every country in Africa. To date, the GCF has approved 204 requests in the region. The majority (58) of grants focus on strengthening National Designated Authorities (NDAs), while 23 grants support Direct Access Entities (DAEs) and 33 are dedicated to National Adaptation Plans. The total approved readiness funding for the continent amounts to USD 144 million, of which USD 86 million has already been disbursed. Below are some examples of readiness activities in Africa.

**NDA Strengthening Support**
- NDA strengthening activities in Africa include increasing visibility and outreach of NDAs, helping NDAs with identifying potential direct access entities, and assisting with the development of a country programme.

**Support to Direct Access Entities**
- Through the Readiness programme, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) is receiving assistance to become a regional DAE and establish its first entity work programme.
- GCF Readiness is helping Togo identify and nominate an entity to become a national DAE.

**National Adaptation Planning**
- Readiness is assisting Ghana in developing a comprehensive national adaptation process as well as the tools and mechanisms necessary to implement the process.

**Private Section Engagement and Mobilisation**
- In Mali, Readiness activities aim to increase private sector engagement by developing a concrete Private Sector Action Plan that encourages private actors to follow climate resilient pathways.
- In Niger, Readiness activities include the creation of a forum for discussion between the public and the private sectors on challenges and opportunities for pursuing business ventures that address adaptation and mitigation.
SPOTLIGHT ON ASIA-PACIFIC

To date, the Asia-Pacific region has benefitted from USD 3.9 billion in GCF financing. With this amount representing 34% of all funding, the Asia-Pacific region is the second most funded region after Africa. Funds were allocated to 87 projects in 41 countries. Adaptation projects received 24% of the region’s funding, while mitigation and cross-cutting activities were allocated 49% and 27%, respectively. Large-scale projects in the region focus on advancing green infrastructure such as e-mobility solutions and low-carbon cities and neighbourhoods.

GCF FINANCING IN ASIA-PACIFIC

India, Mongolia, Indonesia and Bangladesh together receive 45% of the region’s GCF financing.

Country Programmes and Direct Access

All but three countries in the Asia-Pacific region have chosen a National Designated Authority (NDA). In addition, a third of the region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, State of Palestine, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, and Vanuatu) has elaborated a climate-specific country programme. Moreover, there are 25 national and 2 regional direct access entities (DAEs) active in the region.

Source: Green Climate Fund, 8 March 2023
The GCF has approved 210 readiness requests in 46 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Only 17 grants focus on Direct Access Entities (DAEs), however, 62 grants are dedicated to strengthening National Designated Authorities (NDAs) and another 27 support National Adaptation Plans. The region was allocated a total of USD 161 million in readiness funding, of which USD 83 million has been disbursed. Below are some examples of readiness activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

**NDA Strengthening Support**
- NDA strengthening activities in the region include enhancing NDAs’ capacity to incorporate climate action into policies, assisting with the development of National Climate Finance Strategies as well as the production of quality concept notes.

**Support to Direct Access Entities**
- Readiness support is helping National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD), the first DAE accredited for Cambodia, meet further accreditation conditions and produce a high quality pipeline.
- GCF has approved a proposal to provide capacity support to SPC, one of the main regional DAEs in the Pacific, to better meet the needs of NDAs in the region.

**National Adaptation Planning**
- In addition to providing technical capacity building, the Readiness programme is supporting the Royal Government of Bhutan by helping it secure external funding for its National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

**Private Section Engagement and Mobilisation**
- By strengthening the capacities of Vietnam’s NDA to coordinate climate finance, Readiness activities are helping create a more attractive environment for private investments for climate action.
- In the Philippines, GCF Readiness is helping the government develop clear pathways to expand green finance in the country.
Since its inception, the GCF has provided USD 3 billion in support to the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. This amount, which accounts for 27% of total approved GCF financing, was distributed across 56 projects in 31 countries. Only 18% of the region’s funding was allocated to adaptation while mitigation and cross-cutting activities received 43% and 39%, respectively. The largest projects include the Amazon Bioeconomy Fund programme aimed at attracting private capital to the Amazon bioeconomy, as well as a project to install an electric light rail transit system in San José.

Funding is highly concentrated, with five countries receiving 48% of the region’s GCF financing.

Country Programmes and Direct Access

Every country in the LAC region has a National Designated Authority (NDA). However, only six countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Brazil, Dominica, Jamaica, and Uruguay) have established a country programme specifying their climate change priorities and needs. In addition, the LAC region enjoys direct access to GCF funds through 13 national and 6 regional entities.

Source: Green Climate Fund, 8 March 2023
The GCF has approved 219 readiness requests in 32 countries in the LAC region. While the majority of grants (45) focus on strengthening National Designated Authorities (NDAs), 36 grants support Direct Access Entities (DAEs) and 27 are dedicated to National Adaptation Plans. The total approved readiness funding for the LAC region amounts to USD 154 million, with USD 96 million already disbursed. Below are some examples of readiness activities in the LAC region.

**NDA Strengthening Support**
- NDA strengthening activities in the LAC region include assisting NDAs with mobilising private climate finance, supporting the formulation of strategic frameworks at territorial and sectoral levels, and enhancing coordination capacities of national accredited entities.

**Support to Direct Access Entities**
- GCF Readiness is strengthening the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)’s capacity to produce high-quality funding proposals for countries in the region.
- In Argentina, Readiness is supporting Unidad Para el Cambio Rural (UCAR) by spreading awareness about the entity’s role as the country’s national DAE and helping it identify and evaluate potential projects.

**National Adaptation Planning**
- GCF Readiness is supporting the government of Costa Rica adapt its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to local needs by helping integrate adaptation into regional and municipal planning of both the public and private sector.

**Private Section Engagement and Mobilisation**
- In Latin America, GCF Readiness is helping mobilise private resources for climate action by promoting partnerships and joint investments between financial institutions and accredited entities through green bonds and other innovative financial mechanisms.
- Readiness activities in Colombia support the integration of climate risks in water-intensive private sectors by promoting implementation of efficient water resource management and demonstrating the financial benefits of such a system.
10 Useful Links from GCF’s Website

- **Readiness Guidebook** for detailed information on the application process to Readiness Support
- **GCF in Brief** for key figures on Readiness - Updated regularly
- **Country Programme Guidance**: A guide on developing Country Programmes for the Green Climate Fund
- **GCF Accreditation Self-Assessment Tool** for entities wishing to get GCF accreditation
- **GCF Project Portfolio** for key figures on GCF Projects - Updated regularly
- **Enhancing Direct Access** Guidelines
- Guide on the process of **bringing a project proposal to GCF**
- Access to the **approved projects and programmes** of the GCF
- **PPF** - GCF’s Project Preparation Facility
- **Entity Directory** - for a comprehensive list of Accredited Entities
- **GCF Open Data Library**

Links to Key Climate Funds

- **AF** - Adaptation Fund
- **CTF** - Clean Technology Fund
- **FIP** - Forest Investment Program
- **GEF** - Global Environment Facility
- **LDCF** - Least Developed Countries Fund
- **PPCR** - Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
- **SREP** - Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program
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