

GCF IN BRIEF: REDD+



REDD+ is a financing model negotiated under the UNFCCC to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

It is divided into three phases, which are roughly associated with readiness, implementation, and payment for results.

Developing country Parties to the UNFCCC can access GCF support for activities across the three REDD+ phases through its Readiness Programme, Project Preparation Facility, and regular project cycle funding. Through these, or with help from other funding sources, it is possible to become eligible to receive results-based payments for REDD+ from GCF.

Why REDD+?

Deforestation and forest degradation, counted together, is the second leading cause of global warming, after energy generation. This sector is responsible for about [17 percent](#) of carbon emissions.

Forests can act as vast carbon sinks. They can also provide adaptation benefits, through their rich biodiversity, and social benefits to those whose livelihoods are affected by forests.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (or REDD+) allows for payments to developing countries to address climate change by protecting and enhancing their forests.

3 REDD+ phases

Phase 1 of REDD+ includes developing national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and other capacity building activities. As requested by the Conference of Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, countries implementing REDD+ - with the expectation of adequate and predictable financial and technical support - should develop a:

- national REDD+ strategy or action plan;
- national forest reference emission level;
- robust and transparent national forest monitoring system; and
- safeguards information system.

These are also known as the Warsaw Framework elements.

Phase 2 includes implementing national policies and measures, and national strategies or action plans. These might involve additional capacity building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities.

The implementation of these activities is likely to derive from different sources of funding as, in most cases, no single source will be able to cover all financial needs. Sources of finance might include domestic government agency budgets, private investments, and/or international climate finance.

Quick facts

- GCF provides support for all phases of REDD+
- GCF works with a wide range of partners, both in the private and public sectors, seeking innovative and efficient financing arrangements for REDD+

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GCF's Readiness Programme and Project Preparation Facility funding can potentially be used for phase 2. Activities that fit into each phase do not necessarily take place sequentially.

GCF's support for the private sector may also apply in this phase to address financing barriers and reduce risks to investment in adaptation and mitigation activities. These barriers and risks may include market failures, insufficient capacity, lack of awareness of how to mobilize private capital, and/or lack of expertise at scale in accordance with national plans and priorities. A key priority is ensuring complementarity and coherence between funding entities, whether public or private.

Phase 3 is a largely untested phase. GCF has only just begun to support this phase through its pilot programme for results-based payments.

Countries that have completed the first two phases of REDD+ for results generated from the end of 2013 to the end of 2018 are eligible to apply for phase 3 funding through this pilot programme. This request for proposals runs from the end of 2017 until the last GCF Board meeting in 2022.

GCF support for REDD+

GCF offers support for REDD+ across all three phases. While the focus of GCF funding is on reducing emissions, there is also scope to support adaptation. This includes increasing resilience and enhancing livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities, and regions; increasing people's health and well-being; enhancing food and water security; and improving the resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services.

In October 2017, the GCF Board approved a pilot programme for **REDD+ results-based payments** for five years. This marks a major milestone for GCF's engagement with REDD+.

Starting now, this USD 500 million programme will run until the time of the last GCF Board meeting in 2022. Proposals for the pilot programme for results-based payments are being accepted on a continual basis.

Developing countries can also apply for financial support under GCF's Readiness and Preparatory Support Program and Project Preparation Facility. Countries may submit multiple requests for REDD+ funding at different times based on individual country needs.

GCF's **Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme** (the [Readiness Programme](#)) provides funding to strengthen the institutional capacities of National Designated Authorities (**NDAs**) or focal points and Direct Access Entities to engage with GCF. Resources may be provided in the form of grants or technical assistance.

The **Project Preparation Facility** supports Accredited Entities in project and programme preparation. It is especially targeted to

support [Direct Access Entities](#), and micro-to-small size category projects.

Project Preparation Facility support can be used to prepare funding proposals for regular project cycle investments. It can also be used to prepare funding proposals to participate in GCF's pilot programme for results-based payments.

GCF's **regular project cycle**, the mainstay of the Fund's mobilisation of climate finance, is another potential source of REDD+ support. Accredited Entities submit funding proposals that are assessed by the GCF Board during their regular meetings, usually held three times a year.

Step by step: Accessing REDD+ support

Readiness: All readiness funding requests must be initiated by a developing country NDA or focal point. The funding itself can be managed by different bodies, depending on the type of support requested. The [GCF Readiness Guidebook](#) provides detailed guidance.

Project Preparation Facility: Funding requests can be made by checking a box on the [concept note template](#) for GCF's regular project cycle proposals, in addition to filling out a form linked to the template.

GCF's regular project cycle: Accredited Entities submit funding proposals to GCF on a continual basis. They may choose to submit a [concept note](#) to receive preliminary feedback from the GCF Secretariat before developing a [funding proposal](#).

Most funding proposals submitted to GCF are assessed in the following steps:

1. GCF Secretariat performs completeness check.
2. GCF Secretariat performs second-level due diligence of funding proposal.
3. Independent technical advisory panel (ITAP) assesses the funding proposal.
4. Submission to the GCF Board for final decision.

Pilot programme for results-based payments:

Countries can submit concept notes from the end of this year until the time of the last GCF Board meeting in 2022. These will cover results generated between the end of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis. Application templates are available on the GCF website: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/-/gcf-begins-redd-results-based-payments-pilot-programme>

Further details about GCF processes are stepped out in the [GCF 101](#) guide to accessing the Fund.

