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# Progress Report on the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme

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# Progress Report on the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme

## I. Introduction

1. The readiness programme is a unique feature of the Fund. It seeks to put developing countries in the driver's seat when accessing and using the resources that will be available through the Fund, and to help ensure effective programming of Fund resources. A summary of the key features of the programme and the related decision is included in Annex I to this document.
2. The document builds on the report issued on 28 April 2015, and covers the period from 28 April to 18 June 2015. Since the last report, the Secretariat has received new nominations for national designated authorities (NDAs)/focal points from Botswana, Costa Rica, Guinea-Bissau, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, thus bringing the total number of nominations to 127 NDAs/focal points.
3. Since the last report, new readiness requests have been received from Bhutan, Liberia, Samoa and Ukraine, bringing the total number to 74 readiness requests. The details of all requests, including the areas in which countries have requested support are contained in the table 1 below. The Secretariat expects to finalize by 30 June 2015 grant agreements with seven countries totalling US\$ 1.9 million: the Comoros, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Rwanda, Thailand and Togo.
4. During this period, the first disbursement of US\$ 20,000 was made to Mali for a national multi-stakeholder workshop in April 2015. The workshop aimed to promote an understanding of potential opportunities to effect a paradigm shift to low emission resilient development in Mali. Furthermore, taking into account those countries with whom the Secretariat expect to finalize grant agreements, it is anticipated that up to US\$ 700,000 will be disbursed to countries before the eleventh Board meeting.

## II. Readiness support provided

5. The table below summarizes the status of engagement across the readiness programme:

**Table 1: Status of readiness requests**

Country	Activity areas					Readiness status					Proposed delivery partner by NDA/FP
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
Antigua and Barbuda	●	●				■	■	■	■	■	FP
Bangladesh	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	
Barbados						■	■	■	■	■	
Belize	●	●				■	■	■	■	■	Direct
Benin	●	●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	UNEP
Bhutan											NDA
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	●	●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	●	●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	
Burundi		●		●		■	■	■	■	■	AfDB
Cambodia		●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	
Colombia			●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	
Comoros	●	●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	
Cook Islands	●					■	■	■	■	■	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
Côte d'Ivoire	●	●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	
Cuba	●	●		●	●	■	■	■	■	■	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	●	●				■	■	■	■	■	World Bank
Dominica				●		■	■	■	■	■	
Dominican Republic	●	●	●			■	■	■	■	■	UNDP
Ecuador				●		■	■	■	■	■	
El Salvador	●		●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	NDA
Eritrea		●		●		■	■	■	■	■	
Ethiopia	●	●		●		■	■	■	■	■	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Fiji	●	●	●			■	■	■	■	■	
Gabon			●			■	■	■	■	■	
Gambia	●	●				■	■	■	■	■	UNEP
Grenada						■	■	■	■	■	
Guatemala	●	●		●		■	■	■	■	■	UNDP
Guinea				●		■	■	■	■	■	
Honduras	●	●		●		■	■	■	■	■	UNDP
India	●	●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	UNDP
Indonesia			●	●		■	■	■	■	■	
Jamaica						■	■	■	■	■	
Kenya	●					■	■	■	■	■	
Kiribati		●				■	■	■	■	■	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	●	●				■	■	■	■	■	
Lebanon		●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	
Liberia	●	●	●	●		■	■	■	■	■	



Country	Activity areas					Readiness status					Proposed delivery partner by NDA/FP	
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5		
Malawi	●			●		■						
Malaysia	●					■	■					
Maldives	●					■	■					
Mali	●	●		●		■	■					Sahel Eco
Mauritius	●	●		●		■	■					
Micronesia (Federated States of)	●	●				■	■	■				SPC
Mongolia	●			●		■						
Morocco	●	●	●	●		■	■					
Namibia	●	●	●	●		■	■					EIF
Nauru		●				■						
Niger	●	●				■						
Niue												
Pakistan			●			■						
Palau	●	●	●	●		■						
Peru			●	●		■	■					
Rwanda	●	●	●	●		■	■					FONERWA
Saint Lucia	●	●	●	●		■						
Samoa	●	●	●	●								
Sao Tome and Principe	●	●	●	●		■						
Senegal	●	●	●	●		■	■					IFC
Seychelles	●	●	●	●	●	■						
Solomon Islands			●			■						
Somalia	●	●	●	●	●	■	■					
Sri Lanka	●		●	●		■						
Syrian Arab Republic	●	●				■						
Thailand			●	●		■	■					
Timor-Leste	●	●		●	●	■	■					UNDP
Togo	●	●	●	●		■	■	■				UNDP
Tonga			●	●		■						
Tunisia	●					■						
Ukraine												
United Republic of Tanzania		●	●	●		■	■					
Vanuatu	●	●		●	●	■	■					
Viet Nam			●			■	■					
Yemen	●	●	●			■	■					
Zambia	●	●				■						NDA
Zimbabwe	●	●	●	●		■						

1	Initial Expression of Interest
2	Concept and Approach Agreed
3	Grant agreement sent
4	Grant agreement signed
5	First disbursement

**Abbreviations:** AfDB = African Development Bank, EIF = Environmental Investment Fund, FONERWA = National Environment Fund of Rwanda, FP = focal point, IFC = International Finance Corporation, NDA = national designated authority, SPC = Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme, UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme.

## 1.1 Activity areas 1 and 2: Establishing and strengthening national designated authorities or focal points and strategic frameworks, including the preparation of country programmes

6. Following feedback provided by the Board at its ninth meeting, the Secretariat has developed standardized scopes of work with indicative budgets for activity areas 1 (NDA strengthening) and 2 (strategic frameworks, including country programmes). These standardized packages synthesize and build on the guidance developed by the Board in decisions B.08/10 and B.08/11, and have been published in the operations manual on the Fund's website.<sup>1</sup> Through this standardized approach, the NDAs or focal points and the Secretariat have been able to expedite the processing of readiness requests in activity areas 1 and 2 as follows.

7. During the reporting period covered in this report, readiness proposals for activity areas 1 and 2 have been finalized and processed for legal arrangements with seven countries (Comoros, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Rwanda, Thailand and Togo) for a total of US\$ 1.9 million. The fiduciary management capacities of the recipient of funds have also been verified by the Secretariat. A summary of readiness support finalized is provided in the table below:

**Table 2: Summary of Readiness Support Finalized**

Country	NDA, Focal Point or Delivery Partner	Access Type	Amount (in US\$)
<b>Comoros</b>	UNEP	International	300,000
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	UNDP	International	300,000
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	National	300,000
<b>Micronesia (Federated States of)</b>	Secretariat of the Pacific Community	Regional	300,000
<b>Rwanda</b>	National Environment Fund	National	300,000
<b>Thailand</b>	GIZ	International	102,000
<b>Togo</b>	UNDP	International	300,000

8. The Secretariat expects to make progress on readiness support to an additional four countries that have submitted complete requests. The fiduciary management capacities of the recipient of funds for the Cook Islands and Mali have also been verified by the Secretariat, and for the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Gabon is in progress. A summary of readiness support finalized is provided in the table below:

**Table 3: Summary of Readiness Support in Progress**

Country	NDA, Focal Point or Delivery Partner	Access Type	Amount (in US\$)
<b>Bolivia (Plurinational State of)</b>	Ministry of Development Planning	National	300,000
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management	National	150,000
<b>Gabon</b>	Fonds Gabonais d'Investissements Stratégiques	National	209,000
<b>Mali</b>	Sahel Eco	National	230,000

<sup>1</sup> See <<http://www.gcfund.org/operations/resource-guide.html>>.

9. With the implementation of readiness support for activity area 2, the Secretariat expects that the countries receiving this support will produce country programmes that build on existing strategies and plans and are developed through multi-stakeholder processes led by the NDAs or focal points. At this stage, there is no significant progress to report on. However, for the seven countries mentioned above, the Secretariat expects to receive initial drafts of such country programmes within six to twelve months, and final documents within 12 to 24 months. To facilitate the implementation of readiness support in this area, the Secretariat is also building further on the Fund's *Initial general guidelines for country programmes*.<sup>2</sup>

## 1.2 Activity area 3: Selection of intermediaries and implementing entities and support for accreditation

10. Since the launch of the Online Accreditation System (OAS), the readiness programme has provided in-kind support to 24 entities to orient them on the accreditation requirements and assisted them in navigating through the accreditation application process. Of these, three have been accredited by the Fund, and six are being considered by the Board for accreditation.

11. The Secretariat has also contracted a service provider in order to help conduct the initial assessments of the ability of entities to meet the Fund's accreditation requirements of the Fund. The first countries to use this service will be those that have requested support in this activity area, have already been nominated by the NDA or focal point, and have opened an OAS account.

## 1.3 Activity area 4: Initial pipelines of programmes and project proposals

12. The Secretariat is engaging with NDAs and focal points in order to identify appropriate means by which to support the development of projects and programmes that reflect national needs and stakeholder priorities. Following countries' requests for guidance, the Secretariat is also preparing an explanatory guidance note for project and programme development based on previous Board decisions.

## 1.4 Activity area 5: Information sharing, experience exchange and learning

### 2.4.1 Regional workshops

13. Regional workshops provide a platform through which the Fund's stakeholders exchange ideas on opportunities, learn about the Fund's requirements and learn from each other's experiences on investing in low emission, climate resilient development. This was a response to the expressed demands of NDAs and focal points for more information and opportunities to learn from their peers. In addition, progress on the development and implementation of country programmes will be a focus of the sharing of country experiences.

14. The Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, organized two regional workshops earlier this year in San Salvador, El Salvador, for Central American countries, and in Songdo, Republic of Korea, for Asian countries. Another regional workshop for Pacific island countries has been planned for 27-29 July 2015 in Nadi, Fiji, and one for African and Middle Eastern countries in Alexandria, Egypt, between 5 and 11 September. Further regional workshops are being planned in consultation with countries for the Caribbean and South American countries.

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<sup>2</sup> Annex XVII of the document GCF/B.08/45 *Decisions of the Board – Eighth Meeting of the Board, 14-17 October 2014*.

In 2016, the Secretariat aims to institutionalize annual, regional-level workshops across all developing country regions.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2.4.2 NDA and focal point visits to the Fund headquarters

15. NDA and focal point visits to the Fund headquarters offer a relatively low-cost opportunity for NDAs and focal points to quickly come up to speed on how to work with the Fund. The Secretariat supported visits by delegations from Mongolia and Fiji to the Fund headquarters in May and June 2015. Through such visits, the Secretariat helped to familiarize these NDA representatives with the opportunities for developing projects and programmes and the operating modalities for accessing the Fund's resources. The visits yielded positive feedback from NDAs, who reported that the two-day orientation enhanced their understanding of, and ability to engage with, the Fund.

16. The Secretariat is responding to the expressed interest of other NDAs and focal points to visit the Fund's headquarters. For the remainder of 2015, the Secretariat is developing a structured plan for such visits by the NDAs or focal points, which would entail organizing such visits in small groups so as to allow them to also benefit from peer-to-peer exchanges, in addition to enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the Fund.

#### 2.4.3 Webinars

17. In order to facilitate regular information sharing and exchange, as well as access to Secretariat staff and experts, a webinar series is being developed for direct participation by NDAs and focal points, as well as other relevant stakeholders. The first such webinar was pilot tested in the Latin American region on 22 May, featuring the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas that shared its experience regarding direct access accreditation. A second set of webinars for all regions have been planned for the latter half of June 2015, and the Secretariat anticipates organizing more during the course of the year. The focus of such webinars would include, among others:

- (a) Provide Fund updates, including outcomes of Board meetings;
- (b) Experience sharing on the role of NDAs or focal points, accreditation, safeguards and other areas;
- (c) Project and programme development; and
- (d) Link with the UNFCCC processes.

#### 2.4.4 Website

18. The Secretariat will streamline systems for the communication and development of readiness proposals by creating web-based platforms to give NDAs and focal points: 1) secure access to dedicated country pages, 2) a platform for (voluntary) groups and community spaces to enable information exchange and experience sharing, and 3) an Online Readiness Request System, enabling the online submission of readiness requests along with status tracking on approval and implementation.

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<sup>3</sup> This approach is informed by engagement with NDAs as well as the experience of existing funds such as the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the Global Environment Facility.

#### 2.4.5 Information products and learning materials

19. In May 2015, the Secretariat published the first in a series of tailored information products called GCF Elements. The document entitled *Engaging with the Green Climate Fund: A Resource Guide for National Designated Authorities and Focal Points of Recipient Countries* was the inaugural publication dedicated to NDAs, focal points, and other stakeholders in countries.<sup>4</sup> It was developed in response to country demand for such a guide, and incorporates feedback from NDAs and focal points consulted during the drafting process. Additional such publications will be developed over the course of 2015 and 2016 so as to facilitate countries' understanding of the Fund, including in their own languages.

20. In addition, during the reporting period, the Secretariat has been systematically developing and publishing information materials and templates in the operations manual on the Fund's website. During the reporting period, this includes the standardized packages for activity areas 1 and 2 as well as readiness request, proposal and budget templates.

### III. Working in partnership with others

21. As mandated by the Board in decision B.05/14 (c) and B.08/11, and by the COP in the Annex to decision 4/CP.20, paragraph 6, the readiness programme is executed in collaboration with actors already involved in providing Fund-related readiness support to countries. The Secretariat is also coordinating Fund-related readiness initiatives, including those led by the African Development Bank, GIZ, KfW, UNDP, UNEP, and WRI. The Fund and these institutions have agreed on action plans to coordinate the programming of readiness support, as well as the joint development of tools and information materials in order to strengthen understanding of the issues at hand (see Annex II).

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<sup>4</sup> See <[http://issuu.com/greenclimatefund/docs/gcf-elements-guide-to-ndas?utm\\_source=conversion\\_success&utm\\_campaign=Transactional&utm\\_medium=email](http://issuu.com/greenclimatefund/docs/gcf-elements-guide-to-ndas?utm_source=conversion_success&utm_campaign=Transactional&utm_medium=email)>.

## Annex I: Summary of key features of the readiness programme and the related decision

1. At its eighth meeting on 14–17 October 2014 in Bridgetown, Barbados, the Board approved an initial programme of work on readiness and preparatory support with the following five pillars:<sup>1</sup>
  - (a) **Activity area 1:** *Establishing and strengthening the national designated authorities or focal points:* Supporting the national designated authority (NDA) or focal point to engage regional, national and subnational government, civil society and private sector stakeholders with regard to the priorities of the Fund, taking a gender sensitive approach;
  - (b) **Activity area 2:** *Strategic frameworks, including the preparation of country programmes for national engagement with the Fund (building on existing strategies and plans);*
  - (c) **Activity area 3:** *Selection of intermediaries and implementing entities and support for accreditation.* Enabling regional, national and subnational institutions to meet the accreditation standards of the Fund, including for fast-track accreditation in coordination with the NDA or focal point;
  - (d) **Activity area 4:** *Initial pipelines of programme and project proposals.* Supporting the development of initial pipelines of programme and project proposals that align with the objectives and initial investment framework of the Fund and that will support a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development; and
  - (e) **Activity area 5:** *Information sharing, experience exchange and learning.* Regional workshops with NDAs/focal points and other key stakeholders to raise awareness of modalities and opportunities for countries, convening to support experience exchange and the distillation of lessons into learning.
2. The Board decided that the Fund can provide up to US\$ 300,000 of direct support to each country, in particular to help establish an NDA or focal point and meet the costs of delivering on the Fund's requirements for relevant activities on the basis of needs and demand.
3. The Fund will aim for a minimum level of 50 per cent of readiness support being allocated to particularly vulnerable countries, including small island developing States, the least developed countries and African States. In addition, readiness commitments to individual countries will be capped at US\$ 1 million per calendar year. Finally, readiness programmes must complement existing activities. To this end, the Board has requested the Secretariat to coordinate, collaborate and partner, as appropriate, with other subnational, national, regional and international, public and private institutions involved in the delivery of readiness support.
4. The Board also decided that funding proposals for readiness support should contain information on the objectives, activities, outputs, implementation approach and estimated costs. Each activity will be monitored using appropriate indicators. In the eight months since the programme was approved, the Fund has continued its engagement with countries to identify concrete readiness needs, while also establishing mechanisms to provide this support in ways that adhere to the guidance of the Board and will deliver meaningful results. This process has required time and iteration as the Secretariat responds to the requirements of the Board's decision to put in place the systems and processes that will allow efficient commitment of support, ensuring that accountability for the delivery of agreed results are in line with the Fiduciary principles of the Fund.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision B.08/11.

## **Annex II: Action points agreed for a Coordination Mechanism on Green Climate Fund readiness support activities**

### **1.1 Modalities for coordinating the programming of the Fund's readiness and preparatory support in countries**

1. In advance of the bimonthly virtual meetings of the coordination group, comprising of partner institutions in the Coordination Mechanism (Partners), the Partners will provide to the Secretariat information on the readiness activities that it is funding or plans to fund in countries for compilation into a short document. Such activities will be in the Fund's Indicative list of activities to be included in the readiness programme (Annex XVI to document GCF/B.08/45).
2. In each country, Partners will endeavour to deliver their support for these activities in a manner that is consistent with the scope of support as defined in the relevant decision of the Board and summarized in standardized packages for activity areas 1 and 2.
3. Where there appears to be a potential overlap in the activities to be financed by the Fund and the relevant Partner(s) activities, the Secretariat will facilitate a structured exchange between the NDA or focal point and the Partner in order to develop a shared understanding of the activities to be undertaken in order to ensure complementarity in the activities funded by each Partner and the Fund's programme.
4. In countries where the NDA or focal point has requested the support of one of the Partners in delivering the readiness funding from the Fund's readiness programme, financial and legal aspects will be discussed by the Secretariat and the Partner at the institutional level.

### **1.2 Modalities for coordinating the development of tools and information materials related to the Fund's readiness and preparatory support in countries**

5. In order to ensure the accuracy and consistency of information provided to developing countries, to maximize complementarity between support provided by Partners, and to foster joint learning on the operations of the Fund:
  - (a) Partners developing Fund-specific information materials, tools, training modules and other products will do so with the knowledge and input of the Secretariat;
  - (b) Partners may use the name and logo of the Fund, in addition to their own names and logos, in the branding of such products upon review and approval by the Secretariat within three weeks of such products and their branding;
  - (c) Partners will endeavour to update Fund-related information materials based on new decisions taken by the Board, and to ensure consistency with materials published by the Secretariat; and
  - (d) Each Partner will inform, through an e-list or a password-protected space created by the Secretariat, other Partners of Fund-related learning events or missions that they are planning, and will endeavour to co-organize or include in such events or missions the Secretariat and other Partners.