



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

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Readiness programme implementation (progress report)

Summary

The readiness programme implementation (progress report) provides an overview of the state of play and progress made on the readiness and preparatory support programme since the tenth meeting of the Board. It covers information on the readiness proposals received and approved and the expected results in all five activity areas of the programme. It provides details on some of the proposals received, a summary of key activities and an update on the status of implementation. Furthermore, the report covers lessons learned from the implementation of the programme and outlines the workplan for 2016, as well as expected disbursements.

The Board is requested to take note of the information presented in the report and make a decision on the need for additional funds for the programme.

* The agenda item number will be determined when the final sequence of items in the provisional agenda is confirmed by the Co-Chairs.

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I. Introduction

1. The readiness and preparatory support programme has made significant progress in helping countries prepare for and engage with the GCF. This report covers the progress made during the period from 18 June to 8 October 2015 and provides key summary information on the progress achieved thus far, including readiness support committed, progress on the implementation of the programme and lessons learned. Furthermore, the report also includes a workplan for providing readiness support to countries in 2016.
2. To date, the Secretariat has received a total of 136 nominations for national designated authorities (NDAs) and focal points in developing countries, adding eight new countries during the reporting period. Thirteen new readiness requests were also received during the reporting period, bringing the total number of readiness requests received by the GCF to 87.
3. Readiness support was committed for 10 countries during the reporting period to strengthen their NDAs or focal points (activity area 1) and to develop their strategic frameworks (activity area 2), bringing the total number of countries to 17 and the total volume of support to USD 4.6 million. More than 85 per cent of these requests were from small island developing States (SIDS), the least developed countries (LDCs) and African States. Regional workshops were also held for countries in the Africa, Middle East and Pacific regions during this period to provide orientation on the GCF and facilitate knowledge-sharing; a regional workshop for Caribbean countries is scheduled for October 2015 (activity area 5).
4. Progress has also been made in the readiness requests for support for accreditation of direct access entities and the development of projects and programmes (activity areas 3 and 4). Readiness support has been allocated to seven national or regional entities seeking accreditation which were nominated by Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras and Niue.
5. More detailed information on readiness implementation is included in table 2 of this document.

II. Recommended action by the Board

6. It is recommended that the Board:
 - (a) Take note of the information presented in document GCF/B.11/06 titled “Readiness programme implementation (progress report)”; and
 - (b) Adopt the draft decision presented in Annex I to this document.

III. Status of implementation of the Board decisions and coordination with relevant bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

7. During the reporting period, the Secretariat focused on enhancing country ownership through the readiness and preparatory support programme.¹ In particular, SIDS, LDCs and African States were prioritized for readiness support. Outreach activities have been undertaken through regional workshops and, where requested by the NDA or focal point of a country, through participation in national workshops in order to raise awareness of the operational modalities of the GCF and to support them in submitting their readiness proposals to the GCF.

¹ Decision B.10/10, paragraph (f).

As requested by the Board in decision B.10/10, some of the lessons learned from the experiences of countries are provided in section IV of this report.

8. Furthermore, work has been ongoing with the direct access entities nominated by developing countries which requested support for accreditation with the GCF. In-kind support was provided to most of the entities nominated by their NDAs and focal points, and an institutional gap analysis of seven entities against GCF fiduciary standards, environmental and social safeguards (ESS), and gender policy areas is currently ongoing.²

9. Consultations are ongoing with civil society and other stakeholders to facilitate their inclusion in stakeholder engagement processes led by NDAs and focal points, as mandated in decisions B.08/10 and B.10/10. Since the ninth meeting of the Board (B.09), the Secretariat has held three meetings or calls with a group of accredited civil society organization (CSO) observers to discuss the participation of civil society in GCF regional workshops and inform them of the readiness support being provided to countries.³ They have provided valuable inputs on ways to increase transparency and include civil society in readiness activities. This included additional regional calls with CSOs in the Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean regions in particular to brief them on readiness requests from countries in the region. In addition, the Secretariat has also published on the GCF website readiness proposals to which support has been committed, as well as signed readiness grant agreements.⁴

10. Following the request by several Board members to ensure that non-English speaking NDAs and focal points have adequate access to information on readiness activities, the Secretariat has launched a process for the selection of French and Spanish translation services. The selection process for French translation services has been completed and the selection process for Spanish translation services is still under way. It is envisaged that the translators will make information on Board decisions, as well as other templates and guidance documents developed by the GCF, accessible to the NDAs and focal points, and will also enable them to translate into English their requests, proposals and other official communications sent to the GCF.

11. In accordance with guidance from the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Secretariat has been involved in consultations and held meetings with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) on the need to finance the national adaptation plans (NAPs) of developing countries.⁵ In addition, several countries have identified the need for readiness support to align or harmonize their national mitigation or adaptation plans as part of their readiness request for developing their country strategic frameworks (activity area 2) to identify their priorities for the GCF, and some of them have also requested support to facilitate the preparation of NAPs where such plans are still under development (e.g. Vanuatu). Thus, the Board may wish to consider facilitating access to the financing of NAPs within the scope of the readiness and preparatory support programme.

12. During the reporting period, the Secretariat participated in a number of UNFCCC events to increase awareness among countries on the operational modalities of the GCF and opportunities for seeking readiness support. In particular, the Secretariat was present at regional events on nationally appropriate mitigation actions, (NAMAs), NAPs and technology transfer as part of meetings organized by the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

² Decision B.08/11, paragraph (l).

³ A self-organized informal group of accredited CSO observers (the CSO Advisory Group) was constituted following a meeting with them at B.09. This group of CSOs has expressed an interest in facilitating the engagement of local civil society in the operations of the GCF at country level.

⁴ The readiness proposals and grant agreements are included under section 2 on readiness in the Operations Manual on the GCF website. Available at <<http://www.gcfund.org/operations/resource-guide.html>>.

⁵ UNFCCC decision 3/CP.20, paragraph 11.

IV. Progress made on the readiness and preparatory support programme

4.1 Summary of the readiness and preparatory support programme

13. Table 1 summarizes information on the implementation of the readiness and preparatory support programme.

Table 1. Summary information on the readiness and preparatory support programme

Activity area	No. of NDAs/focal points or entities supported	Amount committed (in USD)	Status
Strengthening NDAs or focal points (activity area 1) and developing strategic frameworks for engagement with the GCF (activity area 2)	17 NDAs or focal points	4,600,000	Disbursements made to two countries, and grant agreements and inception reports being prepared for the rest
Enabling direct access entities to meet GCF accreditation standards (activity area 3)	30 NDAs or focal points 36 entities	250,000	Institutional gap assessment under way for seven entities nominated by five countries and in-kind support being provided to the rest
Development of initial pipelines of projects and programmes (activity area 4)	3 countries	–	Readiness proposals being prepared
Information sharing, experience exchange and learning (area 5)	96 countries 11 accredited entities	700,000	Four regional workshops held, Caribbean region workshop scheduled for October 2015, one training event for direct access entities held and five NDAs visited GCF headquarters

4.2 Progress on activity areas 1 and 2

14. Readiness support was committed for 10 countries during the reporting period to strengthen their NDAs or focal points (activity area 1) and to develop their strategic frameworks (activity area 2), bringing the total number of countries to 17 and the volume of support to USD 4.6 million. Eight countries have selected a national entity to implement their readiness support. These proposals are now at the implementation stage, which includes legal arrangements and the preparation of inception reports, including a detailed implementation plan, budget and procurement plan, by the countries to trigger disbursements.

15. Disbursements for readiness support to NDAs and focal points have already begun, with a total of USD 48,000 disbursed so far to Mali. With the readiness grant agreement also signed with Ethiopia and Rwanda, and others expected soon, disbursements for readiness support to NDAs and focal points are expected to accelerate in the coming months. Based on the disbursement schedules agreed in these readiness proposals, it is estimated that approximately 30 per cent of the total grant value committed in these readiness proposals will be disbursed by the end of 2015. Table 2 summarizes the readiness support committed for activity areas 1 and 2.

16. NDAs and focal points have also started making progress in the preparation of their country programmes. Fifteen of the countries that are receiving readiness support under activity area 2 are expected to start preparing their country programmes by the end of 2015 or in early 2016. These country programmes will showcase the results of multi-stakeholder engagement, including consultations with the private sector and CSOs, and coherence with the existing strategies and plans of the countries, including their intended nationally determined contributions.

Table 2. Readiness support committed (activity areas 1 and 2)

No.	Country	Readiness support implementing agency (delivery partner)	Access type	Amount, (USD)
1	Antigua and Barbuda	Ministry of Health and Environment	National	300 000
2	Benin	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	International	150 000
3	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Ministry of Development Planning	National	300 000
4	Comoros	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	International	300 000
5	Costa Rica	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	International	300 000
6	Cook Islands	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management	National	150 000
7	Côte d'Ivoire	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	International	300 000
8	Dominican Republic	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	International	300 000
9	Democratic Republic of the Congo	World Bank	International	300 000
10	El Salvador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	National	300 000
11	Ethiopia	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	National	300 000
12	Mali	Sahel Eco	National	300 000
13	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	National	300 000
14	Rwanda	Environment and Climate Change Fund (FONERWA)	National	300 000
15	Thailand	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	International	102 000
16	Togo	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	International	300 000
17	Vanuatu	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	International	300 000
Total				4 602 000

17. More information on the readiness proposals approved can be found on the GCF website under section 2.14 on readiness proposals in the Operations Manual.⁶

⁶ See <www.gcfund.org/operations/resourceguide>

4.3 Progress on activity area 3

18. During the reporting period, the Secretariat organized a capacity-building and training workshop on ESS and gender policies for accredited entities from 1 to 4 September 2015. The aim of the workshop was to provide further information and strengthen accredited entities' knowledge of the ESS and gender policies of the GCF in order to allow them to work towards upgrading their accreditation type, thereby allowing them to operate at scale, and also to ensure that their performance at the project implementation stage is consistent with GCF requirements.

19. A total of 11 accredited entities attended the workshop, including the Acumen Fund, the Development Bank of Latin America, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Centre de Suivi Ecologique, Environment Investment Fund (EIF) of Namibia, Deutsche Bank, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Rwanda, (MINIRENA), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, (NABARD), the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (PROFONANPE), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations Environment Programme. The participation of the direct access entities was supported by the readiness and preparatory support programme. During the workshop, participants' knowledge and understanding of the ESS and gender policies of the GCF were strengthened, and concrete examples and case studies on environmental, social and gender management were discussed. The workshop also enabled participants to exchange experiences with and learn from the expertise of the other accredited entities.

20. Furthermore, the Secretariat has continued to provide in-kind support to direct access entities. A total of 36 entities nominated by 30 countries across different regions have received such support. Table 3 lists the 30 countries whose NDA or focal point nominated entities for whom in-kind support has been provided.

Table 3. List of countries nominating entities to receive in-kind support

Africa	Asia and Pacific	Latin America and the Caribbean
Benin	Bangladesh	Argentina
Ethiopia	China	Belize
Kenya (2)	India (2)	Brazil (2)
Morocco (2)	Indonesia (2)	Bolivia
Namibia	Jordan	Colombia (2)
Rwanda	Niue	El Salvador
Seychelles	Marshall Islands	Haiti
Senegal	Mongolia	Honduras (2)
South Africa	Pakistan	Panama
Tunisia	Fiji	Peru

21. Furthermore, seven entities nominated by Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras and Niue for readiness support are currently undergoing an institutional assessment of their fiduciary, environmental and social standards to meet GCF accreditation requirements. It is expected that these assessments will be completed in the last quarter of 2015. Following the assessment, an action plan will be developed for each entity to provide guidance on the gaps identified that they will need to address in order to successfully apply for accreditation.

4.4 Progress on activity area 4

22. The Secretariat has been engaging with countries and entities through workshops as well as individually on the opportunities for developing their pipelines presented under activity area 4. Approximately half of the countries that have expressed an interest in receiving readiness support have indicated that they would like to access funds for pipeline development. However, most of the countries have not yet started the process of developing readiness proposals in this area. Discussions are currently under way with Pakistan, Senegal and Vanuatu. The Secretariat has developed a separate proposal template for readiness support under activity area 4, which is available on the GCF website,⁷ and is developing a guidance note to further assist countries and entities by providing the information required to support activities in this area.

4.5 Progress on activity area 5

23. The Secretariat has prioritized efforts on outreach and information-sharing activities through its regional workshops in 2015. During the reporting period, the Secretariat held two regional workshops to strengthen dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement with countries in the Africa, Middle East and Pacific regions, and it has scheduled a workshop for Caribbean countries in October 2015. The workshops helped to increase awareness of the operational modalities of the GCF and provided NDAs and focal points, direct access entities, civil society, the private sector and other development partners opportunities to engage with and learn from each other. Table 4 provides a summary of the regional workshops held in 2015.

Table 4: Summary of regional workshops held in 2015

No.	Region	Place	Date	No. of NDAs/focal points represented
1	Central America	San Salvador, El Salvador	16-17 March	8
2	Asia and Eastern Europe	Incheon, South Korea	9-10 April	13
3	Pacific	Nadi, Fiji	27-29 July	14
4	Africa and Middle East	Alexandria, Egypt	7-9 September	46
5	Caribbean	Belize City, Belize	6-8 October	14

24. Furthermore, the Secretariat received the NDAs or focal points of Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji, Mongolia, Pakistan and Viet Nam at GCF headquarters. The representatives spent two–three days at GCF headquarters meeting with the different divisions of the Secretariat and presented their country’s strategic priorities for engagement with the GCF and their readiness needs, and also learned details of the operational modalities of the GCF.

25. Various information products and learning materials have been prepared and distributed to the NDAs and focal points in order to increase their knowledge of the operations of the GCF. These include the *Elements* guide, providing an overview of GCF activities, and *Report 360*, containing information on progress in providing readiness support to countries. A second version of the *Elements* guide is under development and will focus on investment opportunities with the GCF.

⁷ See <<http://www.gcfund.org/operations/resource-guide.html>>.

4.6 Working with other partners – readiness coordination group activities and outcomes to date

26. A readiness coordination group, comprising six institutions providing GCF-specific readiness support to countries, was established on the fringes of B.09 in order to coordinate the readiness activities. The group has held three meetings (two in person and one virtually) to discuss and coordinate readiness activities, and the staff of these institutions regularly coordinate with the Secretariat on country-specific activities. Furthermore, staff of these institutions have also actively participated in the regional workshops and are working closely with countries and the GCF to help them undertake readiness activities in the country.

V. Emerging lessons

27. Nearly a year since the launch of the readiness and preparatory support programme, more than 80 readiness requests from developing countries have been received by the GCF, demonstrating a strong demand for such support. Understandably, the majority of the first batch of readiness proposals submitted focus on activity areas 1 and 2. It is expected that more countries will put forward proposals in these areas next year and that proposals for support in other activity areas are also likely to be submitted.

28. One of the lessons learned is that standardized packages allow for expedited development of readiness proposals. The standardized packages developed for activity areas 1 and 2 have helped significantly to expedite readiness proposals from NDAs and focal points.

29. The Secretariat has also developed questionnaires for the regional workshops and NDA/focal point visits to GCF headquarters. This helped NDAs and focal points to better assess their country needs and expectations in advance, which led to more productive discussions. Countries have been supportive of the regional workshops, which not only help them accelerate their understanding of the GCF and its activities, but also provide them with an opportunity to learn from their peers through group work. The inclusion of one-to-one meetings with Secretariat staff during the regional workshops gave each country the opportunity to address issues specific to their country's context and also make progress on readiness proposals.

30. An area for further improvement would be the provision of concrete examples or case studies to enable participants to better understand the documentation and requirements of the GCF. In addition, NDAs and focal points have expressed an interest in having mechanisms for them to coordinate and exchange lessons learned, particularly with peers in their regions. The Secretariat is working to provide such a forum virtually and will also explore other opportunities in its future plans.

31. More information on lessons learned and feedback from NDAs and focal points received during the Nadi (Fiji) and Alexandria (Egypt) workshops is summarized in Annexes II and III to this document.

32. There are strong synergies between NAP processes and the robust stakeholder engagement and institutional coordination that the GCF seeks to foster through its engagement with countries, in particular through its support to the development of country programmes. Consultations with NDAs and focal points have identified issues with NAPs not receiving sufficient funding despite a significant programme through the Global Environment Facility. The GCF support for NAPs in this context, particularly as a complementary element of country programming support, could help to catalyse the adaptation projects to be funded with the GCF. Therefore, it is proposed to support the financing of NAPs as it would be consistent with the Governing Instrument for the Fund, the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to

the UNFCCC, demands from developing countries and the long-term strategic objective of the GCF.

5.1 Best practices from developing countries

33. Some countries have demonstrated strong leadership and set an example for others as they were able to present their experiences and share knowledge during the regional workshops and visits to GCF headquarters. Three good practices could be shared relating to

- (a) National coordination mechanisms;
- (b) The review and assessment of funding proposals and issuance of no-objection letters; and
- (c) Stakeholder engagement in order to foster a pipeline of projects and programmes.

34. National coordination mechanisms are critical in enabling NDAs and focal points to ensure transparency and consultations with relevant stakeholders. Countries such as Colombia and Kenya demonstrated progress in this regard and shared their experiences with others. They have created an interministerial technical committee or a coordination team with representatives from different institutions, including local civil society and private sector financial institutions, and have also put in place a system for tracking climate change expenditure at the national level.

35. During the consultations between the Secretariat and NDAs and focal points on the concept notes and funding proposals submitted to the GCF, some of the countries demonstrated well-established processes and procedures for the issuance of no-objection letters. For instance, the Cook Islands has established an interministerial committee that is responsible for reviewing and assessing the funding proposals submitted to the GCF. In particular, the proposal is assessed on how the objectives conform with the national strategies and plans, and whether the activities presented in the proposal address the country's needs and priorities. Such coordination mechanisms ensure that other national stakeholders are involved in the no-objection procedure. In Pakistan, the focal point has established a board which reviews and assesses funding proposals to be submitted for consideration by the GCF.

36. Some countries have started consultations with various stakeholders to prepare their priority projects and programmes for the GCF. Of these, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia and Viet Nam have demonstrated leadership by organizing stakeholder meetings involving the public and private sectors and civil society, as well as coordinating with various entities (accredited or seeking accreditation) to facilitate the development of a pipeline of projects and programmes for the GCF.

5.2 Challenges

37. Even with the readiness support available to newly established NDAs and focal points that are just commencing operations, several of them are still seeking the assistance and guidance of the Secretariat as they put in place institutions, processes and systems to meet the requirements of the GCF. As a result, the Secretariat continues to help them by providing the necessary information and documents (templates and forms) to assist and guide them in the completion and submission of the necessary information to the GCF. Additional human resources are needed in order to respond to this demand, maintain relationships with the NDAs and focal points and provide the necessary day-to-day engagement and support.

38. A lack of capacity among the NDAs/focal points to effectively engage with the GCF and implement readiness activities has also been identified as a major challenge. NDAs and focal

points are experiencing difficulties in identifying appropriate experts who are able to help them implement their readiness activities. The Secretariat intends to develop a roster of suitable experts, whom the NDAs and focal points can draw on to implement their readiness activities. Such experts could also help NDAs and focal points cooperate with a diverse range of stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and civil society.

39. The NDAs and focal points have also requested more clarity and detailed information on some of their roles and responsibilities, such as the no-objection procedure. In accordance with decision B.10/10, paragraph (d), the Secretariat will prepare guidance for NDAs and focal points for consideration by the Board at its twelfth meeting in 2016.

VI. Workplan for 2016

6.1 User-friendly online system

40. One of the key deliverables this year will be the shift towards a more user-friendly online readiness system. This will allow countries to submit their readiness proposals through a web-based platform. Furthermore, it is also envisaged that country pages will be established with key information on GCF engagement with countries.

6.2 National designated authority visits to GCF headquarters

41. One of the lessons learned from the readiness support provided so far is the need to build a stronger relationship between the Secretariat and the newly established NDAs and focal points. Following the positive feedback from the NDAs and focal points that have visited GCF headquarters, the Secretariat will continue to support NDA and focal point visits in 2016. These dedicated sessions allow for in-depth discussions of the country's needs and for more tailored support through in-person meetings with Secretariat staff. It is expected that the Secretariat may organize approximately 40 NDA/focal point visits, possibly in groups.

6.3 Strong national designated authority network

42. As part of the interactive website for NDAs and focal points, it is envisaged that a platform for (voluntary) group and community spaces will be created to enable information exchange and experience-sharing. Such a platform will help NDAs and focal points to share their experiences and give feedback on their implementation of readiness measures, and will also allow those NDAs and focal points that are more advanced to showcase their work, thus becoming pioneers for others. The GCF is drawing on lessons learned from other institutions that have developed similar mechanisms.

6.4 Projections and budget expectations for 2016

43. As at 30 September 2015, readiness support for activity areas 1 and 2 had been committed to 17 countries. It is anticipated that the GCF will commit support to 13 more countries by the end of 2015, and to 40 countries in the first half of 2016. This will bring the total number of countries benefiting from these packages from 17 to 30 by the end of 2015 and to 70 by mid-2016. Support will also be needed for other activity areas.

44. The Secretariat has estimated the additional readiness funding required for 2015–2016, including projected expenditure across all activity areas. It is estimated that a total of approximately USD 28 million will be needed for commitment by mid-2016. Thus, in accordance

with decision B.08/11, paragraph (o), the Secretariat requests the Board to consider releasing the additional USD 14 million of readiness support.

45. Table 5 includes a summary of the readiness commitments estimated for the remainder of 2015 until mid-2016.

Table 5. Estimated readiness commitments 2015-2016

Readiness activity area	Cumulative projections		
	End Sept 2015	End Dec 2015	End June 2016
Activity areas 1 and 2 (cumulative end of period)			
Number of countries	17	30	70
Commitments	4 600 000	8 500 000	20 500 000
In-kind support to NDAs	500 000	650 000	1 000 000
Activity area 3 (cumulative end of period)			
Number of entities supported	7	15	22
Commitments in support for accreditation	250 000	500 000	750 000
Commitments in post-accreditation capacity-building	-	250 000	500 000
Activity area 4 (cumulative end of period)			
Number of requests	-	3	10
Commitments	-	1 200 000	4 000 000
Activity area 5			
Regional workshops and NDA visits	600 000	700 000	1 000 000
Estimate of needs (end of period)	5 850 000	11 800 000	27 750 000

Annex I: Draft decision of the Board

1. The Board, having reviewed document GCF/B.11/06 titled “Readiness programme implementation (progress report)”:
 - (a) Reaffirms that readiness and preparatory support is a priority for the GCF to enhance country ownership;
 - (b) Decides that an additional USD 14 million is to be made available for the execution of the readiness and preparatory support programme, and to the extent necessary authorizes the Interim Trustee to commit and transfer such funds from the GCF Trust Fund to the Secretariat;
 - (c) Also reaffirms that the GCF, through its readiness and preparatory support programme, may support the preparation of a developing country Party’s national adaptation plan as part of the support for activity area 2 “Strategic frameworks” in accordance with activities listed in Annex XVI to document GCF/B.08/45; and
 - (d) Also decides that up to USD 2 million can be allocated to a country for the preparation of a national adaptation plan, separate from the country’s annual cap for readiness and preparatory support agreed in decision B.08/11.

Annex II: Outcomes of the regional workshop in the Pacific

1. The regional Pacific workshop took place from 27 to 29 July 2015 in Nadi, Fiji. The 67 participants included representatives from the national designated authorities (NDAs) and focal points from the region, accredited and potentially accredited entities, civil society, the private sector and other development partners. The objective of the workshop was to:
 - (a) Inform NDAs/focal points and other country representatives in the Pacific region about the operations of the GCF and explore opportunities for them to benefit from GCF activities; and
 - (b) Enable NDAs and focal points to exchange their experiences in managing support from other sources and establishing a national coordination mechanism.
2. Some issues arising from the workshop:
 - (a) Workshop discussions indicated varying degrees of knowledge and understanding of the GCF and its potential benefits to Pacific small island developing States (SIDS) among NDAs and development partners in the region:
 - (i) Suggestion for the GCF to establish strong relationships in the region by engaging in key regional events and, where possible, supporting national readiness workshops;
 - (b) Expectations about the GCF and its role in the global financial architecture are high and further clarity is needed on the different financing instruments and other operational modalities of the GCF;
 - (c) Pacific SIDS seek assistance in identifying potential entities for accreditation and fostering the development by those entities of projects/programmes that will benefit their needs:
 - (i) Proposal to develop a roster of experts who could assist with such screening to allow for quick and qualified assessments and the provision of advice as necessary;
 - (d) For readiness support, countries prefer to use implementing agencies/development partners that are currently already operating in the region;
 - (e) The limited number of staff in many Pacific SIDS and, as such, readiness support for supplementing their capacity in addition to training is seen as important;
 - (f) The perception that the development of country strategic frameworks (activity area 2) is yet another climate change strategy and that they would have more operational significance if they built on existing climate change strategies:
 - (i) Examples of what this might look like would be helpful;
 - (g) The cost of doing business in the Pacific region is considered to be high given the relatively small size of the scale of interventions and long distances that have to be covered between hundreds of islands to reach all communities; this therefore needs to be factored into policies on project management costs to avoid making it unattractive for accredited entities to work in the Pacific SIDS;
 - (h) NDAs expressed a preference for grants instead of loans for projects under the GCF;
 - (i) Request for a streamlined, simplified process for smaller projects; and
 - (j) Need for clarity on the kinds of public-private partnerships that could be supported or created in the region – it would be good to share examples from other countries to help foster these.

3. Group work discussions formed an important part of the workshop; they enabled participants to discuss in detail the presentations given on day 1 and contextualize some of the opportunities and challenges associated with accessing and effectively utilizing GCF resources. The discussions were structured across the four broad areas covered by the readiness programme.

Annex III: Outcomes of the regional workshop in Africa/the Middle East

1. The GCF Africa and Middle East workshop took place from 6 to 8 September 2015 in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in Alexandria, Egypt and presented an opportunity for the representatives from the national designated authorities (NDAs) and focal points of countries from these regions, civil society, the private sector and accredited entities to engage with the GCF and learn about its operational modalities.
2. The objective of the workshop was for the stakeholders to:
 - (a) Increase their knowledge and understanding of the GCF;
 - (b) Share their experiences in identifying their country's priority investments that meet GCF investment criteria and help to achieve a paradigm shift;
 - (c) Identify potential national, regional and international public and private sector partners for implementation of their projects and programmes, including readiness support; and
 - (d) Assist NDAs and focal points in developing their readiness requests.
3. Day 1 covered presentations on the operations of the GCF followed by interactive question-and-answer sessions to bring participants up to the same level of knowledge and understanding of the GCF, and to address specific doubts or concerns that participants had about the GCF.
4. Day 2 included group work during which participants exchanged lessons learned from their experiences in engaging with the GCF and guided each other and the GCF on ways to strengthen this engagement.
5. Days 2 and 3 included bilateral meetings between GCF staff members and the representatives of the 45 countries that participated in the meeting. GCF staff also met with the civil society organization participants at the workshop.
6. Key discussion points of the workshop:
 - (a) The need for continued efforts to improve understanding of the GCF among NDAs/focal points and other stakeholders in countries:
 - (i) The discussions revealed varying degrees of understanding of the GCF and its potential benefits to African and Middle East countries among NDAs/focal points, especially concerning the GCF accreditation framework and proposal approval process; and
 - (ii) In particular, there also appeared to be limited knowledge regarding the potential for the private sector to work with the GCF and the use of different financial instruments;
 - (b) Countries have limited capacity to engage with the GCF:
 - (i) The numbers, knowledge and skills of staff in many countries in the region are limited. While readiness support for strengthening their capacities in addition to training will help address this, many countries see even the preparation of readiness proposals as a barrier; and
 - (ii) Many countries in the region require assistance in identifying potential implementing agencies for readiness support and potential national direct access entities;
 - (c) Proposed measures to enhance the operations of the GCF in countries:



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- (i) Develop guidance, training and communication materials in French, and provide support to translate country proposal documents into English;
 - (ii) More regular communication between the Secretariat and NDAs/focal points;
 - (iii) Support to enable NDAs/focal points to manage work required prior to the submission of readiness proposals;
 - (iv) Expedite the processing of readiness requests; and
 - (v) Support NDA/focal points to ensure that accredited entities are transparent and accountable vis-à-vis the projects they undertake within the framework of countries' engagement with the GCF;
- (d) Concrete suggestions for follow-up measures from the workshop:
- (i) Creation of a forum and/or a network for exchange between NDAs/focal points in the region;
 - (ii) Periodic meetings between NDAs/focal points and the GCF;
 - (iii) Periodic communication of procedural changes or changes of any other nature resulting from Board decisions; and
 - (iv) Enhanced involvement of NDAs/focal points in the design and working modalities of the GCF.

Annex IV: List of regional events attended by the Secretariat

1. List of regional events organized by the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that the GCF has participated in:
 - (i) UNFCCC regional workshops on nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs);
 - (ii) Asian Development Bank and UNFCCC joint event on market mechanisms;
 - (iii) Climate Technology Centre and Network of the Technology Mechanism of the UNFCCC Regional Forums for National Designated Entities;
 - (iv) Regional climate finance workshops for implementing entities of the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility;
 - (v) Regional training workshops on national adaptation plans; and
 - (vi) Working session on collaboration with relevant UNFCCC secretariat divisions during the Bonn session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.
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