Readiness and Preparatory Support

Direct Access Proposal Template

Country Support Window

Proposal title

Strengthening the operational frameworks to improving climate finance access and investments in Burundi (40900)

Country(ies)

Burundi

* The full proposal, including the financial proposal and annexes, is available on the GCF Partner Platform.

Version Update: 15 Sep 2025 | Initial: 22 Sep 2024
Aligned with the Revised Readiness Results Management Framework

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Proposal Details

Title of the Direct Access Proposal

Strengthening the operational frameworks to improving climate finance access and investments in Burundi

Total Approved Amount (in USD)

$2,000,000

Implementation Period (in months)

36 months

Country Information

☒ Single country

☐ Multi-country

Country

Burundi

NDA / focal point name

Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock

Name of contact person

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Contact person’s position

Director General in charge of Agriculture

Contact person’s email

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Participating Country Information

If the proposal involves multiple countries (regional/multi-country), please list each one below, adding as many rows as necessary. The entry listed above serves as the lead for the multi-country proposal. Please upload the letters of intent on the GCF Partner Platform.

Participating Country	NDA/Focal Point Name	Name of Contact Person	Contact Person's Position	Contact Person's Email	Budget
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Type of Access

- Framework Agreement Partner

1. Summary of the proposal

Country context
Burundi is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries globally, ranking 169th on the ND-GAIN index. Its economy is highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture, which employs over 80% of the population and contributes nearly 30% of GDP, making it highly sensitive to climate variability. Rising temperatures (+0.7-0.9°C since the 1930s, projected +1.5–2.5°C by 2050), erratic rainfall, and recurrent floods and droughts have intensified soil erosion, reduced crop yields, and disrupted water and energy systems. Floods wash away an estimated 38 million tonnes of topsoil annually, costing 1.6% of GDP, while droughts have historically affected over 3 million people, causing GDP losses of up to 17% per event. Burundi is highly vulnerable to climate change, with agriculture, water, and energy sectors severely impacted by rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and recurrent floods and droughts. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and recurrent floods and droughts threaten food security, water resources, and energy systems. These impacts exacerbate poverty (87% living below $1.90/day), food insecurity, and institutional fragility, posing systemic threats to sustainable development. Combined with high poverty levels and institutional fragility, climate change poses a severe challenge to sustainable development and poverty reduction.
Alignment with GCF Objectives
This proposal aligns with the GCF Readiness Strategy (2024-2027) and Burundi's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2021-2025) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2023-2026), and forthcoming Long-Term Strategy (LTS). It is fully aligned with Burundi's national priorities, ensuring coherence with the Paris Agreement and SDG commitments. While the country has made progress on their implementation, however, systemic barriers - such as weak institutional capacity, fragmented policy frameworks, and limited access to climate finance - continue to hinder effective climate action. This Readiness proposal seeks to strengthen country ownership and direct access to climate finance by addressing systemic barriers. The Readiness support will enhance governance, build technical and fiduciary capacities, and create enabling conditions for integrated climate investments in agriculture, forestry, and energy sectors. It is fully aligned with Burundi's national priorities, ensuring coherence with the Paris Agreement and SDG commitments.
This proposal aims to strengthen Burundi's climate finance ecosystem through three strategic objectives. First, it will build institutional capacity by enhancing the NDA's coordination role, updating policy frameworks, and supporting accreditation of a national entity for direct GCF access. Second, it will operationalize a broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as

tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources, develop at least two transformative concept notes and one Full Proposal (SAP), and establish robust oversight systems for fiduciary compliance and monitoring. Third, it will improve access to climate knowledge and foster regional cooperation for evidence-based decision-making. Collectively, these actions will advance NDC, NAP, and LTS priorities, catalysing a shift toward integrated, investment-ready climate programming and resilience.

Expected Impact and Results

Institutionally, the proposal will operationalize the NDA and national climate finance strategy, integrate climate policies and frameworks, and support the accreditation of a national entity for direct access.
Programmatically, it will update and publish a climate finance strategy to guide investments, develop two investment-grade concept notes and one Funding Proposal (SAP) by the FAO, and institutionalize MRV systems.
Development impacts will include restoring degraded land, improving climate resilience for vulnerable households, expanding renewable energy access for rural communities, reducing biomass reliance, and enhancing food and water security. These outcomes will contribute to SDG targets and national development goals. By addressing systemic capacity gaps and fostering inclusive stakeholder engagement, this Readiness support will catalyse a paradigm shift from fragmented interventions to a coherent, investment-ready climate finance ecosystem in Burundi.

2. Country Context

Guidance

This section provides an overview of the country context, including planned climate investments and priority areas for funding by the GCF and other sources of climate finance. It also highlights the country's key climate priorities, challenges, policies and institutional structures as well as gender considerations and stakeholder engagement.

2.1 Country(ies) Climate Challenges

Vulnerability to Climate Change in Agriculture sector

Burundi is among the most climate-vulnerable countries globally, ranking 169th on the ND-GAIN index. The country's agriculture sector is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its dependence on rain-fed systems and smallholder farming, which employs ≈90% of the population and contributes 30% of GDP. Rising temperatures (+0.7-0.9 °C since the 1930s; projected +1.5 - 2.5 °C by 2050) accelerate evapotranspiration, reduce soil moisture, and increase pest outbreaks, lowering crop yields. Rainfall variability - marked by prolonged dry spells and intense floods - disrupts planting calendars and shortens growing seasons. Floods wash away 38 million tons of topsoil annually, costing 1.6% of GDP, while droughts have historically affected over 3 million people, causing GDP losses of up to 17% per event. Vulnerability scores for cereal yields (0.938) and rural exposure (0.918) underscore severe food insecurity risks. These combined stressors threaten livelihoods and exacerbate poverty, justifying urgent interventions to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture through agroforestry, soil conservation, and improved water management.

Exposure to Extreme Weather Events

Rising temperatures (projected to increase by up to 2.5°C by 2050) and increasingly erratic rainfall patterns have led to recurrent floods, droughts, and landslides, damaging infrastructure, displacing communities, and reducing agricultural productivity. Bimodal rainfall pattern disruption threatens crop cycles and water availability. Deforestation and soil erosion amplify vulnerability to floods and landslides. These hazards exacerbate agricultural production and productivity, food insecurity, lack of rural income, natural resources deterioration, malnutrition, and health risks, while undermining energy systems dependent on hydropower and biomass. Combined with fragile governance and limited fiscal capacity, climate change poses a severe threat to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.

Climate Change Impact on sector development and threat to Sustainable Economic Development

Burundi is highly exposed to climate hazards, including floods, droughts, and rising temperatures, which threaten livelihoods and economic stability. As a results, the economic development is also threatened as follow : (i) Agriculture with crop failures, livestock losses, and soil degradation increase food insecurity and malnutrition (55% stunting among children under 5); (ii) Water Resources with reduced river and lake volumes, salinization, and biodiversity loss affect irrigation and fisheries; (iii) Energy dure to heavy reliance on biomass (90%) drives deforestation and health risks; (iv) Infrastructure sector exacerbated due to floods and landslides damage roads, housing, and urban systems, raising reconstruction costs and Health with the increased malaria, cholera, and heat-related illnesses strain healthcare systems.

Climate impacts - from floods and droughts to temperature extremes - pose systemic threats to sustainable economic development by disrupting agriculture, livelihoods, infrastructure, and public health. These impacts interact, creating feedback loops that deepen poverty, increase inequality, and reduce resilience. Addressing this requires integrated, climate-informed development planning focused on adaptation, resilient infrastructure, and inclusive policies. Overall, climate change threatens Burundi's core development sectors - agriculture, water, energy, natural ecosystem and health - undermining poverty reduction and economic stability.

2.2 Policy Framework

Burundi has established a comprehensive climate policy framework aligned with the Paris Agreement and national development goals Burundi's climate policy architecture comprises three key instruments: (i) **NDC (2021 - 2025):** Focused on resilience in agriculture, forestry, water, and energy, while promoting renewable energy and reducing emissions; (ii) **NAP (2023 - 2026):** Prioritizes climate-resilient agriculture, integrated water management, and infrastructure adaptation and (ii) **LTS (Under Development):** Envisions a low-emission, climate-resilient economy by 2050, emphasizing clean energy and sustainable land use as presented below.

- Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0, 2025): Burundi commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 23% by 2035 compared to the BAU scenario, with 3% unconditional and 20% conditional on international support. The NDC integrates mitigation and adaptation across key sectors - energy, agriculture, forestry, waste, and industry - emphasizing renewable energy, REDD+, climate-smart agriculture, and resilient infrastructure. It also prioritizes gender equality, youth empowerment, and inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2023): The initial NAP sets out a vision for a climate-resilient of Burundi, focusing on integrating adaptation into development planning. Priority actions include anti-erosion measures, sustainable land and water management, irrigation, health system strengthening, and disaster risk reduction. The plan addresses governance gaps, financing needs, and capacity building, serving as a foundation for future adaptation strategies.
- Long-Term Strategy (LTS, Vision 2040 - 2060): Burundi's LTS envisions a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy by mid-century, targeting universal electricity access by 2030, 99% renewable energy use, and restoration of forest cover. It aligns with sustainable development objectives and provides a roadmap for scaling up NDC and NAP actions over time.

Together, these instruments form an integrated approach:

- the NDC operationalizes short- and medium-term climate commitments.
- the NAP strengthens resilience and informs adaptation components of the NDC.

the **LTS** provides a long-term vision for carbon neutrality and sustainable growth, ensuring continuity and coherence across all climate actions of the country development plan.

2.3 Institutional Framework, Capacity and Coordination

Burundi's climate finance governance is led by the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (MINEAGRIE), which oversees climate policy and coordinates the implementation of the NDC and NAP. The Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning plays a central role in resource mobilization, integrating climate finance into national budgets, and liaising with international funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund. The Ministry of Economy and Strategic Planning ensures that climate actions align with the country's Vision 2040–2060 and the National Development Plan. The Central Bank supports financial stability and promotes green finance indirectly through regulatory frameworks, while executing entities such as the *Office Burundais pour la Protection de l' Environnement* (OBPE) and the *Institute Géographique du Burundi* (IGEBU) implement adaptation and mitigation projects and provide climate data services.

Coordination is facilitated through a National Climate Change Commission and multisectoral working groups for NDC and NAP processes, which include government agencies, civil society, private sector, and technical partners. While these structures provide a foundation for climate governance, current capacity remains limited in terms of technical expertise, project development, and integration of climate finance into sectoral planning, highlighting the need for stronger institutional capacity and innovative financing mechanisms.

The current capacity of Burundi's climate change governance is characterized, in one site, by its strengths, which are exemplified by the established legal and policy frameworks (Climate Policy, NDC 3.0, NAP 2023) and the active engagement with international climate finance mechanisms (GCF, Adaptation Fund), and in the other site, by the gaps, which are illustrated by (i) the limited technical and financial capacity for project development and MRV systems, (ii) the weak integration of climate finance into sectoral budgets, and (iii) the need for stronger private sector engagement and innovative financing tools as illustrated in the diagram below.

2.4 Gender Equality Analysis

As per Burundi's national policy on gender (2012-2025), the country has made progress in gender equality with constitutional quotas ensuring **30% representation of women in government** and notable participation in parliament (39% in the National Assembly, 41% in the Senate), although many **structural gaps persist,** especially in rural areas where women have limited access to land (only 17.7% hold land titles), credit, and decision-making power. These socio-economic constraints heighten women's vulnerability to climate shocks and restrict their capacity to adapt effectively.

Climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities, as women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate hazards due to their central roles in agriculture, water collection, household energy management, and caregiving. Evidence shows that over 3 million Burundians were affected by drought between 1996 and 2016, a burden that fell disproportionately on women given their dependence on rain-fed agriculture for food production and household income. Extreme droughts also contributed to up to 35% livestock mortality, amplifying women's workload and reducing household food security, for which they are primarily responsible.

Projected climate change impacts indicate 5–25% declines in crop yields in the coming decades due to increased floods and droughts, further increasing women's labour burden in food production and exacerbating nutritional insecurity, especially for children and pregnant women. Moreover, women and girls experience greater time poverty as droughts extend the long dry season and reduce water availability: they must travel longer distances to collect water, limiting time for income-generating activities and education. These climate-driven pressures align with global assessments showing that climate change exacerbates gendered vulnerabilities in agriculture, water, energy, health, and disaster-related displacement.

Women are also disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters. Nationally, 94,800 people were affected by floods, with women facing heightened protection risks, reduced mobility, and greater challenges accessing emergency assistance due to caregiving roles and socio-cultural norms. In rural communities, climate impacts interact with fragility and resource scarcity: women frequently use their limited household income to secure access to farmland or rehabilitate degraded soils, intensifying economic hardship and reinforcing gendered poverty dynamics.

Gender-sensitive measures are reflected in Burundi's NDC 3.0 and NAP, which prioritize women's empowerment, access to clean energy, climate-smart agriculture, and inclusive climate governance. These priorities are further planned in the implementation plan to achieve the Readiness Proposal Outcomes as follow:

- Strengthen institutional capacity and coordination mechanisms (Outcomes 1.1 & 1.2) by integrating gender-responsive procedures into NDA, CNCC, and sectoral SOPs—ensuring women's associations, youth groups, and Indigenous Batwa women are systematically included in the representation of climate change governance bodies, climate planning, given their disproportionate exposure to droughts affecting over 3 million people and floods affecting 94,800 people in past decades.
- Embed gender analysis in strategic frameworks and accreditation processes (Outcome 1.3) by supporting national entities to meet GCF gender policy standards through gender-sensitive fiduciary systems, ESS, climate budgeting, and risk management - addressing gaps such as women's very low land ownership (17.7%) that undermines adaptive capacity.
- Ensure gender-responsive pipeline development (Outcomes 2.1 & 2.2) by requiring all Concept Notes and the Funding Proposal to include gender-specific climate rationale, targeting women's vulnerability to 5–25% projected crop yield declines and time poverty resulting from prolonged dry seasons.
- Institutionalize gender-responsive monitoring and oversight systems (Outcome 2.3) by integrating gender indicators into digital project management tools, climate finance tracking systems, and annual reporting-enabling the NDA to track gender outcomes in agriculture, water access, and climate-related health risks.
- Expand inclusive knowledge-sharing and South–South exchanges (Outcomes 3.1 & 3.2) by producing gender-focused climate briefs, hosting women-centered peer-learning events and facilitating regional collaboration on gender-responsive adaptation - reflecting evidence that climate change consistently

affects women more severely across agriculture, water, energy, health, and disaster-related displacement.

Burundi can close gender–climate gaps by integrating gender-responsive coordination, strengthening accreditation and policy frameworks, and developing inclusive climate project pipelines along to gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting. Targeted actions address women's disproportionate exposure to droughts affecting 3 million people and floods affecting 94,800, as well as vulnerabilities from 5-25% crop yield declines.

2.5 Stakeholder Engagement

Burundi's climate governance demonstrates inclusive engagement across multiple stakeholder groups, though gaps remain in depth and consistency as presented below:

- Private Sector: The government has engaged with key private sector players, including large agribusinesses, energy companies, and financial institutions, to integrate climate resilience and sustainability principles into their operations. This collaboration focuses on renewable energy investments, sustainable agricultural practices, and the creation of climate-resilient supply chains, which promote low-carbon growth and enhance business resilience. However, participation in climate finance and green investment remains limited, requiring stronger incentives and public-private partnerships. The Readiness proposal will contribute to fill the gaps iBurundi's climate governance demonstrates inclusive engagement across multiple stakeholder groups, though gaps remain in depth and consistency as presented below:
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- Local Communities: The government has launched community-based initiatives to actively involve rural farming communities, particularly women and indigenous groups (such as the Batwa), in climate adaptation and resilience-building activities. These initiatives focus on climate-smart agriculture, resource conservation, and livelihood diversification to address vulnerabilities specific to these communities and strengthen their adaptive capacity. Communities are actively involved in adaptation projects such as climate-smart agriculture, watershed management, and disaster risk reduction. Women and youth are targeted for training and livelihood diversification, though technical capacity and resources at local levels need strengthening.
- Civil Society: NGOs and CSOs play a significant role in advocacy, awareness campaigns, and technical support for NDC and NAP implementation. Collaboration has been established with NGOs and civil society organizations focusing on climate justice, gender inclusion, and community

empowerment. These organizations play a crucial role in advocacy, raising awareness on climate change impacts, and capacity-building for marginalized groups, particularly women and youth in climate-vulnerable regions. They contribute to consultations and capacity-building but face funding constraints and limited reach in remote areas.

- Women-Led Groups: Women's associations are integrated into climate governance platforms and benefit from programs promoting clean energy access and climate-resilient agriculture. Gender-responsive measures are embedded in national strategies, yet persistent gaps in land rights and finance access remain. Women's associations and cooperatives are integral to climate governance platforms, where they play a leadership role in advocacy and decision-making. These groups benefit from targeted programs promoting clean energy solutions and climate-resilient agricultural practices, including training on sustainable farming techniques and access to affordable renewable energy technologies.
- Indigenous Peoples (Batwa): Batwa communities are recognized as vulnerable groups and consulted in national climate strategies. The Batwa communities are recognized as vulnerable due to their limited access to land, natural resources, and economic opportunities. They are actively consulted and involved in national climate strategies, particularly in the development of adaptation measures that address their unique challenges, such as land restoration, livelihood support, and inclusive decision-making processes. Engagement also includes targeted interventions for livelihood support, though implementation is still at an early stage and requires culturally appropriate approaches.
- Academia and Research Institutions: The government has established partnerships with academic institutions and research centres to conduct in-depth research on climate change impacts, including climate modelling and socio-economic analyses. This collaboration focuses on providing evidence-based solutions to enhance climate resilience in sectors such as agriculture, water management, and biodiversity conservation.
- International Partners: The government collaborates with international partners such as FAO, UNDP, and other development agencies to mobilize resources, provide technical expertise, and support project implementation. These partnerships help align Burundi's climate priorities with global climate finance mechanisms and enhance capacity-building for both the public sector and local communities as illustrated in the table below.
- Table 2. Gaps/Challenges of selected Stakeholders for their Engagement in Burundi's Climate Action.
- Stakeholder GroupLevel of EngagementGaps / ChallengesPrivate SectorLimited but emerging participation in renewable energy (solar, biogas) and forestry (REDD+).Weak involvement in climate finance and green investment; need for incentives and PPPs.Local CommunitiesActive in community-based adaptation projects (agriculture, water management, disaster risk reduction).Limited technical capacity and resources; need for stronger integration in planning.Civil Society (CSOs)Strong role in advocacy, awareness, and technical support for NDC/NAP implementation.Funding constraints and limited reach in remote areas.Women-Led GroupsIncluded in climate governance platforms; targeted for clean energy and climate-smart agriculture programs.Persistent gender gaps in land rights and access to finance; need for scaling gender-responsive actions.Indigenous Peoples (Batwa)Recognized as vulnerable groups; consulted in national strategies; targeted for livelihood support.Engagement is still at initial stages; need culturally appropriate interventions.
- n engaging private sector to increase its share in sustainable investments.
- Local Communities: The government has launched community-based initiatives to actively involve rural farming communities, particularly women and indigenous groups (such as the Batwa), in climate adaptation and resilience-building activities. These initiatives focus on climate-smart agriculture, resource conservation, and livelihood diversification to address vulnerabilities specific to these

communities and strengthen their adaptive capacity. Communities are actively involved in adaptation projects such as climate-smart agriculture, watershed management, and disaster risk reduction. Women and youth are targeted for training and livelihood diversification, though technical capacity and resources at local levels need strengthening.

- Civil Society: NGOs and CSOs play a significant role in advocacy, awareness campaigns, and technical support for NDC and NAP implementation. Collaboration has been established with NGOs and civil society organizations focusing on climate justice, gender inclusion, and community empowerment. These organizations play a crucial role in advocacy, raising awareness on climate change impacts, and capacity-building for marginalized groups, particularly women and youth in climate-vulnerable regions. They contribute to consultations and capacity-building but face funding constraints and limited reach in remote areas.
- Women-Led Groups: Women's associations are integrated into climate governance platforms and benefit from programs promoting clean energy access and climate-resilient agriculture. Gender-responsive measures are embedded in national strategies, yet persistent gaps in land rights and finance access remain. Women's associations and cooperatives are integral to climate governance platforms, where they play a leadership role in advocacy and decision-making. These groups benefit from targeted programs promoting clean energy solutions and climate-resilient agricultural practices, including training on sustainable farming techniques and access to affordable renewable energy technologies.
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Table 2. Gaps/Challenges of selected Stakeholders for their Engagement in Burundi's Climate Action.

Stakeholder Group	**Level of Engagement**	**Gaps / Challenges**
Private Sector	Limited but emerging participation in renewable energy (solar, biogas) and forestry (REDD+).	Weak involvement in climate finance and green investment; need for incentives and PPPs.

Local Communities	Active in community-based adaptation projects (agriculture, water management, disaster risk reduction).	Limited technical capacity and resources; need for stronger integration in planning.
Civil Society (CSOs)	Strong role in advocacy, awareness, and technical support for NDC/NAP implementation.	Funding constraints and limited reach in remote areas.
Women-Led Groups	Included in climate governance platforms; targeted for clean energy and climate-smart agriculture programs.	Persistent gender gaps in land rights and access to finance; need for scaling gender-responsive actions.
Indigenous Peoples (Batwa)	Recognized as vulnerable groups; consulted in national strategies; targeted for livelihood support.	Engagement is still at initial stages; need culturally appropriate interventions.

2.6 Complementarity with Other Initiatives (GCF and non-GCF)

Please list past and current GCF readiness grants, and relevant capacity-building initiatives funded by other agencies and funds

GCF Readiness Activities

Title & Reference Number	Start and End Dates	Amount Approved	Status	Objectives	Key Outcomes & Results	Complementarity with the readiness proposal
Readiness Support for the Africa Union Multi-Country Program to Accelerate Readiness for Water and Climate Resilience Investments with GWPO - AFR-RS-008	31 July 2024 - 30 July 2026	N/A	Disbursed	Strengthen institutional capacity across African Union member states to access climate finance for water resilience	The AU-AIP Multi-Country GCF Readiness Project strengthened institutional capacity across African Union member states to access climate finance for water resilience. It supported	The readiness proposal “Strengthening Operational Frameworks to Improve Climate Finance Access and Investments in Burundi” complements the AU-AIP Multi-Country GCF Readiness Project by addressing different but mutually reinforcing levels of

	the development of national Water Investment Programme aligned with continental priorities, advanced Direct Access Entity accreditation processes, and created a pipeline of climate-resilient water projects. In Burundi, the project facilitated stakeholder engagement and initiated the design of a	capacity building. While the Burundi-specific proposal focuses on enhancing national systems, institutional coordination, and enabling frameworks for direct access to climate finance, the AU-AIP initiative operates at a regional scale to accelerate water and climate resilience investments through harmonized approaches and knowledge sharing. Together, they create

	national water investment framework, positioning the country to mobilize resources for climate-resilient water infrastructure. Additionally, the project established knowledge-sharing platforms and gender-responsive frameworks, fostering regional collaboration and mobilizing public-private investments for large-scale water and	synergy by linking national readiness efforts with continental strategies, ensuring coherence, reducing duplication, and fostering cross-country learning to maximize climate finance impact.

					climate resilience initiatives.	
Developing and implementing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process in Burundi - BDI-RS-004	24 Jan 2024 - 24 Jan 2027	923,458	Disbursed	Develop the NAP Readiness project in Burundi	The NAP Readiness project in Burundi strengthened institutional coordination and integrated adaptation priorities into national planning frameworks. It improved climate vulnerability assessments, mobilized adaptation finance, and established inclusive platforms for engaging	The readiness proposal “Strengthening Operational Frameworks to Improve Climate Finance Access and Investments in Burundi” complements the “Developing and Implementing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process in Burundi” by targeting different but interconnected aspects of climate governance. The operational frameworks initiative focuses on

	government, private sector, and civil society. These efforts laid a solid foundation for implementing long-term climate resilience strategies.	building institutional capacity, improving coordination, and creating enabling conditions for accessing climate finance, while the NAP process provides a strategic roadmap for integrating adaptation priorities into national development planning. Together, they ensure that strengthened systems and financing mechanisms are aligned with long-term adaptation goals, fostering coherence, reducing

						duplication, and enhancing Burundi's resilience to climate impacts.
Increasing Private Sector Involvement in the Transition towards a Low-Carbon and Climate Resilient Economy in Burundi - BDI-RS-003	25 July 2022 - 24 July 2024	383,685.92	Completed	Increasing Private Sector Involvement in the Transition towards a Low-Carbon and Climate Resilient Economy in Burundi	The project strengthened Burundi's institutional frameworks to engage the private sector in climate action and low-carbon development. It established sustainable coordination platforms, trained businesses and financial actors on GCF processes, and	The private sector project complements the operational frameworks proposal by pairing strong national systems for climate finance with active market engagement, ensuring coordinated governance and investment pipelines for Burundi's low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

					supported the identification of Direct Access Entities for accreditation. These efforts created a pipeline of bankable projects and positioned the private sector as a key driver of climate-resilient investment in Burundi.	
BuildingthecapacitiesofkeySustainableLandManagementstakeholderstomainstreamclimatechangeinBurundiandupdatingtheCountryProgramme - BDI-RS-002	28 Feb 2022 - 28 July 2024	263,299.93	Completed	Building the capacities of key Sustainable Land Management stakeholders to mainstream climate change in	The Readiness project achieved considerable progress in strengthening climate governance. Members of	The project on building capacities for mainstreaming climate change in land management and updating the Country Programme complements the

	Burundi, and updating the Country Programme	government institutions, civil society, and technical experts were trained to integrate climate considerations into land management policies and practices, while the Country Programme update aligned national priorities with GCF investment opportunities. Together, these efforts enhanced institutional	operational frameworks proposal by aligning strengthened stakeholder skills and strategic priorities with robust institutional systems for climate finance access, creating a coherent foundation for climate-resilient development in Burundi.

readiness, improved coordination, and positioned Burundi to access climate finance for sustainable land and climate-resilient development.

Other capacity-building initiatives funded or commissioned by parties other than GCF

Title	Start and End Dates	Status	Funding Agency	Main objectives	Complementarity with the readiness proposal
Scaling up Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience and Land Restoration across Burundi's fragile hill landscapes	4 Jan 2024 - 16 Feb 2025	underImplementation	GEF	To increase land productivity and climate resilience of fragile communities in targeted areas.	The Nature-Based Solutions project complements the operational frameworks proposal by linking practical land restoration and climate resilience actions with strengthened institutional systems for climate finance, ensuring both implementation capacity and resource mobilization for Burundi's hill landscapes.
Building capacities in Burundi to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement	19 May 2022 - 31 Dec 2026	underImplementation	GEF	Strengthen Burundi's institutional and stakeholder capacity to comply with the requirements of Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement on climate change	The Enhanced Transparency Framework project complements the operational frameworks proposal by strengthening Burundi's capacity to track, report, and verify climate actions under the Paris Agreement, while the operational frameworks initiative ensures these efforts are supported by robust systems for climate finance access and investment.

2.7 Project Pipeline and Priorities

Burundi's current project pipeline GCF focused for 2024–2027 includes **four priority projects** aligned with its a broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources in achieving climate change ambitions as illustrated in the table below.

Project Title	Focus Area	Estimated GCF Financing	Accredited Entity
1. Resilient Agricultural Landscapes for Food Security	Climate-smart agriculture, forest-water nexus	$24M	FAO
2. Integrated Watershed Management Based on Ecosystem Adaptation	Ecosystem-based adaptation, land restoration	$32M	UNEP
3. Accelerating Distribution of Low-Carbon Energy	Renewable energy access, private sector capacity	$40M	AfDB
4. Climate Finance Facility for Climate-Smart Agriculture	Loan for Climate Smart Agriculture via Banque de Crédit Agricole du Burundi (BCAB)	$50M	BCAB (PSAA)

Additional concept notes are forthcoming from NAP planning processes.
A set of strategic priorities defined by the country covered (i) Adaptation Focus with the upscaling climate-resilient, low-carbon agriculture and Integrated watershed and ecosystem restoration; Mitigation and Energy with Accelerating renewable energy adoption and reducing biomass reliance and Cross-Cutting Themes included Gender equality and social inclusion, Institutional strengthening and climate governance and Technology transfer and data systems.

2.8 Specific Readiness needs

Burundi has advanced its climate planning through the development of its NDC (2021–2025) and NAP (2023–2026), both integrated into the National Development Plan, yet the Long-Term Strategy (LTS) remains incomplete. Institutional and technical gaps persist in the capacity of the National Designated Authority (NDA) and the Climate Change Committee (CNCC) to coordinate stakeholders, mobilize finance, and mainstream climate priorities across policies. The CNCC refers to the National Climate Change Committee, which serves as the national multi-stakeholder coordination and advisory body on climate change. It is not a separate team sitting under the NDA; rather, it works in close coordination with the NDA and relevant sector institutions. During the grant period, overall strategic oversight will be provided by the NDA, with the CNCC supporting coordination, technical guidance, and stakeholder engagement to ensure alignment with national climate priorities. The Readiness support will focus on **building technical expertise** and **managerial capacity** within the **NDA** and key stakeholders, specifically in **climate finance tracking**, **project proposal development**, and **fiduciary management**. Training will be provided through **workshops** and **mentorship programs**, with an emphasis on **sustainable knowledge transfer** via a **train-the-trainer model**, ensuring the skills remain embedded within the institutions post-project. Readiness support is therefore needed to strengthen institutional effectiveness, finalize the LTS, build technical skills in climate budgeting, vulnerability and carbon footprint analysis, and ensure climate earmarking in national budgets and sectoral plans.

The finalization of the Long-Term Strategy (LTS) under Outcome 1 will directly complement Burundi's Vision 2040 and 2060 by translating the country's long-term development ambitions into a climate-responsive pathway. In particular, the LTS will help operationalize the Vision's objectives related to sustainable environmental management, climate resilience, and inclusive economic transformation by identifying priority mitigation and adaptation actions, sequencing investments, and strengthening coordination across sectors. In this way, the LTS will serve as a strategic bridge between national climate commitments and the broader national development agenda, ensuring that progress toward an emerging Burundi by 2040 and a developed Burundi by 2060 is pursued in a resilient, low-emission, and sustainable manner.

Existing frameworks such as the NDC, NAP, and REDD+ strategy provide a foundation, but they remain fragmented and stove-piped, with weak integration across agriculture, energy, and water. Data gaps limited consultative processes, and duplication of efforts hinder effectiveness. Readiness resources will help revise these frameworks, strengthen coordination, and promote climate finance earmarking to create enabling environments for integrated investments.

Burundi currently relies on eight international AEs, with no national entity accredited to the GCF. This limits direct access to climate finance. Readiness support will prepare at least one national institution for accreditation, conduct gap analyses, and provide technical assistance to meet fiduciary, environmental, and gender safeguard standards. Under BDI-003, two national institutions - BBCI and ADISCO - were identified as candidate entities for potential direct access accreditation. The current readiness proposal builds on that earlier groundwork by taking forward pre-accreditation support in a more targeted manner. At this stage, the readiness support is intended to advance BBCI based on readiness, institutional capacity, and alignment with accreditation requirements.

The Country Programme (2024–2027) has guided one GCF-funded project, but the portfolio is dominated by public sector adaptation initiatives with minimal private sector engagement. Readiness will support fiscal incentives, training, and budgetary reforms to green public investments and mobilize private sector participation. To expand the pipeline, Burundi needs to develop at least two concept notes and one full proposal, addressing the significant gap between current funding and the estimated US$1.9 billion annual investment required.

Oversight and monitoring capacities of the NDA remain weak, with limited institutionalized systems for reporting and financial management. Readiness will provide project management tools, training, and digital systems to institutionalize oversight and ensure compliance with GCF requirements.

Finally, while Burundi has produced vulnerability assessments and GHG inventories, access to knowledge products is uneven and focused on adaptation. Readiness will systematize knowledge sharing, documents, lessons learned and strengthen stakeholder access. Regional cooperation has begun through multi-country initiatives, but Burundi needs to expand exchanges on mitigation and restoration pathways. Support will facilitate thematic learning events and strengthen media capacity to disseminate climate information.

In short, Burundi’s Readiness needs focus on finalizing strategic frameworks (especially the LTS), strengthening NDA and CNCC capacities, accrediting a national entity, expanding the project pipeline with private sector engagement, institutionalizing oversight systems, and improving knowledge-sharing and regional cooperation.

3. Statement of Objectives

Guidance

This section aims to clearly define the objectives and scope of the readiness support being sought. It outlines: (1) the anticipated impact of readiness support on climate programming and direct access, highlighting how the support will enhance the country's capacity to design and implement climate projects; (2) the alignment of the readiness support with national climate goals, including the implementation of NDCs, NAPs, and LTS, and (3) specific areas of readiness support required, addressing capacity gaps and aligning with the objectives and outcomes of the 2024-2027 readiness strategy.

To form a statement of the objectives for the readiness support, consider the optional **Guide for Countries on Strategic Planning of Readiness Support**.

3.1 Objectives of the Readiness Support

Narrative on Expected Outcomes

Burundi ranks among the most climate-vulnerable countries globally, facing severe land degradation, erratic rainfall, and heightened exposure to climate-related disasters. Despite recent progress in updating its NDC (2021–2025) and NAP (2023–2026), systemic barriers - such as weak institutional capacity, fragmented policy frameworks, and limited access to climate finance - continue to hinder effective climate action. This Readiness proposal seeks to address these gaps by strengthening operational frameworks, enhancing institutional capacities, and creating enabling conditions for integrated climate investments. It is fully aligned with the GCF Readiness Strategy (2024 - 2027) and Burundi's national priorities, including the forthcoming Long-Term Strategy (LTS).

The proposal is structured around three strategic objectives:

- Institutional Strengthening and Strategic Frameworks This objective focuses on enhancing the NDA's technical and management capacities, institutionalizing coordination mechanisms, and updating policy instruments to enable integrated, gender-responsive climate investments. It also supports the accreditation of at least one national entity to the GCF, fostering national ownership and sustainability in climate finance access.
- Paradigm-Shifting Pipeline Development and Implementation The proposal will draft a climate finance strategy, ensuring a coherent project pipeline aligned with national priorities. It aims to develop two high-quality concept notes and one SAP full proposal, and strengthen oversight systems for fiduciary compliance, monitoring, and reporting - critical for transparency and effective implementation.
- Knowledge-Sharing and Learning By improving access to climate knowledge products and fostering regional and South-South cooperation, this objective promotes evidence-based decision-making and cross-sectoral learning. Enhanced communication and dissemination will support policy coherence and investment planningExpected outcomes include:
- A fully operational NDA with institutionalized multi-stakeholders' engagement mechanisms;
- Updated strategic frameworks enabling integrated climate investments across agriculture, energy, and forestry;
- At least one national entity advanced in the GCF accreditation process;
- A published climate finance strategy guiding systematic resource mobilization;
- Two transformative concept notes submitted to GCF for screening approval.
- One SAP funding proposal developed by the FAO from one of two approved concept notes, submitted to GCF.
- Institutionalized monitoring and reporting systems ensuring compliance and transparency.
- Systematized access to climate knowledge and formalized regional partnerships for collaborative programming.

These outcomes directly contribute to the Revised Readiness Results Management Framework (RRMF) indicators, including NDA capacity (1.1.1, 1.1.2), strategic frameworks (1.2.1), national accreditation (1.3.1), a broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources (1.1.2), proposal development (2.2.1), oversight systems (2.3.1), and knowledge-sharing (3.1.1, 3.2.1).

Capacity-building for climate finance coordination and setting up the enabling environment for integrated climate investment

- ☒ 1.1. Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles, responsibilities and policy requirements, including coordination mechanisms to engage relevant stakeholders to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.
- ☒ 1.2. Developing countries design and implement strategic frameworks (including NDC/NAP/LTS), policies and instruments, including climate investment plans, to create enabling environments for integrated climate investments.
- ☒ 1.3. Direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) have met and maintained the accreditation standards of the GCF and strengthened their programming capacities, as evidenced by the development of GCF-funded activities.

Objective 2. Paradigm-shifting GCF pipeline development and implementation for adaptation and mitigation, based on country needs and guided by USP-2

- ☐ 2.1. Developing countries have developed or updated their country programmes to guide GCF investment.
- ☒ 2.2. Developing countries have developed high-quality concept notes linked to approved GCF proposals for adaptation and mitigation that are aligned with the USP-2 results, including through DAEs, that build on readiness support and country programmes.
- ☒ 2.3. NDAs and DAEs have enhanced processes and systems to effectively oversee the implementation, financial management, monitoring and reporting of climate programmes and projects.

Objective 3. Knowledge-sharing and learning to enhance national and regional cooperation on climate programming and financing

- ☒ 3.1. Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have made use of knowledge products to address policy gaps and integrated climate investment programming and implementation.
- ☒ 3.2. Enhanced collaboration among developing countries on climate change issues, evidenced by transboundary and regional cooperations/South-South cooperation.

3.2 Anticipated Impact on Climate Programming and Direct Access

The proposed readiness support will significantly enhance Burundi's capacity to design, implement, and monitor climate projects by addressing critical institutional and technical gaps. Specifically, the support will:

- Strengthen the National Designated Authority (NDA) and Technical Institutions: The NDA within the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock will be provided with advanced project management tools and trained in GCF fiduciary standards, gender and social inclusion, and monitoring and evaluation. This will enable the NDA to effectively coordinate climate finance initiatives, oversee project implementation, and ensure compliance with GCF requirements;
- Establish Robust Project Preparation and Oversight Systems: A dedicated national climate coordination committee will be operationalized to develop high-quality, bankable proposals tailored to GCF investment criteria and other climate finance sources. This unit will utilize digital project management software to track progress, manage budgets, and report on key performance indicators, ensuring transparency and accountability;
- Accelerate Direct Access Accreditation: At least one national institution will be supported through the GCF accreditation process, including gap assessments, fiduciary and safeguard system strengthening, and staff training. This will enable Burundi to access GCF resources directly, reducing reliance on international intermediaries and increasing national ownership of climate investments;
- Expand Climate Project Pipeline: The Readiness support will facilitate the climate finance strategy, translating national priorities into a clear pipeline of transformative projects. At least two high-quality concept notes will be developed for submission to the GCF, focusing on priority sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and renewable energy;
- Anticipated Impact: Through these interventions, Burundi aims to secure GCF funding for large-scale adaptation and mitigation projects, including climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and clean energy initiatives.

By strengthening institutional frameworks, building technical capacity, and fostering inclusive stakeholder engagement, this readiness support will catalyze a paradigm shift in Burundi's climate programming - moving from fragmented, project-based interventions to a coherent, investment-ready approach that leverages both public and private finance.

3.3 Alignment with NDC/NAP/LTS Implementation

The alignment with Burundi's NDC, NAP, and LTS and Contribution to National Climate Goals is effective. The planned readiness support is fully aligned with Burundi's national climate frameworks and long-term development vision, ensuring coherence across adaptation and mitigation priorities:

- Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC):The readiness activities will operationalize Burundi's updated NDC (2026-2030), which prioritizes renewable energy expansion, sustainable agriculture, and forest conservation. By strengthening institutional capacity and developing bankable projects in these sectors, the proposal directly supports NDC targets such as reducing GHG emissions by 23% by 2027 and increasing forest cover to 20% by 2030;
- National Adaptation Plan (NAP): The Readiness support addresses key adaptation priorities outlined in the NAP (2023–2026), including enhancing resilience in agriculture, improving water resource management, and protecting ecosystems. For example, the development of climate-smart agriculture projects and land restoration initiatives will reduce vulnerability to droughts and floods, safeguarding food security and rural livelihoods;

- Long-Term Strategy (LTS): Burundi is in the process of developing its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS). This Readiness will provide technical assistance and coordination mechanisms to integrate mitigation pathways and green growth objectives into the LTS, ensuring consistency with Vision 2040 - 2060 and the National Development Plan (PND 2018 - 2027).

Expected Contributions to National Climate Goals:
Through the finalization and publication of the climate finance strtegy and the development of at least two transformative project proposals that will contribute to:

- Restore degraded land, contributing to ecosystem resilience and carbon sequestration;
- Promote renewable energy solutions for rural households, reducing reliance on biomass and mitigating deforestation;
- Enhance climate risk management in agriculture, improving food security for over vulnerable households;
- Institutionalize gender-responsive and socially inclusive climate governance, in line with national gender strategies and SDG commitments.

4. Approach, Methodology, and Implementation Activities

Guidance

Please describe technical approach, methodology, and implementation plan to address the country needs and gaps, through the Direct Access modality.

4.1 Theory of Change

The first step in articulating the programme's objectives as well as the logic behind the delivery of its intended results is the formulation of a TOC. Please provide a TOC which highlights key challenges being addressed, as well as the step-by-step pathways to achieving the expected results. Key steps to designing a TOC are outlined in the **RRMF Handbook**.

Burundi's progress in climate governance is constrained by fragmented institutional mandates, limited technical capacity, inadequate coordination among ministries, and insufficient involvement of non-state actors such as the private sector, civil society, women's groups, youth networks, and Indigenous Batwa communities. Although Burundi has developed an updated NDC (2021–2025), an active NAP (2023–2026), and is preparing its Long-Term Strategy (LTS), these frameworks remain under-implemented due to weak coordination mechanisms, poor information flow, and a lack of consistent multisectoral engagement.

This Readiness proposal is built on the premise that **effective, inclusive, and technically capable coordination is essential for the development, advancement, and implementation of Burundi's NDCs, NAPs, and LTS**. The proposal therefore aims to strengthen the operational performance, inclusiveness, and technical skills of the NDA, the CNCC, and key sectoral institutions, while establishing structured coordination platforms, procedures, and tools that support systematic planning and monitoring. These efforts will also integrate considerations related to decent rural employment (DRE), including job creation, social protection, and income generation, particularly for women and youth.

The intervention begins by reviewing and strengthening the delivery effectiveness of existing coordination mechanisms, ensuring clarity of institutional roles, inclusive representation, and improved cross-sector linkages. It then builds the technical capacity of coordination actors through targeted workshops on climate finance governance, planning processes, MRV, and integration of NDC/NAP/LTS priorities. The proposal further operationalizes an inclusive Climate Coordination Mechanism, offering a formal space to engage ministries, private sector actors, civil society organizations, women's groups, youth representatives, academia, and Indigenous Peoples.

Through these combined actions, the project will generate clearer mandates, better-organized decision-making, stronger technical capacity, and more inclusive and transparent governance structures, completed submission of full package of national accreditation. These outputs are expected to translate into improved multisectoral alignment, more coherent national climate planning, strengthened project pipeline development including at least two concept notes, one large scale funding proposal (SAP), and enhanced readiness for climate finance mobilization.

Causal Logical Statement of the Proposal

If Burundi strengthens its national climate coordination mechanisms by building institutional capacity, improving governance structures, and establishing inclusive platforms for joint planning and decision-making,
then the NDA, CNCC, and sectoral stakeholders will be able to collaborate effectively, share information, align sector contributions, and jointly advance and implement NDC, NAP, and LTS priorities;
because clearer institutional roles, improved technical knowledge, standardized coordination procedures, and structured multisectoral engagement directly enhance the country's ability to plan, resource, and monitor climate actions.

Therefore, by reinforcing coordination capacity and inclusiveness, the proposal will enable Burundi to achieve more coherent climate governance, strengthen climate investment planning, mobilize finance, and deliver long-term adaptation and mitigation outcomes aligned with national and global commitments.

Burundi's ability to access and effectively utilize GCF funding is constrained by a set of systemic barriers that weaken country ownership, undermine compliance with GCF policies, and limit the development of high-quality, investment-ready proposals. These barriers reduce the country's readiness to mobilize climate finance at scale and affect all stages of the GCF project cycle - from strategic planning to accreditation, proposal development, oversight, and reporting. Addressing them is therefore essential for meeting the GCF's eligibility requirements and unlocking larger, long-term climate investments.

The barriers to be addressed by this readiness project include:

- institutional and coordination barriers: Fragmented institutional mandates and weak coordination across the NDA, CNCC and sector ministries impede Burundi's compliance with the GCF's core requirement of a unified national coordination system. Without clear procedures for joint planning, no-objection, and stakeholder engagement, the NDA cannot fully perform its mandated role, resulting in inconsistent project screening, reduced transparency, and misaligned NDC/NAP/LTS implementation. This undermines the demonstration of country ownership, a key criterion for GCF funding;
- technical barriers: limited technical and managerial capacity within national institutions restricts their ability to meet GCF standards for climate finance governance. Gaps in climate budgeting, MRV, project appraisal, fiduciary compliance, ESS and gender integration result in proposals that lack strong climate rationale, coherence, or transformational potential. These weaknesses directly affect the likelihood of concept notes and funding proposals passing GCF Secretariat and ITAP screening;
- resource mobilization barriers: the absence of a nationally accredited Direct Access Entity delays Burundi's transition to country-led programming and reduces its eligibility for larger and more strategic funding windows. Without strengthened fiduciary, procurement, safeguards, and governance systems, no national institution can advance through GCF accreditation stages. This limits the country to international AEs, constraining national ownership and long-term portfolio development;
- financial barriers: the current project pipeline is thin, fragmented, and insufficiently backed by technical analyses such as pre-feasibility assessments, financial models, ESS/gender screenings, and climate impact estimates. Because GCF funding windows are highly competitive, pipeline weaknesses reduce Burundi's chances of submitting bankable, impactful, and scalable proposals aligned with GCF investment criteria;
- managerial barriers: weak oversight, monitoring and financial tracking systems limit Burundi's ability to demonstrate fiduciary soundness and results-based management - both fundamental to GCF

confidence. Without digital tools, SOPs, and integrated workflows for project monitoring, reporting, and risk management, implementation risks increase and compliance with GCF requirements (including Annual Performance Reports) becomes difficult;

- Knowledge management and learning barriers: limited access to climate knowledge and weak knowledge-sharing mechanisms undermine evidence-based planning and proposal development. Without updated climate data, analytical tools, and regular knowledge products, institutions cannot prepare strong climate rationales or integrate lessons learned into future programming, which lowers the quality and competitiveness of submissions to the GCF.

In combination, these barriers significantly constrain Burundi's eligibility and readiness to secure GCF financing. By

addressing them comprehensively through this Readiness proposal - via institutional strengthening, coordination reforms, accreditation support, pipeline development, oversight tools, and knowledge systems - Burundi will enhance its capacity to access, absorb, and scale climate finance fully aligned with its NDC, NAP, and forthcoming LTS.

The barriers identified in Burundi's climate finance ecosystem significantly limit the country's ability to mobilize, access, manage, and absorb GCF resources. Without addressing these structural constraints, Burundi cannot meet GCF policy requirements, demonstrate country ownership, or develop bankable projects aligned with the Fund's investment framework. Below is a detailed explanation of how each barrier undermining GCF funding opportunities.

How the Readiness Proposal Objectives Respond to the Six Barriers

The Readiness proposal is intentionally structured around three strategic objectives that directly and comprehensively address the six systemic barriers limiting Burundi's ability to access and manage GCF funding. Each objective provides targeted solutions that remove institutional, technical, fiduciary, and knowledge bottlenecks, thereby strengthening national climate governance and preparing the country for larger-scale climate investments.

Objective 1: Capacity-building for climate finance coordination and enabling environment

Objective 1 directly addresses barriers 1, 2, and 3, including (i) governance fragmentation by strengthening the operational capacity of the NDA, revitalizing the CNCC, and formalizing cross-ministerial coordination. Activities include reviewing the performance of existing coordination mechanisms, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for joint planning and no-objection processes, and delivering targeted training for ministries, women's groups, youth, private sector and Indigenous communities. Together, these interventions create a clearer, more inclusive, and rules-based coordination architecture required for coherent NDC/NAP/LTS implementation and GCF eligibility; (ii) a comprehensive programme of capacity-building workshops on climate finance governance, climate budgeting, GCF compliance, AFOLU modelling, MRV, gender integration, and monitoring systems. The proposal strengthens NDA work planning, improves institutional procedures, and updates the national Readiness Needs Assessment. These interventions equip national institutions with the competencies needed to coordinate climate finance, apply GCF policies and manage readiness and investment programming effectively; (iii) all required steps to advance at least one national institution toward GCF accreditation. This includes conducting a fiduciary/ESS/gender/procurement gap assessment, establishing an accreditation task team, delivering tailored training, drafting or updating mandatory policies, and supporting the preparation of the accreditation dossier for the GCF Online Accreditation System (OAS). This directly responds to the national barrier of lacking a Direct Access Entity and puts Burundi on a path to exercise country ownership over future GCF resources.

Objective 2: Paradigm-shifting pipeline development and implementation

Objective 2 response to barriers 4 and 5, (i) operationalizes and strengthens upstream technical analysis to produce high-quality, investment-ready project ideas. Through pre-feasibility studies, climate rationale assessments, ESS/gender screening, economic and financial modelling. The objective leads to the development of **at least two concept notes and one SAP funding proposal**. This pipeline is designed to be country-owned, evidence-based, and inclusive of private sector and civil society stakeholders, directly overcoming a major constraint to GCF programming and (ii) includes procurement and customization of digital project management and climate-finance tracking tools tailored to the NDA's needs. Staff receive hands-on training to maintain and use these systems, and corresponding SOPs and oversight workflows are developed. A Project Oversight & Compliance Task Team is established to ensure high-quality reporting, fiduciary accountability, and alignment with GCF's Annual Performance Report (APR) standards. These reforms enable the NDA to monitor climate programmes reliably and transparently, resolving a critical barrier to GCF confidence and eligibility.

Objective 3: Knowledge-sharing, climate information systems and regional cooperation

Objective 3 responds to barrier 3, establishes a Climate Knowledge Working Group, produces climate finance bulletins, policy briefs and technical notes, and develops an online Climate Knowledge Hub for national stakeholders. National and regional peer-learning events institutionalize knowledge exchange, while South–South cooperation mechanisms expand access to best practices, regional expertise and joint programming opportunities. By strengthening the generation and dissemination of climate information, Objective 3 enables evidence-based decision-making and enhances Burundi's ability to justify climate investments to the GCF.

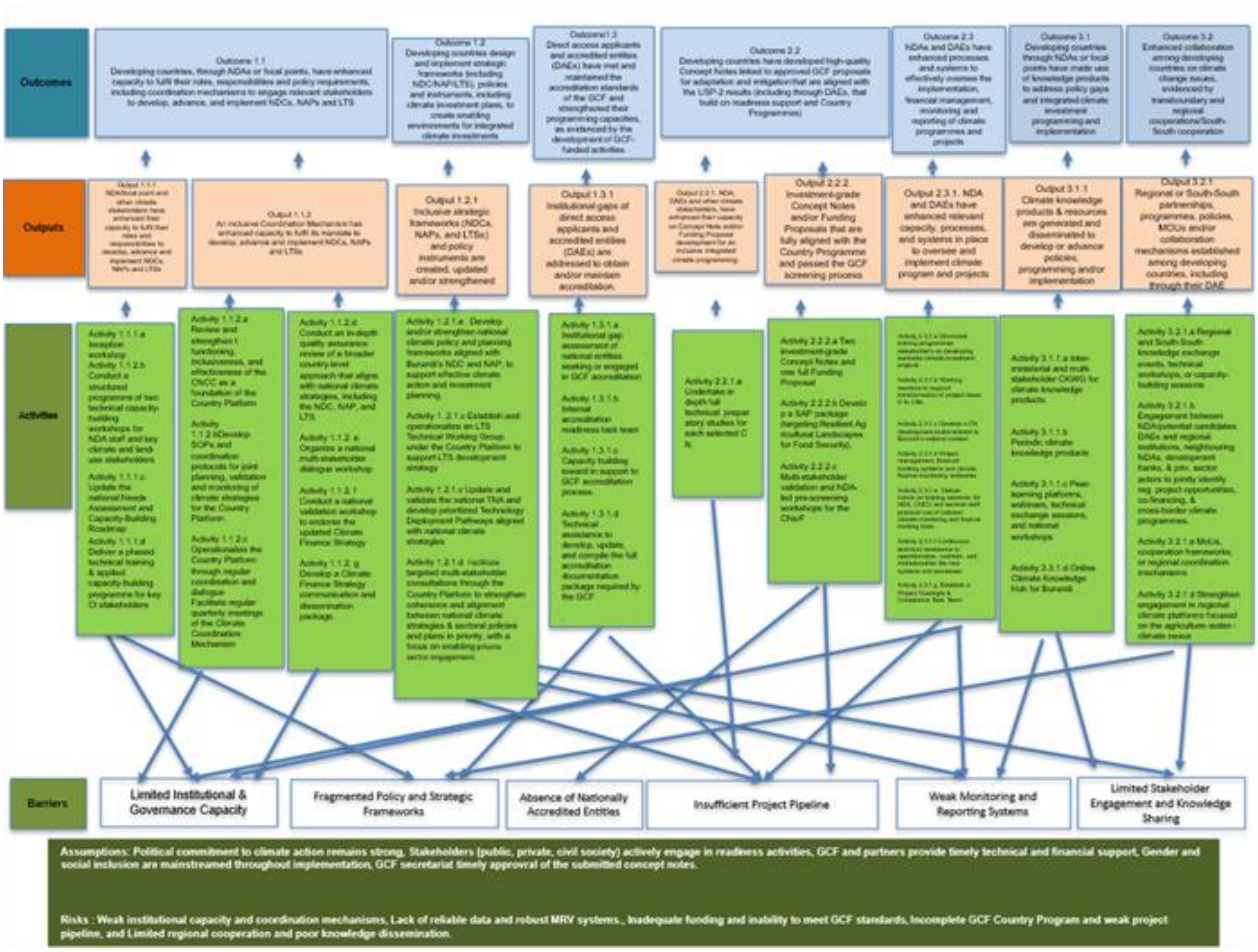
Implementation of this Readiness proposal assumes:

- Government institutions remain strongly committed to to climate action remains strong and engaging in the coordination mechanism with NDA and CNCC maintaining stable leadership and designated technical staff;
- Stakeholders (public, private, civil society) actively engage in Readiness activities;
- GCF and partners provide timely technical and financial support for the effectiveness of coordination;
- Relevant data and sectoral information are accessible for integrated planning and monitoring;
- Gender and social inclusion are mainstreamed throughout implementation;
- GCF secretariat timely approved the submitted concept notes.

The key risks associated to the implementation of the Readiness proposal include:

- Weak institutional capacity and coordination mechanisms combined to inadequate absorption of technical content, with high staff turnover weakens continuity, delays activities, and erodes institutional memory and reduces ability to operationalize NDC/NAP/LTS actions and use coordination tools;
- Lack of reliable data and robust MRV systems and adaptation planning, hinder evidence-based planning, and slow progress reporting;
- Risk of non-inclusive governance; limited uptake of local needs; private sector disengagement may affect pipeline development;
- Incomplete GCF Country Program and weak project pipeline, combined to inadequate funding and inability to meet GCF standards;
- Limited regional cooperation and poor knowledge dissemination.

This narrative is illustrated in Theory of Change diagram as required.



4.2 Beneficiaries

The Readiness proposal will benefit a wide range of stakeholders, both directly and indirectly, ensuring inclusivity and alignment with national priorities:
Direct Beneficiaries
• Government Institutions
  ○ Primary: National Designated Authority (NDA) which is the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock (MINEAGRIE).
  ○ Others: Technical ministries in charge of energy, finance, transport, health etc. and decentralized local authorities.
  ○ Benefit: Capacity-building for climate governance, project development, fiduciary standards, and monitoring systems.
• Private Sector
  ○ Renewable energy companies, gigawatt global, agribusinesses, and financial institutions.
  ○ Benefit: Training on climate investment opportunities, participation in project pipeline development, and access to blended finance mechanisms.
• Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
  ○ Environmental NGOs, women's associations, and youth groups.
  ○ Benefit: Inclusion in stakeholder consultations, capacity-building on climate finance, and participation in project design.
• Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:
  ○ Particularly vulnerable groups such as the Batwa and smallholder farmers.
  ○ Benefit: Engagement in adaptation and mitigation planning, access to climate-smart agriculture initiatives, and livelihood diversification.
• Gender Disaggregation:
  ○ Women represent over 90% of agricultural labour in Burundi.
  ○ Benefit: Targeted training and participation in decision-making processes; gender-responsive project design to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience.
Indirect Beneficiaries
• General Population
  ○ Improved climate resilience through ecosystem restoration, renewable energy access, and food security measures.
• Regional Partners:
  ○ Through South-South cooperation and knowledge-sharing platforms, fostering joint climate initiatives.
Link to Outputs and Activities
• Deliverable 1–7 (Objective 1): NDA and institutional capacity-building workshops will directly benefit government officials and technical staff.
• Deliverable 9–11 (Objective 2): Development of concept notes and project management systems will involve private sector actors, CSOs, and local communities.
• Deliverable 12–14 (Objective 3): Knowledge products and communication campaigns will indirectly benefit the wider population by improving awareness and access to climate information.The beneficiary architecture is illustrated in the table below.

Table 3. Mapping Beneficiary.

Beneficiary Group	Disaggregation	Linked Deliverables / Activities	Expected Benefits
Government Institutions	NDA (MINEAGRIE), technical ministries, local authorities	Deliverables 1–7 : Capacity-building workshops, institutional framework review, accreditation support	Improved coordination, policy integration, and ability to access and manage climate finance
Private Sector	Renewable energy firms, agribusiness, financial institutions	Deliverables 9 : Stakeholder engagement in concept note development, training on climate investment opportunities	Increased participation in climate projects, access to blended finance, and new business opportunities
Civil Society Organizations	Environmental NGOs, women's associations, youth groups	Deliverables 9,12–14 : Inclusive consultations, knowledge-sharing platforms, communication campaigns	Enhanced advocacy, capacity to design climate projects, and improved access to climate information
Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities	Batwa communities, smallholder farmers	Deliverables 9, 12–14 : Engagement in project design, awareness campaigns, livelihood diversification initiatives	Increased resilience through climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem restoration
Women & Gender Groups	Women farmers, women-led CSOs	Integrated across all deliverables (gender mainstreaming in training, project design, and communication)	Empowerment in decision-making, improved access to resources, and reduced vulnerability to climate risks
General Population	Rural and urban communities	Indirect benefit from Deliverables 9–14 : Project implementation, knowledge dissemination	Improved food security, renewable energy access, and climate resilience

4.3 Implementation Activities

Please list all proposed activities under their corresponding outputs. For each activity:

- Assign a unique identifier using the format aligned with the output (e.g., activities under Output 1.2.1 should be labelled as 1.2.1a, 1.2.1b, 1.2.1c, etc.).
- Ensure these activity labels match those referenced in the Financial Proposal to maintain consistency and traceability.
- Provide a clear and detailed description of each activity, specifying the exact actions that will be undertaken.

Objective 1. Capacity-building for climate finance coordination and setting up the enabling environment for integrated climate investment

☒ Outcome 1.1. Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles, responsibilities and policy requirements, including coordination mechanisms to engage relevant stakeholders to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.

☒ Output 1.1.1. NDA/focal point and other climate stakeholders have enhanced their capacity to fulfil their roles and responsibilities to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.

Activities

1-1-1.a. Activity 1.1.1.a Organize a two-day inception workshop to formally establish the Project Steering Committee (PSC), provide an introductory capacity-building session on the GCF to align stakeholders' understanding, identify immediate capacity gaps, present the objectives and planned activities of the Readiness project, and validate the key documents required for implementation. Milestone 1.1 Inception workshop report.
1-1-1.b. Activity 1.1.1.b Conduct a structured programme of two technical capacity-building workshops for NDA staff and key climate and land-use stakeholders to strengthen climate finance governance, NDA operationalization, and AFOLU mitigation planning aligned with NDC, NAP, LTS priorities and the GCF project cycle. This activity will cover: roles and responsibilities of the NDA and partner institutions; climate finance governance architecture and coordination arrangements; GCF modalities, project cycle, compliance requirements, and no-objection procedures; pipeline development aligned with national climate priorities; NDA operational planning, budgeting, annual work planning, performance monitoring, and reporting. Milestone 1.2 : Two technical workshops completed, with training materials, attendance records, and workshop reports validated. Milestone 1.3 : Draft NDA operational plan and budget framework prepared and validated, including annual work planning, performance monitoring, and reporting arrangements.
1-1-1.c. Activity 1.1.1.c. Update the national Needs Assessment and Capacity-Building Roadmap to reflect current institutional roles, coordination arrangements, and priority capacity gaps for effective NDC, NAP and LTS development and implementation. This activity will: review previous readiness and capacity needs assessments; assess current mandates, institutional roles, and coordination procedures; identify priority capacity gaps for NDA, CNCC, and sectoral institutions; validate findings through consultations. produce an updated and prioritized roadmap for capacity development. Milestone 1.4 : Assessment of institutional roles, coordination arrangements, and priority capacity gaps completed and validated through stakeholder consultations. Milestone 1.5 : Updated national Needs Assessment and Capacity-Building Roadmap finalized and endorsed.
1-1-1.d. Activity 1.1.1.d Deliver a phased technical training and applied capacity-building programme for NDA, CNCC, and key sectoral stakeholders on implementation of national climate frameworks, climate planning and coordination, and investment prioritization. The implementation would be framed in two phases: Phase 1: Technical and institutional capacity strengthening Focus on: understanding NDC, NAP, and LTS obligations and sector contributions; climate planning and policy integration; coordination and governance of climate action; GCF policies, instruments, and climate finance mobilization; mainstreaming gender, youth, and Indigenous Batwa considerations; climate data integration, MRV, vulnerability analysis, climate budgeting, and AFOLU tools. Phase 2: Applied investment prioritization and pipeline development Focus on: translating national frameworks into prioritized investments; identifying and screening project ideas; applying investment prioritization criteria; strengthening project pipeline development aligned with national frameworks and GCF priorities; practical exercises using real national priorities and projects. Milestone 1.6: Phase 1 training programme designed and delivered, with modules finalized, participants trained, and training reports completed. Milestone 1.7: Phase 2 applied training completed, with stakeholders demonstrating practical use of investment prioritization and project pipeline development tools.

☒ Output 1.1.2. An inclusive Coordination Mechanism has enhanced capacity to fulfill its mandate to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.

Activities

1-1-2.a. Activity 1.1.2.a Review and strengthen the functioning, inclusiveness, and effectiveness of the CNCC as a foundation for the Country Platform. This activity will: (i) assess the current performance of CNCC and related sectoral coordination groups; (ii) diagnose gaps in institutional roles, inter-ministerial collaboration, and participation of key stakeholders, including private sector, women, youth, and Indigenous (Batwa) groups and (iii) propose actionable recommendation to strengthen mandate clarity, decision making processes, information flows, and inclusiveness. Milestone 2.1. A validated assessment report with actionable recommendations to strengthen CNCC governance and performance and guide the transition toward the Country Platform.
1-1-2.b. Activity 1.1.2.b Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and coordination protocols for joint planning, validation and monitoring of climate strategies for the Country Platform. This activity will establish the operational framework of the Country Platform through the development of national SOPs and coordination protocols The SOP will define collaboration pathways between ministries, CNCC candidate entities for DAEs, other stakeholders and partners including FAO, formalize processes for reviewing and updating NDC/NAP/LTS, approving project ideas, issuing no-objection letters, and integrating climate priorities into sectoral planning processes and mainstream gender- and inclusion-sensitive coordination approaches. The SOPs will support the effective functioning of the Country Platform by: (i) clarifying governance structure and membership; (ii) standardizing coordination processes across stakeholders; (iii) formalizing procedures for climate finance pipeline development and prioritization; (iv) ensuring transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability and (v) anchoring the platform within existing national institutional arrangements. Milestone 2.2: National SOP for climate coordination and the Country Plan validate and endorsed by the NDA and CNCC.
1-1-2.c. Activity 1.1.2.c. Operationalize the Country Platform through regular coordination and dialogue This activity will ensure the effective functioning of the Country Platform through regular coordination processes. Activities will include: (i) Convening routine meetings to track progress on NDC/NAP/LTS implementation; (ii) Reviewing sectoral contributions and identifying bottlenecks; (iii) Updating national climate dashboard/scorecard with progress indicators and (iv) Facilitating information sharing, peer learning, and technical collaboration across ministries, DAEs, and partners. These coordination processes will gradually replace ad hoc mechanisms and institutionalize a more structured, results-oriented platform. Milestone 2.3: Four (4) quarterly progress reports documenting implementation, challenges, and follow-up actions under the Country Platform.
1-1-2.d. Activity 1.1.2.d Conduct an in depth quality assurance review of a broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources, to assess its level of inclusiveness, coherence, and alignment with national development priorities, NDC/NAP/LTS objectives, sectoral strategies, and GCF programming targets. This review will: (i) Analyse the alignment between the broader country-level approach inclusive of the NDC, NAP, and LTS priorities; (ii) Assess coherence with Burundi's national planning frameworks (PND, sector strategies); (iii) Evaluate inclusiveness, identifying gaps related to private sector, CSOs, youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples; (iv) Review investment priorities and project pipeline to ensure conformity with GCF programming directions and (v) Identify missing information, inconsistencies, and opportunities for strengthening. Milestone 2.4: A validated Quality Assurance Review Report with recommendations for an updated Climate Finance Strategy.

1-1-2.e. Activity 1.1.2. e Organize a national multi stakeholder dialogue workshop to discuss findings from the review, strengthen coordination, and ensure broad stakeholder engagement in refining the Climate Finance Strategy. Stakeholders include: (i) The NDA and sectoral ministries (agriculture, water, energy, environment, finance, planning) ; (ii) Candidate entities for DAEs and national institutions interested in accreditation ; (iii) Private sector actors (agribusiness, renewable energy companies, financial sector) ; (iv) Civil society organizations, women's associations, youth networks, academia, and Indigenous Batwa representatives and (v) Development partners and technical agencies (FAO, UNEP, UNDP, AfDB, etc.). This activity will: (i) Validate national climate investment priorities; (ii) Identify co financing opportunities and synergies with existing programmes; (iii) Integrate gender, youth, and Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and iv) Update and refine the project pipeline. Milestone 2.5: Report of the national dialogue workshop, including stakeholder inputs and revised priority areas.
1-1-2.f. Activity 1.1.2. f Conduct a national validation workshop to endorse the updated Climate Finance Strategy and Burundi's climate finance strategy prior to submission and publication. This step will: (i) Present final revised Climate Finance Strategy, including investment priorities, project pipeline, sequencing, and programming targets; (ii) Validate the alignment with GCF investments' priorities, NDC/NAP/LTS, and national policies; (iii) Secure high level endorsement from the Government of Burundi; (iv) Ensure integration of stakeholder feedback, including private sector and community perspectives and (v) Finalize the document for publication on the GCF Partner Portal. Milestone 2.6: Validated and government endorsed climate finance strategy ready for publication.
1-1-2.g. Activity 1.1.2. g Develop a Climate Finance Strategy communication and dissemination package. A communication package (briefs, infographics, stakeholder summaries) to support visibility, awareness, and national ownership. Milestone 2.7. Communication package + dissemination plan.

☒ Outcome 1.2. Developing countries design and implement strategic frameworks (including NDC/NAP/LTS), policies and instruments, including climate investment plans, to create enabling environments for integrated climate investments.

☒ Output 1.2.1. Inclusive strategic frameworks (NDCs, NAPs, and LTSs) and policy instruments are created, updated and/or strengthened.

Activities

1-2-1.a. Activity 1.2.1.a: Update and review the national climate policy and planning frameworks aligned with Burundi's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP), including institutional arrangements, implementation tools, and coordination mechanisms to support effective climate action and investment planning. The activity will include: (i) Update and review the existing NDC through advancing of the REDD+ strategy and NAP implementation frameworks to ensure coherence and alignment across sectors; (ii) development or strengthening of institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms for implementation, including clear roles and responsibilities of key actors (NDA, CNCC, sector ministries); (iii) design of operational tools and guidelines to support planning, prioritization, and tracking of climate actions and investments and (iv) integration of climate investment planning considerations into national and sectoral frameworks to facilitate resource mobilization. Milestone 3.1: The update and review of the existing NDC and NAP implementation frameworks completed, including the REDD +, the institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms agreed. Milestone 3.2: Frameworks finalized, validated, and operationalized, including deployment of implementation tools and guidelines for climate planning and investment prioritization.

1-2-1.b. Activity 1.2.1.b. Establish and operationalize an LTS Technical Working Group under the Country Platform to support LTS development strategy. The activity will involve the establishment of a dedicated technical working group composed of key sector ministries, the NDA, CNCC, and relevant stakeholders. It will support the LTS process by providing coordinated technical inputs, facilitating cross-sectoral alignment, and ensuring integration of mitigation, adaptation, and investment priorities aligned with NDC/NAP cycles and Vision 2040-2060. The working group will operate as a technical body under the Country Platform, focusing on providing sectoral and analytical inputs to the LTS, while overall coordination and stakeholder engagement functions remain under the Country Platform. Milestone 4.1: LTS Technical Working Group formally established under the Country Platform, including identification of members, terms of reference (ToR), and governance arrangements Milestone 4.2: Technical Working Group operational and delivering coordinated inputs to the LTS development process, including sectoral contributions and cross-sectoral alignment Milestone 4.3: Technical Working Group supports finalization and validation of the LTS, ensuring integration of mitigation, adaptation, and investment priorities.
1-2-1.c. Activity 1.2.1.c Update and validate the national Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) and develop prioritized Technology Deployment Pathways aligned with national climate strategies (NDC, NAP and LTS). This activity will: (i) review and update the existing national TNA to reflect current mitigation and adaptation priorities; (ii) identify and prioritize climate technologies across key sectors; (iii) assess enabling conditions (policy, finance, capacity, data) for deployment; (iv) validate findings through multi-stakeholder consultation processes; and (v) develop and finalize Technology Deployment Pathways to guide investment planning, technology transfer, and financing. Milestone 5.1: Updated Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) completed, including identification and prioritization of climate technologies and assessment of enabling conditions Milestone 5.2: Technology Deployment Pathways developed, validated through multi-stakeholder consultation, and finalized to support investment planning and technology transfer.
1-2-1.d. Activity 1.2.1.d: Facilitate targeted multi-stakeholder consultations through the Country Platform to strengthen coherence and alignment between national climate strategies (NDC, NAP, and LTS) and sectoral policies and plans in priority sectors (agriculture, water, land, energy, and disaster risk management), with a focus on enabling private sector engagement. Milestone 6.1: Multi-stakeholder consultation report

☒ Outcome 1.3. Direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) have met and maintained the accreditation standards of the GCF and strengthened their programming capacities, as evidenced by the development of GCF-funded activities.

☒ Output 1.3.1. Institutional gaps of direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) are addressed to obtain and/or maintain accreditation.

Activities

1-3-1.a. Activity 1.3.1.a Conduct a detailed institutional gap assessment of national entities seeking or engaged in GCF accreditation, identifying completed steps, existing barriers, and remaining actions required to achieve full accreditation. This assessment will: (i) Identify missing or weak systems relative to GCF accreditation requirements; (ii) Review existing policies, procedures, internal controls, and staffing capacities; (iii) Map priority areas where institutional strengthening is required and (iv) Provide recommendations and sequencing for compliance improvements. Milestone 7.1: Validated institutional gap assessment report with prioritized actions toward accreditation for the Banque Burundaise pour le Commerce et l‘ Investissement (BBCI).
1-3-1.b. Activity 1.3.1.b Establish an internal accreditation Readiness task team. A reinforced internal team dedicated to accreditation processes, documentation management, internal reforms, and liaison with the NDA. Milestone 7.2: Accreditation task team ToR + operational workplan.

1-3-1.c. Activity 1.3.1.c Deliver a tailored capacity-building programme for potential national entities candidates for GCF accreditation, based on the gap assessment results, to strengthen fiduciary systems, procurement standards, ESS safeguards, gender policy implementation, and internal audit mechanisms. Training packages may include: (i) GCF fiduciary and ESS requirement; (ii) Development of internal control frameworks and compliance systems; (iii) Anti corruption, anti fraud, and transparency measures; (iv) Gender mainstreaming in institutional operations and (v) Project cycle management and risk oversight. The workshop will also support the development of an actionable plan for progressing toward full accreditation. Milestone 7.3: Training reports + improved institutional capacity scores and draft updated policies and procedures.
1-3-1.d. Activity 1.3.1.d Provide continuous technical assistance to the selected potential national DAE entities to develop, update, and compile the full accreditation documentation package required by the GCF. The support will be calibrated to each entity's progress and capacity gaps identified in the gap assessment and capacity-building workshops. Support will include: (i) Drafting or updating policies (fiduciary, procurement, ESS, gender) ; (ii) Preparing evidence documents required for the Online Accreditation System (OAS) ; (iii) Coaching senior management on meeting GCF standards; (iv) Facilitating responses to GCF Secretariat queries and (v) Supporting internal adoption and approval of new institutional procedures. Milestone 7.4: Completed and validated GCF accreditation dossier of BBCI submitted to the Online Accreditation System (OAS).

Objective 2. Paradigm-shifting GCF pipeline development and implementation for adaptation and mitigation, based on country needs and guided by USP-2 programming targets

☐ Outcome 2.1. Developing countries have developed or updated their country programmes to guide GCF investment.

☒ Output 2.1.1. Country programme developed and/or updated to guide GCF investment.

Activities

2-1-1.a. Activity 2.1.1.a Conduct an in depth quality assurance review of a broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources, to assess its level of inclusiveness, coherence, and alignment with national development priorities, NDC/NAP/LTS objectives, sectoral strategies, and GCF programming targets. This review will: (i) Analyse the alignment between the broader country-level approach inclusive of the NDC, NAP, and LTS priorities; (ii) Assess coherence with Burundi's national planning frameworks (PND, sector strategies); (iii) Evaluate inclusiveness, identifying gaps related to private sector, CSOs, youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples; (iv) Review investment priorities and project pipeline to ensure conformity with GCF programming directions and (v) Identify missing information, inconsistencies, and opportunities for strengthening. Milestone 8.1: A validated Quality Assurance Review Report with recommendations for an updated Climate Finance Strategy.
2-1-1.b. Activity 2.1.1.b Organize a national multi stakeholder dialogue workshop to discuss findings from the review, strengthen coordination, and ensure broad stakeholder engagement in refining the Climate Finance Strategy. Stakeholders include: (i) The NDA and sectoral ministries (agriculture, water, energy, environment, finance, planning) ; (ii) Candidate entities for DAEs and national institutions interested in accreditation ; (iii) Private sector actors (agribusiness, renewable energy companies, financial sector) ; (iv) Civil society organizations, women's associations, youth networks, academia, and Indigenous Batwa representatives and (v) Development partners and technical agencies (FAO, UNEP, UNDP, AfDB, etc.). This activity will: (i) Validate national climate investment priorities; (ii) Identify co financing opportunities and synergies with existing programmes; (iii) Integrate gender, youth, and Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and iv) Update and refine the project pipeline. . Milestone 8.2: Report of the national dialogue workshop, including stakeholder inputs and revised priority areas.

2-1-1.c. Activity 2.1.1.c Conduct a national validation workshop to endorse the updated Climate Finance Strategy and Burundi's climate finance strategy prior to submission and publication. This step will: (i) Present final revised Climate Finance Strategy , including investment priorities, project pipeline, sequencing, and programming targets ; (ii) Validate the alignment with GCF investments' priorities, NDC/NAP/LTS, and national policies; (iii) Secure high level endorsement from the Government of Burundi ; (iv) Ensure integration of stakeholder feedback, including private sector and community perspectives and (v) Finalize the document for publication on the GCF Partner Portal. Milestone 8.3: Validated and government endorsed from a broader country-level approach ready for publication.
2-1-1.d. Activity 2.1.1.d Develop a Climate Finance Strategy communication and dissemination package. A communication package (briefs, infographics, stakeholder summaries) to support visibility, awareness, and national ownership once the Country Programme is finalized. Milestone 8.4. Communication package + dissemination plan.

☒ Outcome 2.2. Developing countries have developed high-quality concept notes linked to approved GCF proposals for adaptation and mitigation that are aligned with the USP-2 results, including through DAEs, that build on readiness support and country programmes.

☒ Output 2.2.1. NDA, DAEs and other climate stakeholders, have enhanced their capacity on Concept Note and/or Funding Proposal development for an inclusive integrated climate programming.

Activities

2-2-1.a. Activity 2.2.1.a Undertake in depth full technical studies (feasibility, environmental and social assessment, economic and financial analysis, gender analysis, and climate impact modelling) for each Concept Note. This activity will: Draft Pre-feasibility study consisting out of: (i) Robust climate rationales (hazard trends, vulnerability modelling); (ii) Sector specific analyses (e.g. AFOLU, water, resilience, land restoration); (iii) environmental and social screening (ESS) with mitigation measures and gender assessments ensuring gender responsive design and (iv) cost benefit, economic viability, and financial structuring. Milestone 9.1: A package of feasibility and technical studies for each Concept Note

☒ Output 2.2.2. Investment-grade Concept Notes and/or Funding Proposals that are fully aligned with the Country Programme and passed the GCF screening process.

Activities

2-2-2.a. Activity 2.2.2.a Draft, refine and finalize at two investment grade Concept Notes and aligned with Burundi's broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources, national climate priorities and GCF programming objectives. This activity includes: (i) Full drafting of CNs following the GCF template; ((ii) Structuring activities, outcomes, outputs and ToC; (iii) Developing budget frameworks, financial models, and co financing strategies; (iv) Completing ESS, gender, MRV, and implementation arrangements; (v) Ensuring alignment with NDC, NAP, LTS and national priorities (agriculture, energy, water, land restoration); (vi) Integrating private sector participation where feasible and (vii) Incorporating feedback from NDA, CNCC, sector ministries, and GCF Secretariat. Milestone 9.2: One finalized and government endorsed investment grade Concept Note by the potential candidate national entity - BBCI, and One finalized and government endorsed investment grade Concept Note by FAO, ready for submission to the GCF Secretariat.
2-2-2.b. Activity 2.2.2.b Develop a SAP package (targeting Resilient Agricultural Landscapes for Food Security), including all mandatory annexes and supporting documentation required by the GCF will be developed for submission to the GCF, based on Activity 2.2.2a and b, and aligned with GCF policies, standards, and investment criteria. The activity will include a structured consultation and validation process with relevant stakeholders and affected communities to ensure participatory design, social inclusion, and compliance with GCF environmental, social, and gender requirements. Where feasible, the proposal will seek to involve the potential DAE supported under Output 1.3 in the development and advancement of this funding proposal. Milestone D10.1 – SAP package including all relevant annexes will be developed for Resilient Agricultural Landscapes for Food Security

2-2-2.c. Activity 2.2.2.c Conduct multi stakeholder validation and NDA-led pre screening workshops for the CNs and SAP to ensure compliance with GCF criteria before submission. This will: (i) Present draft CNs/SAP for review by the NDA/CNCC and key technical ministries ; (ii) Verify alignment with GCF investment criteria (impact, paradigm shift, needs, efficiency, sustainability) ; (iii) Strengthen coherence with the a broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources and GCF targets ; (iv) Facilitate iterative revisions based on stakeholder feedback and (v) Ensure operational readiness for future GCF appraisal. Milestone 10.2: Validation workshop reports for CNs and SAP Funding Proposal. Milestone 10.3 NDA no-objection documentation + final revised SAP.

☒ Outcome 2.3. NDAs and DAEs have enhanced processes and systems to effectively oversee the implementation, financial management, monitoring and reporting of climate programmes and projects.

☒ Output 2.3.1. NDA and DAEs have enhanced relevant capacity, processes and systems in place to oversee and implement climate programmes and projects.

Activities

2-3-1.a. Activity 2.3.1.a Deliver two structured training programmes for NDA and key stakeholders such as national DAEs applicants including Banque Burundaise pour le Commerce et l' Investissement (BBCI), sector ministries, CSOs, private sector entities and sub national actors on designing bankable climate projects and meeting GCF funding criteria and AFOLU modelling. The first training will equip the participants with information on global climate financing procedures of GCF, and will cover project design, GCF eligibility, and alignment with national priorities. The second training will be focused on the use of the NEXT tool to assess AFOLU mitigation potential to guide participants in integrating the outputs into Concept Note (CN) development, including identification of mitigation targets and generation of project ideas aligned with national priorities and GCF criteria of climate biodiversity friendly agriculture including on 'Resilient Agricultural Landscapes for Food Security' with a focus to Climate-smart agriculture, forest-water nexus for FAO and on "Climate-Resilient Agriculture Finance Facility' – via the implementation of a blended finance facility providing climate-smart loans and guarantees to smallholder farmers and agribusiness SMEs, or on "Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) Financing Facility" focusing on the concept of Finance reforestation, watershed restoration, and land rehabilitation through bankable projects for the potential national candidate entities for DAE. Training 1 - Climate Project Preparation & GCF Proposal Development Topics include: (i) The global climate finance landscape (GCF, GEF, AF, MDBs) ; (ii) GCF investment criteria and proposal structure; (iii) Developing climate rationale, Theory of Change, ESS, gender integration, and results frameworks and (iv) Mainstreaming inclusiveness, youth, gender, and Indigenous Peoples' needs. Training 2 – Using the NEXT Tool for AFOLU Mitigation Modelling Topics include: (i) Assessing AFOLU mitigation potential; (ii) Integrating modelling outputs into CN design ; (iii) Setting baselines, targets, and measurable indicators and (iv) Prioritizing project ideas based on quantified mitigation impact. Milestone 11.1: Two training reports + pre/post knowledge assessment Milestone 11.2: Draft project idea notes

	2-3-1.b. Activity 2.3.1.b Facilitate hands on working sessions to support transformation of project ideas into Concept Notes – Organize practical, expert guided technical clinics to assist participants in drafting components of two GCF Concept Notes. The sessions will help stakeholders: (i) Draft climate rationale, problem analysis and Theory of Change; (ii) Prepare intervention components, budgets and implementation modalities; (iii) Conduct preliminary ESS and gender screenings; (iv) Align draft CNs with the updated a broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources and (v) Ensure integration of adaptation, mitigation, cross-cutting and private sector pathways. These sessions will be on 'Resilient Agricultural Landscapes for Food Security' with a focus to Climate-smart agriculture, forest-water nexus for FAO and on "Climate-Resilient Agriculture Finance Facility' – via the implementation of a blended finance facility providing climate-smart loans and guarantees to smallholder farmers and agribusiness SMEs, or on "Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) Financing Facility" focusing on the concept of Finance reforestation, watershed restoration, and land rehabilitation through bankable projects for the potential national candidate entities for DAE. Milestone 11.3: Training sessions reports documenting the process in drafting components of two GCF Concept Notes. Milestone 11.4: Draft of two Concept Note content packages (ToC, rationale, activities, budget outline, ESS screening)
	2-3-1.c. Activity 2.3.1.c: Develop a Concept Note development toolkit tailored to Burundi's national context, adapting and operationalizing existing GCF guidance, templates, and tools to support national stakeholders in preparing high-quality, investment-ready project concepts. The toolkit will: (i) translate and simplify GCF requirements into user-friendly guidance; (ii) align concept note development with national frameworks (NDC, NAP, LTS); (iii) provide standardized formats and procedures for project identification, prioritization, and development; (iv) integrate lessons learned from previous readiness support and existing national pipeline development processes in French language. The toolkit will complement, not duplicate, existing GCF resources by contextualizing them to Burundi's institutional, policy, and sectoral context in the French language. Milestone 11.5: Concept Note Development Toolkit adapted to the national context, validated with stakeholders, and finalized for use by national institutions in French version.
	2-3-1.d. Activity 2.3.1.d Procure, configure, and operationalize project management tools, financial tracking systems, and climate finance monitoring software tailored to NDA oversight needs. This activity will include: (i) Procuring project management software (e.g., integrated dashboards, M&E tracking tools); (ii) Customizing the tools to Burundi's NDA workflow, a broader country-level approach of prioritisation that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources , and GCF requirements; (iii) Setting up climate finance tracking modules for monitoring implementation progress, fiduciary compliance, and budget execution; (iv) Creating user accounts, workflows, templates, and reporting dashboards for NDA, CNCC, and DAEs. Milestone 11.6: Fully operational project management and climate finance tracking system with configuration report.
	2-3-1.e. Activity 2.3.1.e Deliver hands on training sessions on practical use of national climate monitoring and finance tracking tools. This activity will support the NDA, CNCC, and sectoral staff in applying the digital tools and monitoring systems introduced under the programme to their routine work. The focus will be on using these tools effectively for national planning and internal tracking, rather than on formal GCF reporting processes. Training will be delivered through practical sessions based on real data and use cases. It will cover how to: • Monitor project and programme implementation using simple planning and tracking tools (e.g. timelines and dashboards); • Track climate finance flows at national level, including allocations and expenditures; • Apply national templates related to M&E, environmental and social safeguards (ESS), gender, and fiduciary oversight in day-to-day practice; • Generate internal summaries and analytical outputs that can inform decision-making and feed into broader reporting processes when needed. Support will also include the development of short, user-friendly guidance notes to help staff apply these tools in their respective institutions. However, the activity will not extend to in-depth technical maintenance or system troubleshooting, which will be managed through dedicated technical support arrangements. Milestone 11.7: Two training reports, updated capacity assessment results, and practical user guidance materials for national monitoring and tracking tools.

2-3-1.f. Activity 2.3.1.f Provide continuous technical assistance to operationalize, maintain, and institutionalize the new systems and processes within the NDA and potential DAEs. This activity includes: (i) Supporting real time use of digital systems for ongoing project oversight ; (ii) Developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for monitoring and reporting; (iii) Embedding systems into NDA workflows, sectoral coordination processes, and CNCC meetings ; (iv) Supporting staff in generating monthly and quarterly implementation reports and (v) Ensuring long term sustainability by linking oversight processes to national systems. Milestone 11.8: Documented operational SOPs + quarterly oversight reports demonstrating use of the system.
2-3-1.g. Activity 2.3.1.g Establish a Project Oversight & Compliance Task Team A cross department team within NDA/CNCC ensuring continuous oversight, quality assurance, and reporting. Milestone 11.9: Task Team ToR + operational schedule.

Objective 3. Knowledge-sharing and learning to enhance national and regional cooperation on climate programming and financing

☒ Outcome 3.1. Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have made use of knowledge products to address policy gaps and integrated climate investment programming and implementation.

☒ Output 3.1.1. Knowledge products developed and/or used to address policy gaps and integrated climate investment programming and implementation.

Activities

3-1-1.a. Activity 3.1.1.a Establish and operationalize a Climate Knowledge Working Group under the Country Platform This activity will set up a Climate Knowledge Working Group (CKWG) as part of the Country Platform, with the aim of improving how climate-related information is produced, shared, and used in decision-making. The first step will be to agree on clear Terms of Reference, defining the role of the group and how it connects with the broader platform. The group will bring together key actors, including the NDA, CNCC, IGEBU, OBPE, sector ministries, as well as representatives from academia, civil society, the private sector, and women and youth groups. Once established, the group will identify a set of priority themes based on national needs and ongoing processes. These are likely to include areas such as adaptation, mitigation, AFOLU, climate finance, greenhouse gas trends, and gender and climate. The group will then coordinate the preparation and review of knowledge products, ensuring they are consistent, relevant, and aligned with national strategies such as the NDC, NAP, and forthcoming LTS. Particular attention will be given to making these outputs practical and usable for planning and investment decisions. Expected products include a national climate dashboard to track progress, short sector briefs to inform policy discussions, and targeted notes on climate finance opportunities and priorities. These outputs will feed directly into discussions within the Country Platform and help guide priorities and resource mobilization. Milestone 12.1: Terms of Reference endorsed and Climate Knowledge Working Group operational, with initial knowledge products available to support Country Platform discussions.
3-1-1.b. Activity 3.1.1.b Produce and publish periodic climate knowledge products/ Develop, package, and disseminate quarterly or semi-annual climate knowledge products to inform decision-making, national planning, and investment programming. Products may include: (i) Climate Finance Bulletins (tracking national and global developments); (ii) Policy Briefs (summarizing NDC/NAP/LTS implementation progress); (iii) Thematic Technical Notes (climate risk analysis, AFOLU mitigation, adaptation options) e=(iv) Gender & Climate Briefs (women’s resilience, gender-responsive climate actions). Milestone 12.2 At least 4 validated climate knowledge products per year (bulletins, briefs, fact sheets).
3-1-1.c. Activity 3.1.1.c Organize peer-learning platforms, webinars, technical exchange sessions, and national workshops to disseminate knowledge products and strengthen evidence-based policy dialogue. This activity will: (i) share new knowledge products with ministries, local authorities, private sector, academia, and CSOs; (ii) promote use of NEXT tool outputs, climate risk models, and sectoral climate data and (iv) encourage adoption of knowledge into national implementation processes. Milestone 13.1: At least 3 national/sub-regional knowledge-sharing events with reports and participant lists.

3-1-1.d. Activity 3.1.1.d Develop an online Climate Knowledge Hub for Burundi A digital platform for storing, sharing, and accessing climate information and policy documents. The knowledge products developed under Activities 3.1.1b–d will be disseminated through the Climate Knowledge Hub, which will serve as a central access point under the Country Platform. Dissemination: The Hub will host key outputs (dashboards, briefs, reports) and ensure they are regularly used during Country Platform discussions and shared with national and regional stakeholders. Institutional responsibility: The Hub will be hosted by the Ministry in charge of Environment/Climate Change (NDA), with content contributions coordinated through the Climate Knowledge Working Group (CKWG) under the Country Platform. Sustainability: Sustainability will be ensured through: • Integration into existing government systems (NDA/CNCC); • A simple, low-maintenance design; • Designation of responsible staff within ministries for routine updates. A light, nationally owned and embedded system, used regularly by the Country Platform and maintained through existing institutional arrangements. Milestone 13.2: Operational online hub + user guide.

☒ Outcome 3.2. Enhanced collaboration among developing countries on climate change issues, evidenced by transboundary and regional cooperations/South-South cooperation.

☒ Output 3.2.1. Regional or South-South partnerships, programmes, policies, MOUs and/or collaboration mechanisms established among developing countries, including through their DAEs.

Activities

3-2-1.a. Activity 3.2.1.a Organize at least four regional and South South knowledge exchange events, technical workshops, or capacity-building sessions with partner NDAs, DAEs, and regional institutions to share best practices on climate finance access, project development, accreditation, and programme implementation. Themes may include: (i) Direct access accreditation pathways; (ii) Development of investment-grade Concept Notes; (iii) Climate finance mobilisation strategies; (iv) Regional AFOLU mitigation approaches; (v) National coordination mechanisms and (vi) ESS and gender policies in project development; and (vii) facilitate South–South learning with neighbouring countries (Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania). Milestone 14.1: Reports from at least four regional or South–South exchanges, including participant lists, key lessons, and agreed follow-up actions.
3-2-1.b. Activity 3.2.1.b Facilitate targeted engagement between Burundi's NDA/DAEs and regional institutions (e.g., COMESA, EAC, IGAD), neighbouring NDAs (Rwanda, Tanzania, DRC), development banks, and private sector actors to jointly identify regional project opportunities, co financing, and cross border climate programmes. This activity will: (i) Identify shared adaptation and mitigation priorities; (ii) Explore regional programme pipelines aligned with USP 2; (iii) Enable dialogue on joint proposals (e.g., watershed management, mobility, biodiversity corridors, climate-smart agriculture, early warning systems) and (iv) Strengthen collaboration with regional DAEs willing to partner on multi-country GCF proposals Milestone 14.2: Engagement report summarizing partnership opportunities, potential joint projects, and co financing pathways.
3-2-1.c. Activity 3.2.1.c Support the development or formalization of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), cooperation frameworks, or regional coordination mechanisms between Burundi and partner developing countries or regional entities to strengthen long-term collaboration on climate finance programming and implementation. This may include: (i) Bilateral or multilateral MOUs for climate data sharing; (ii) Agreements on joint project development; (iii) Cooperation frameworks for knowledge and technology transfer and (iv) Regional mechanisms for harmonizing climate policies or MRV approaches Milestone 14.3: At least one validated MOU or formalized collaboration mechanism endorsed by the NDA.

3-2-1.d. Activity 3.2.1.d Strengthen engagement in regional climate platforms focused on the agriculture–water–climate nexus. This activity will support Burundi's active participation in existing regional coordination mechanisms under the EAC and ECCAS, with a focus on initiatives linking agriculture, water management, and climate change. Rather than creating new structures, the activity will build on established regional frameworks to strengthen collaboration, share practical experience, and identify joint opportunities. In practice, the activity will: • Engage with EAC platforms, including those linked to the EAC Climate Change Policy, to exchange approaches on climate-resilient agriculture and water resource management; • Participate in initiatives under the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), focusing on watershed management, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture; • Connect with ECCAS/COMIFAC frameworks in the Congo Basin, particularly on forest-based livelihoods, AFOLU, and integrated land and water management; • Share and adapt tools developed under the Country Platform (e.g. pipeline development, monitoring dashboards) to support investment in climate-resilient agriculture and water systems; • Explore opportunities for joint or coordinated investments, especially in areas such as irrigation, early warning systems, watershed restoration, and climate-smart agriculture. This approach allows Burundi to benefit from regional expertise and align national priorities with broader initiatives addressing the agriculture–water–climate nexus, while remaining focused and operationally feasible. Milestone 14.4: Documented participation in EAC and ECCAS initiatives related to agriculture, water, and climate, with a concise collaboration note identifying priority areas for joint action and knowledge exchange.

4.4 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

Consultation Process

While the readiness process in Burundi made commendable efforts to engage a wide range of stakeholders, especially during the national workshop, systemic barriers - such as institutional fragmentation, lack of communication, and limited inclusion of vulnerable groups - still hinder effective and sustained engagement. Strengthening these aspects will be critical for future climate finance mobilization and implementation. The readiness proposal was designed through an inclusive, multi-stakeholder process to identify gaps, challenges, and barriers in climate finance access and propose practical solutions. Key steps included:

- National Workshops: Organized by the NDA (Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock), these workshops brought together representatives from government ministries, civil society organizations, private sector actors, academia, and development partners. Discussions focused on institutional capacity gaps, policy fragmentation, and barriers to project development;
- Sectoral Dialogues: Targeted consultations with agriculture, forestry, water and energy stakeholders highlighted challenges such as weak integration of climate priorities into sectoral plans, limited technical expertise for preparing bankable projects, and inadequate monitoring systems;
- Gender and Social Inclusion Consultations: Women's associations, youth groups, and indigenous communities (e.g., Batwa) were engaged to ensure proposed solutions address gender disparities and the needs of vulnerable populations.

The stakeholders engagement strategy has designed to ensure inclusive, coordinated, and sustained participation of all relevant actors in implementing readiness activities, strengthening institutional capacity, and accelerating access to climate finance funded around the k**ey** Principles among which: (i) Inclusiveness: Engage government, private sector, civil society, and vulnerable groups; (ii) Transparency: Share information openly through accessible channels; (iii) Ownership: Empower national institutions and local communities and (iv) Continuous Feedback: Integrate stakeholder inputs into planning and implementation. This will make effective the definition of stakeholder's roles per category, a sound established mechanism, defined communication channels and effective monitoring and feedback as described below.

1. Timeline of consultations achieved.

Item	Date	Relevance	Stakeholders involved
Consultation meeting NDA – FAO	January 2025	Discussion on the readiness allocation of the 2024-2027 period	NDA Burundi Staff Member and Alternate, FAO
Follow-up consultation NDA – FAO	February 2025	Discussion on Burundi priorities, Gap analysis, capacity building needs	NDA Burundi Staff and key Ministry of Agriculture staff members, FAO
Strategy meeting NDA – FAO	February 2025	Brainstorming and strategy session, interministerial collaboration, prioritization of national targets	NDA Burundi Staff, OBPE (Burundian Office for the Protection of Environment), DGREA (General Direction of Water and Sanitation Resources), FAO
Burundi TORs (2024-2027) Validation Workshop	February 2025	Validation of Burundi TORs (2024-2027) to the GCF	Key staff from the Ministry of Agriculture: NDA, CNCC, General Inspection, OBPE (Burundian Office for the Protection of Environment), DGREA (General Direction of Water and Sanitation Resources), Water and Forestry Direction, FAO
Networking workshop for NDAs of Central Africa region	December 2025	Pathways for the operationalization of a broader country-level approach that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources, Harmonized Intersectoral coordination on climate projects	NDAs from Central African Countries, FAO

2. Stakeholder Categories & Roles

Category	**Role in Readiness**

Government (NDA, CNCC, Ministries)	Lead coordination, policy alignment, oversight
Private Sector	Mobilize investments, co-financing, innovation
Civil Society & NGOs	Advocate for inclusivity, monitor implementation
Academia & Research	Provide data, knowledge products, capacity building
Regional Partners	Facilitate South-South cooperation, joint projects
International Partners (FAO, UNDP, IFAD)	Technical assistance, funding, capacity support

3. Engagement Mechanisms

- Multi-Stakeholder Forums: Quarterly meetings led by NDA/CNCC ;
- Sectoral Working Groups: Agriculture, energy, water, forestry integration ;
- Capacity-Building Workshops: GCF standards, fiduciary systems, MRV ;
- Public-Private Dialogues: Incentives for climate investment.
- Knowledge Platforms: Online portal for data, lessons learned, and updates.

4. Communication Channels

- Formal: Policy briefs, official circulars, stakeholder meetings ;
- Digital: GCF Partner Portal, webinars, social media;
- Community-Level: Local consultations, radio programs for grassroots engagement.

5. Monitoring & Feedback

- Indicators: Number of consultations, diversity of participants, integration of feedback.

Tools: Surveys, feedback forms, participatory monitoring sessions. These consultations informed readiness activities such as capacity-building for the NDA, development of project pipelines, and creation of knowledge-sharing platforms.

Engagement during implementation

Stakeholders will remain actively involved throughout implementation via:

- Steering Committee: A multi-stakeholder committee chaired by the NDA will oversee progress, review deliverables, and ensure alignment with national priorities.
- Regular Consultations: Quarterly meetings and digital platforms will provide updates, gather feedback, and address concerns promptly.
- Inclusive Participation: CSOs, private sector actors, and local communities will participate in concept note development, training sessions, and awareness campaigns.

Letters of Agreements (LoA) may be signed with the stakeholders as required to improve the efficiency and to build the ownership of the Readiness Outcomes. The stakeholders' engagement methods and roles during the implementation are synthesized in the table below.

Table. Stakeholder Engagement Methods and Roles during implementation.

Stakeholder Group	Engagement Methods	Roles During Implementation

Government Institutions	Steering committee, technical workshops	Oversight, policy integration, coordination
Private Sector	Round tables, PPP consultations	Co-development of projects, investment mobilization
CSOs	Multi-stakeholder forums, feedback surveys	Advocacy, monitoring social and gender inclusion
Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities	Community consultations, participatory planning sessions	Input on adaptation priorities, co-design of resilience initiatives
Women & Gender Groups	Gender-focused dialogues, targeted training programs	Ensure gender-responsive project design and equitable participation
Academia & Research Institutions	Technical consultations, knowledge-sharing platforms	Provide data, research, and technical expertise
Media & Communication Networks	Training sessions, dissemination campaigns	Disseminate climate information and raise awareness

4.5 Risk Assessment and Mitigation measures

Please describe potential risks and risk monitoring plan, as follows:

- Please list the key identified and potential risks as well as the mitigation measures proposed. The potential risks could include, for example, delays, disruptions, cost and market risks, inadequate coordination/participation, lack of political support, money-laundering/terrorist financing, and prohibited practices.
- Please indicate the probability of occurrence (low/medium/high) and impact level (low/medium/high) for each potential risk.
- If managed remotely, please describe the measures (mechanisms and controls) to be taken to identify, assess, monitor and mitigate any risk of money-laundering, terrorist financing or prohibited practices.
- Please describe the measures (mechanisms and controls) to be taken for activities within the proposal to identify, assess, monitor and mitigate any risk of money-laundering, terrorist financing, prohibited practices and other integrity matters.

Risk Category	Specific risk(s) / Risk(s) description	Probability of occurrence	Impact level	Mitigation action(s)	Entity(ies) responsible to manage the risk(s)
Operational	Implementation delays in procurement, contracting, or disbursement due to administrative bottlenecks	Medium	High	Establish clear timelines; use FAO' procurement systems; monthly progress reviews	FAO PMU, NDA
Operational	Limited engagement of stakeholders (private sector, CSOs, local communities and Indigenous peoples	Medium	Medium	Implement inclusive engagement strategy; quarterly multi-stakeholders forums; PSC oversight	NDA, FAO, PSC
Financial	Risk of misuse of funds or non-compliance with the fiduciary standards	Low	High	Comprehensive mitigation measures are in place to ensure financial integrity. including the application of FAO's UN financial regulations, segregation of duties, internal audits, and annual external financial audits.	FAO Finance Unit
Political	Changes in government priorities or leadership affecting the project continuity	Low	High	Secure formal endorsement of the readiness activities; integrate outputs into legal frameworks early	NDA, PSC
Financial	Risk of funds being diverted for prohibited practices	Low	High	Apply FAO AML/CFT policy; conduct due diligence on vendors; maintain transaction monitoring	FAO Compliance Unit

Macroeconomic	Fraud, corruption, or unethical conduct by implementing	Low	High	Enforce FAO zero-tolerance policy, mandatory ethics training; whistleblower protection mechanisms	FAO Ethics Office, NDA
Macroeconomic	Exchange rate fluctuations affecting budget execution	Medium	Medium	Use UN official exchanges rates include 3% contingency in budget: quarterly financial reviews.	FAO Finance Unit
Other	Sanctions	Low	High	All FAO activities are executed in full compliance with UN sanctions. This includes, inter alia, screening and due diligence against applicable UN sanctions lists; include sanctions compliance clauses in agreements; suspend non-compliant transactions where required.	FAO Procurement Unit
Other	Conflict of Interest	Low	High	All FAO activities comply with FAO ethics and conflict of interest policies. The FAO Ethics Office oversees disclosure and due diligence processes, including mandatory Declarations of Interest, mitigation measures for identified conflicts, safeguards for private-sector engagement, and whistleblower protections.	FAO Ethics Office

5. Logical Framework (output)

Guidance

Please complete the logical framework in the separate document.

Objective: Capacity-building for climate-finance coordination and setting up the enabling environment for integrated climate investment.

Outcome: Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles, responsibilities and policy requirements, including coordination mechanisms to engage relevant stakeholders to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.

Output: NDA/focal point and other climate stakeholders have enhanced their capacity to fulfil their roles and responsibilities to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.

Indicator: Proportion of NDA/focal point, Coordination Mechanism and other climate stakeholders reporting an enhanced capacity to fulfil their roles and responsibilities to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs (Individuals: X/total).

Please provide the number of participants per strategic framework
Unit: No. of Participants

Strategic Framework	Baseline	Target
NDC	0	100
NAP	0	100
LTS	0	100

Output: An inclusive Coordination Mechanism has enhanced capacity to fulfill its mandate to develop, advance and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTSs.

Indicator: An inclusive Coordination Mechanism or Country Platform* is supported.

Please provide the number of Coordination mechanisms per status
Unit: No. of Coordination Mechanisms

Effectiveness Status	Baseline	Target
Establish	0	1

Please provide the number of Country Platform per status
Unit: No. of Country Platforms

Effectiveness Status	Baseline	Target
Establish	0	1

Indicator: Number of coordination meetings or dialogues undertaken with climate stakeholders, including climate funds, financiers and partners.

Please provide the number of coordination meetings or dialogues
Unit: No. of Meetings/Dialogues

Baseline	Target
0	8

Expected Deliverables

☒ Status report on capacity building of NDA and climate stakeholders in [Country] to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTS.

☒ Status report on country coordination mechanism, country (or regional) platform for enhanced climate finance access to develop, advance, and implement NDCs, NAPs and LTS in the Country.

Outcome: Developing countries design and implement strategic frameworks (including NDC/NAP/LTS), policies and instruments, including climate investment plans, to create enabling environments for integrated climate investments.

Output: Inclusive strategic frameworks (NDCs, NAPs, and LTSs) and policy instruments are created, updated and/or strengthened.

Indicator: Number of inclusive NDCs, NAPs and LTSs developed or advanced.

Please provide the number of Strategic Frameworks developed or updated and select the status of the framework
Unit: No. of Strategic Frameworks

Sub-Capacity Area	Baseline	Target
NDC	0	1
National NAP	0	1
LTS	0	1

Indicator: Number of inclusive policy instruments developed or enhanced to implement NDCs, NAPs, and/or LTSs.

Please provide the number of Strategic Frameworks developed or updated
Unit: No. of Policy Instruments

Lifecycle Status	Baseline	Target
New	0	1
Update/Revise	0	1
Update/Revise	0	1

Indicator: Number of inclusive policies, regulations and mechanisms developed or enhanced to incentivize private sector engagement and catalyze private funds.

Please provide the number of policies, regulations and mechanisms developed or updated to incentivize private sector engagement
Unit: No. of Items

Baseline	Target
0	1

Expected Deliverables

☒ Status report on the national adaptation plan (NAP).

☒ Status report on the nationally determined contribution (NDC).

☒ Status report on the long term climate strategies (LTS).

☐ Status report on policies, regulations and mechanisms developed or enhanced to incentivize private sector engagement in the Country.

Outcome: Direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) have met and maintained the accreditation standards of the GCF and strengthened their programming capacities, as evidenced by the development of GCF-funded activities.

Output: Institutional gaps of direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) are addressed to obtain and/or maintain accreditation.

Indicator: Number of direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) with capacity, systems, policies and tools that are compliant with GCF accreditation requirements.

Please provide the number of entities benefitted from the country window or DAE window
Unit: No. of Entities

Accreditation Support	Baseline	Target
Pre-Accreditation Support	0	1

Expected Deliverables

☒ Status report on capacity building of direct access applicants and accredited entities to meet GCF accreditation requirements.

Objective: Paradigm-shifting GCF pipeline development and implementation for adaptation and mitigation, based on country needs and guided by USP-2 programming targets.

Outcome: Developing countries have developed or updated their country programmes to guide GCF investment.

Output: An inclusive Country Programme has articulated the country's needs, climate priorities and GCF USP-2 programming targets for the country.

Indicator: An inclusive Country Programme document developed or updated with country's needs and climate priorities, guided by GCF USP-2 programming targets.

Please provide the number of country programme(s) new or updated
Unit: No. of Country Programmes

Lifecycle Status	Baseline	Target
Update/Revise	1	1

Expected Deliverables

☐ Country Programme Document.

Outcome: Developing countries have developed high-quality concept notes linked to approved GCF proposals for adaptation and mitigation that are aligned with the USP-2 results, including through DAEs, that build on readiness support and country programmes.

Output: NDA, DAEs and other climate stakeholders, have enhanced their capacity on Concept Note and/or Funding Proposal development for an inclusive integrated climate programming.

Indicator: Number of studies, assessments, and other actions undertaken to support the development of investment-grade Concept Notes and/or Funding Proposals.

Please provide the number of studies, assessments, and other actions to develop CN/FP
Unit: No. of Studies/assessments

Conducted to	Baseline	Target
Conducted for GCF	0	2

Output: Investment-grade Concept Notes and/or Funding Proposals that are fully aligned with the Country Programme and passed the GCF screening process.

Indicator: Number of Concept Notes and/or Funding Proposals developed that are fully aligned with the Country Programme.

Please provide the CN/FP developed
Unit: No. of Projects

Project Submission Type	Baseline	Target
Concept Note	0	2
Funding Proposal	0	1

Expected Deliverables

☒ Concept Note and studies, assessment, reports, etc. to support the development of investment-grade Concept Notes.

☒ Funding Proposal and studies, assessment, reports, etc. to support the development of investment-grade Funding Proposals.

Outcome: NDAs and DAEs have enhanced processes and systems to effectively oversee the implementation, financial management, monitoring and reporting of climate programmes and projects.

Output: NDA and DAEs have enhanced relevant capacity, processes and systems in place to oversee and implement climate programmes and projects.

Indicator: Number of NDA and DAEs reporting enhanced processes and systems, knowledge and skills that advance their programme/project implementation, financial management, monitoring and reporting, and compliance with GCF standards and policies.

Please provide the number of NDAs/DAEs advancing their programme/project of GCF Funded Activities
Unit: No. of Entities

Institution Roles	Baseline	Target
NDA	0	1

Expected Deliverables

☒ Status report on capacity building of NDA and DAEs in the Country/Region in project/ program design, implementation and oversight.

Objective: Knowledge-sharing and learning to enhance national and regional cooperation on climate programming and financing.

Outcome: Developing countries, through NDAs or focal points, have made use of knowledge products to address policy gaps and integrated climate investment programming and implementation.

Output: Climate knowledge products and resources is generated and disseminated to develop or advance policies, programming and/or implementation

Indicator: Number of inclusive knowledge products and resources.

Please provide the number of knowledge products/resources
Unit: No. of Knowledge Products/Resources

Strategic Framework	Baseline	Target
NDC	0	4
LTS	0	4

Indicator: Number of inclusive knowledge-sharing events and platforms.

Please provide the number of events/knowledge platforms per strategic framework
Unit: No. of knowledge-sharing events/platforms

Strategic Framework	Baseline	Target
NDC	0	3

Expected Deliverables

☒ Knowledge Products / Compendium of Knowledge Products produced (Policies, Programme, NDC, NAP, LTS, L&D, TNA and others related).

☒ Status report on the knowledge sharing events and knowledge sharing platform promoted by the Country.

Outcome: Enhanced collaboration among developing countries on climate change issues, evidenced by transboundary and regional cooperations/South-South cooperation.

Output: Regional or South-South partnerships, programmes, policies, MOUs and/or collaboration mechanisms established among developing countries, including through their DAEs.

Indicator: Number of regional or South-South partnerships, programmes, policies, MOUs and/or collaboration mechanisms established.

Please provide the number of regional, multi-regional, South-South partnerships established or strengthened
Unit: No. of Regional Partnerships

Effectiveness Status	Baseline	Target
Establish	0	1
Strengthen	0	2
Strengthen	0	2

Expected Deliverables

☒ Status report on the regional or South-South partnerships, programmes, policies, MOUs and/or collaboration mechanisms promoted by the Country or Region.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1.1 Partnering under the Direct Access

This Readiness proposal will be accessed through FAO, which will serve as the Readiness Framework Agreement Holder (FWAH). FAO will be responsible for the overall implementation and delivery of the proposed activities, including fiduciary and financial management, procurement, monitoring, and reporting, in line with FAO and GCF policies and procedures. No additional implementing partners or sub-recipients are foreseen under this proposal, as all activities will be directly managed and executed by FAO through its established systems and country presence.

The NDA will play a leading role in providing strategic guidance, coordination, and oversight to ensure national ownership and alignment with a broader country-level approach in defining priorities that aligns with national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP, and LTS, and positions these as tools to mobilize climate finance from all sources. See further detailed information in Section 6.1.2 of this proposal.

6.1.2 Framework Agreements

FAO, which will serve as the Readiness Framework Agreement Holder (FWAH), will be responsible for implementing this readiness grant, including all fiduciary and financial management, procurement of goods and services, monitoring, and reporting activities to the GCF. All activities will be carried out in accordance with FAO's policies and procedures, as well as the Second Amended and Restated Framework Readiness and Preparatory Support Grant Agreement signed by the GCF and FAO on 25 August 2020 (referred to as the "Framework Agreement").

The Government has selected FAO as the FWAH for this GCF Readiness proposal based on FAO’s strong technical expertise, global track record, and alignment with the country’s priorities in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors, among others. Since its accreditation by the GCF, FAO has successfully supported more than 85 countries through the development and implementation of climate-related investments, including 29 full-sized projects and over 114 readiness grants. As a trusted partner since 2017, FAO has helped countries strengthen institutional capacities, develop enabling environments for climate finance, and integrate climate resilience into agrifood systems and national planning frameworks, thereby contributing directly to the achievement of NDCs and the overarching objectives of the Paris Agreement.

FAO’s mandate and comparative advantage lie in its technical depth and long-standing experience in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forestry, and resilient fisheries. Its role in readiness delivery focuses on building national capacity for climate finance access, enhancing coordination, conducting vulnerability and risk assessments, and facilitating adaptation and carbon-related initiatives such as carbon accounting and REDD+ readiness. Through its in-country presence, FAO provides hands-on support to NDAs and stakeholders, ensuring that readiness activities are technically sound, well-coordinated, aligned with national strategies, and contribute to long-term resilience and low-emission development of agrifood systems.

It should be noted that FAO will implement the activities in a manner that emphasizes country ownership and the leadership role of the NDA. The involvement of the NDA and other government institutions will primarily encompass providing guidance and oversight for project implementation. Additionally, no GCF funds will be allocated to government staff, and FAO will not transfer any funding or obligations to these institutions.

To ensure effective governance and strategic decision-making for this Readiness proposal, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established. The PSC will consist of the NDA, relevant government institutions (AND, technical DG of MIENAGRIE: IGEBU, OBPE, GD of Agriculture, etc., ministry in charge of finance, technical ministries representative, private sector representative, indigenous people representative, women forum representative, GEF focal point, youth representative etc.), and FAO. The primary objective of the PSC is to ensure strong inter-institutional coordination, alignment with national priorities, and effective oversight. The PSC will engage with relevant stakeholders, fostering collaboration and ensuring their inputs are considered in decision-making processes. Additionally, the PSC will review and validate technical products, ensuring complementarity and avoiding overlapping or duplication with other ongoing projects in the country.

To ensure FAO's utmost accountability, both the PSC and FAO will uphold the highest standards of governance and performance. These standards include effective management for development results, value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and the promotion of effective international competition.

FAO will establish and oversee a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) responsible for implementing the Readiness activities and ensuring effective coordination with the PSC. The PMU will be managed and staffed by FAO and will be based within FAO Country Office in Burundi facilities. However, it will operate under the direct supervision of FAO to ensure seamless coordination and alignment with the grant objectives.

FAO has an established Country Office in Burundi, which will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation and coordination of the Readiness activities on the ground. The FAO Country Office will operate under the overall technical and operational oversight of FAO’s sub-regional, regional and headquarters teams, ensuring full compliance with FAO’s policies and procedures, as well as relevant GCF policies and guidelines. Implementation will be carried out in close collaboration with the PSC and the PMU to ensure effective coordination, transparency, and alignment with national priorities. This arrangement will facilitate efficient execution, capacity building, and the long-term sustainability of project results.

FAO will ensure compliance with the GCF's Revised Environmental and Social Policy, which includes Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) Investigations, updated Gender Policy and the Indigenous Peoples Policy for the implementation of this grant.

Reporting to the GCF will follow the provisions of the Framework Agreement, with progress reported annually through the GCF Annual Performance Report (APR). In addition, ad hoc reports and meetings will be arranged as needed or upon request by the GCF Secretariat. See more information in Section 7.1.

6.2 Organisation and Staffing

In this chapter, propose the structure and composition of your team. Consider including a visual depiction of the programme team through an organisational chart, depicting reporting responsibilities. List the main disciplines, key experts responsible, and technical and support staff, including their relevant past experience, using the form below.

Please also include any details on any other relevant group of stakeholders, such as steering committees, technical teams, tasks force, coordination mechanisms, PMC structure, etc.

For these groups, describe their composition, decision-making processes, operational procedures, terms of reference (if any) and how the NDA/focal point or the designated agency will manage or oversee these units to ensure fulfillment of its obligations.

Name of staff	Organization	Area of Expertise	Position Assigned	Task Assigned	Base Country During Assignment
D. Ndayirukiye	MINEAGRI	Climate/ Agriculture	Focal Point NDA DG Agriculture	Team Member/Steering Committee	Burundi
D. Pissang-Tchangai	FAO	Head of the Country Office	FAO Representative, Burundi	Budget Holder	Burundi
U. Ciniglio	FAO	Project Operations	Operations Officer	Team Member	Burundi
O. Niyonzima	FAO	Programme	Technical Assistant	Team Member	Burundi
A. Masuguru	FAO	Programme	Assistant/ FAO Representative	Team Member	Burundi

S. Hinojosa Ramos	FAO	Climate	Natural Resources Officer	HQ Technical Office	Italy
Z. Rusnov	FAO	Climate	Climate Finance Specialist Green Climate Fund	HQ Technical Office	Italy
TBC	FAO	Project management, climate change, climate finance and sustainable land management	Project coordinator (nat.)	Daily management and supervision of the implementation of project activities in relation to the budget	Burundi
TBC	FAOBI	Technical Advisor, climate change	International climate change expert	Daily advise and supervision of the implementation of project activities in relation to the budget support	Burundi
TBC	FAOBI	Monitoring and evaluation of climate resilience projects	Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) specialist	Daily monitoring of activity implementation, regular reporting and mandates on project implementation	Burundi
TBC	FAOBI	Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Rural Development with proven professional experience in livelihoods, resilience, or value chain development projects.	National expert	Daily interaction with the 2 manager and M&E expert in project activities implementation	Burundi

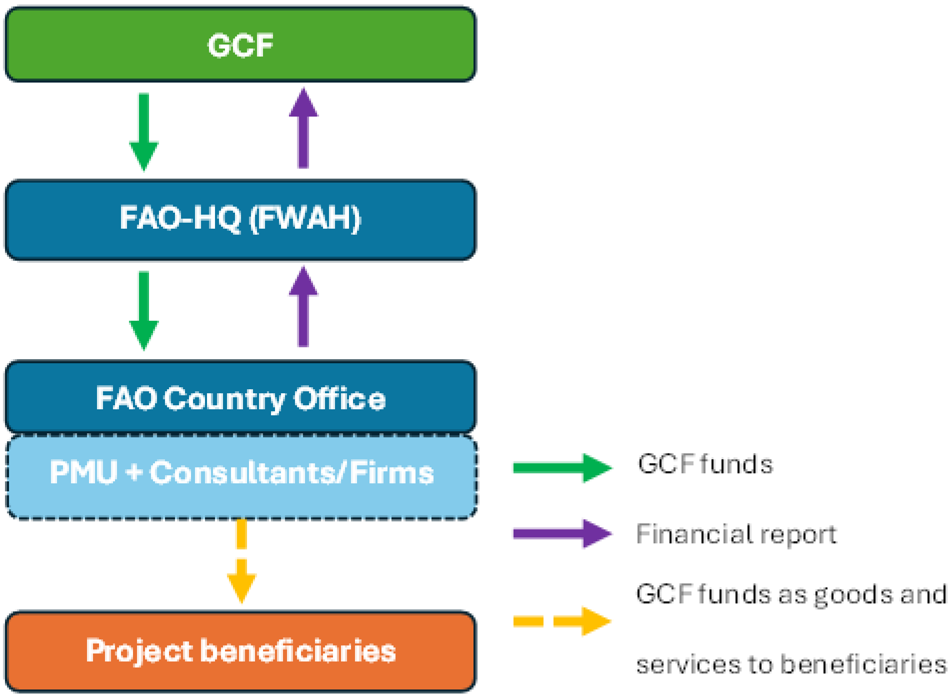
Inserted above.

6.3 Fund flow arrangements

In accordance with the provisions of the FAO–GCF Framework Agreement, the readiness funds will be transferred directly from the GCF to FAO. All funds will be received and managed by FAO in a dedicated USD account.

Exchange rate risks will be managed in accordance with FAO's financial regulations and procedures, ensuring that all conversions are conducted using official UN exchange rates to minimize exposure to currency fluctuations. In addition, a contingency provision of 3% has been included in the proposal budget to help mitigate potential losses arising from exchange rate variations/inflation during implementation. The start date and disbursements will be in accordance with the Framework Agreement. See attached a diagram showing the complete flow of funds.

6.3.1 Flow of funds diagram



7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Guidance

The RRMF has been revised to align with the objectives and outcomes outlined in the 2024-2027 readiness strategy, with the view to (1) simplify and streamline monitoring and reporting procedures; (ii) appropriately capture and reflect the systemic approach and strategic, programme-based methodology for planning and implementing readiness support; and (iii) establish a clear connection between readiness support and the enhanced programming capacities of developing countries and DAEs to effectively access and utilise climate finance.

Please note that there are as per the Revised RRMF, there are two levels of monitoring and reporting. The first is at the programme/project level, and the second is at the Country level. Outlined below are the monitoring and reporting requirements and responsible parties.

7.1 Programme Monitoring and Reporting (Output-Level)

Responsibility & Tasks:
- In the case of direct access, the NDA/focal point, an agency designated for direct access, or a Framework Agreement (FWA) holder is responsible for monitoring the programme/project's implementation and preparing relevant reports that detail the progress of output-level results and deliverables as articulated in the programme/project logframe.

Financial Reporting:
- Regular financial reporting is the principal reporting mechanism under Readiness. Reports should provide an overview of funds received and expended and a comparison of planned versus actual expenditure with rationale for any variances. All financial reports must be presented in USD, in line with the approved programme budget. The detailed reporting requirements, including content and format, will be specified in the implementation-related templates.

Reporting Frequency:
- Annual progress reports, including financial reporting, are to be submitted to the GCF Secretariat by 31 March of each year, unless otherwise agreed to in the respective legal agreements. Upon project closure, a completion report must be submitted within six [6] months of the completion of the activities

☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge awareness of reporting tasks, including frequency and content

7.2 Financial Audits

Responsibility:
- Independent, third-party auditor commissioned by [choose appropriate] the NDA/focal point or designated agency or FWA holder in case of direct access.

Task:
- Regular financial audits to ensure responsible and transparent fund management, preventing misuse or mismanagement and ensuring compliance with GCF and national requirements.

Reporting Frequency:
- Annual financial audit reports must be submitted to the GCF Secretariat by 31 March of each calendar year, unless an alternative frequency and deadline is agreed upon at the conclusion of the legal agreement. The completion financial audit report to be submitted to the GCF Secretariat within three months of completing the activities.

Please confirm which type of auditor will be selected and provide any details

☐ Private Auditor

☒ Public Auditor (such as Country Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or other)

FAO, in accordance with the provisions of the signed Framework Agreement, shall submit to the GCF a certified annual financial report for this Readiness Proposal, based on FAO's audited financial statements, no later than 30 November of each year (clause 10.02b).
N/A

☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge awareness of financial audit responsibilities, including frequency

7.3 Mid-Term Review (if the programme is four years)

This will align with the Year 2 annual progress report; a separate mid-term report is not required. Instead, a specific section in the Year 2 annual progress report will focus on the assessment of the adequacy of the initial design of the four-year programmes, the evaluation of the progress made towards achieving project objectives, and the review of the effectiveness of the delivery partner (if selected from the GCF pre-qualified pool). It will also identify any challenges encountered. The findings from this review will be used to make necessary adjustments to the project implementation plan in Years 3-4.

☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge awareness of reporting tasks, including frequency and content

7.4 Final Evaluation

Responsibility:

- An independent evaluator will be commissioned by the NDA/focal point, a designated agency or a FWA holder.

Task:

- Upon completion of the project implementation period, an independent evaluation will be conducted to assess the overall impact of the readiness activities. This evaluation will measure the contribution of these activities to the country's objectives and GCF outcomes, guided by the GCF Evaluation Policy and Standards. It will include an impact assessment and document lessons learned to inform future project planning and readiness support. If the country selects two programmes, the GCF Secretariat and the country may consult to explore the rationale and feasibility of conducting a single evaluation for both programmes.

Reporting Frequency:

- The final evaluation report will be submitted to the GCF Secretariat within three months of completing the Readiness activities.

If the country is considering two programmes, please confirm under which programme the final evaluation cost will be included in the budget:

☒ The final evaluation cost is included in this programme.
☐ The final evaluation cost is included in the other programme.
☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge awareness of reporting tasks, including frequency and content

7.5 Sanctions and Restrictive Measures

Burundi is not subject to a country-specific UNSC sanctions regime. In accordance with FAO rules and regulations, FAO will perform all necessary actions to ensure that the project will be implemented in full compliance with any UN sanctions list that may be of relevance. No entities or individuals who are subject to or affected by United Nations Security Council sanctions regimes will be involved in this proposal or its associated activities, either as counterparts or beneficiaries.

7.6 Grievance Redress Mechanisms

For this Readiness proposal, the NDA/PSC shall facilitate the resolution and/or clarification of any concern directly linked to implementation of the project that beneficiaries and involved stakeholders may have. In case the conflict refers to FAO, the NDA will present the complaints and claims to the FAO Representation in the country (e-mail:

fao-bi@fao.org). If a notice of receipt of the claim is not received within 7 days, the complaint or concern must be sent to the FAO's regional office in Africa (email: fao-raf@fao.org) for action. The project beneficiaries may send a complaint to the FAO Office of the Inspector General, who shall carry out an independent investigation. The procedure for the claims is detailed at http://www.fao.org/aud/. Email: Investigations-hotline@fao.org.

The follow information is to file a complaint directly with the Independent Redress Mechanism of the GCF:

Email: irm@gcfund.org
Office telephone: +82 32-458-6186; Fax: +82 32-458-6096; Cell phone: +82 10-4296-1337

All FAO personnel are required to report any breach of the Organization's rules and to cooperate with the Organization's oversight functions. An individual who makes a report in good faith has the right to be protected against retaliation.

The FAO Whistleblower Protection Policy follows the guidelines to report allegations of possible wrongdoing in the activities of the project stated in the Administrative Circular 2019/06. Under this policy, the Ethics Officer is responsible for the receipt of complaints of retaliation and for conducting the prima facie review of such complaints, prior to an investigation by the Office of the Inspector-General. A specific FAO Hotline has been stablished for retaliation reporting (Retaliation-report@fao.org).

The Whistleblower protection policy was revised in June 2021 and promulgated through AC 2021/10. The policy is available in all FAO languages here.

Retaliation against individuals who have reported concerns or who have cooperated with an authorized oversight activity violates the fundamental obligation of all FAO personnel to uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and to discharge their functions and regulate their conduct in a manner that is in the interests of the Organization. Acts of retaliation will result in disciplinary or administrative action.

8. Budget

8.1 Budget
Refer to the Excel file Download template
Budget source Of the total amount requested under this proposal, please outline how much is requested from the country window and how much from NAP origination or implementation, if applicable ☒ Country window: Insert amount requested out of the TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED $2,000,000 ☐ NAP Origination: Insert amount requested out of the TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED N/A ☐ NAP Implementation: Insert amount requested out of the TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED N/A **Budget plan (please complete in the separate document)** While developing the budget, please consider the ineligible costs as per page 13 of the **Initial Guide for Countries to Access Readiness Support**

9. Other relevant information

9.1 Exit and Sustainability Strategy

Capacity-Building and Institutionalization Strategy

1. Capacity Building and Institutionalization

The Readiness support will deliver targeted training programs and practical tools to strengthen institutional capabilities of the NDA and relevant stakeholders:

- Targeted Training Programs :
  - NDA and Technical Ministries: Training on GCF fiduciary standards, gender and social inclusion, monitoring and evaluation, and climate finance planning.
  - Private Sector and CSOs: Workshops on climate investment opportunities, proposal development, and risk management.
  - Local Authorities and Communities: Training in climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and participatory planning.
- Tools, Templates, and Instruments :
  - Project management software for tracking progress and reporting.
  - Standardized templates for concept notes, funding proposals, and monitoring reports aligned with GCF requirements.
  - Climate vulnerability assessment tools and gender mainstreaming guidelines.
- Adaptation to Local Contexts:
  - Training materials will be translated into local languages and tailored to Burundi's socio-economic realities.
  - Modules will incorporate case studies from Burundi's agriculture, forestry, and energy sectors to ensure relevance and ownership.

2. Integration into National Climate Governance Architecture

The Readiness support will reinforce and institutionalize enhanced practices within Burundi's governance framework:

- Policy and Framework Enhancement:
  - Update mandates and integrate climate finance planning into sectoral policies (agriculture, energy, forestry).
  - Align readiness outputs with the National Development Plan (PND 2018–2027), NDC, NAP, and forthcoming LTS.
- Institutionalization of Roles and Practices:
  - Establish a permanent Climate Finance Coordination Unit within the NDA.
  - Embed monitoring and reporting systems into national procedures, ensuring sustainability beyond the project lifecycle.

3. Sustainability Mechanisms

To ensure long-term impact, the readiness support introduces mechanisms for continuous learning and capacity retention:

- Train-the-Trainer Approach
  - Select and train focal points within ministries, CSOs, and local authorities to cascade knowledge and skills to peers.
  - Develop facilitator guides and e-learning modules for ongoing capacity-building.
- Knowledge-Sharing Platforms
  - Create an online climate finance knowledge hub for sharing tools, templates, and best practices.
  - Organize annual multi-stakeholder forums and peer-learning exchanges to maintain momentum and foster collaboration.
- Continuos Learning Practices
  - Regular bulletins and newsletters on climate finance developments.

Integration of lessons learned into updated national strategies and future readiness proposals.

9.2 Readiness Programme Closure

Grant closure will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement. Tangible and intangible assets (including equipment, technology, intellectual property, and any developed resources) procured by FAO will remain the property of FAO for the duration of the readiness grant. The Government will provide safe custody of such equipment, which is entrusted to it prior to the end of the Readiness grant. The transfer process will be clearly documented and agreed upon by all parties, ensuring that beneficiaries are adequately prepared to assume ownership and responsibility for the assets. Upon closure of the Readiness grant, the final disposition and transfer of these assets will be determined jointly by FAO and the NDA.

Asset Transfer Plan for Sustainability

To ensure the sustainability of outcomes beyond the readiness implementation period, a structured **Asset Transfer Plan** will be adopted. This plan covers both **tangible assets** (equipment, technology, software) and **intangible assets** (knowledge products, intellectual property, tools, and systems) developed under this proposal.

1. Tangible Assets

- Equipment and Technology: All physical assets such as project management software licenses, IT hardware, and monitoring tools will be transferred to the NDA (Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock) and designated technical institutions.
- Process: (i) Inventory of all equipment and technology will be prepared at project close; (ii) Transfer agreements will be signed between the delivery partner and the NDA; (iii) Training will be provided to ensure beneficiaries can operate and maintain these assets.

2. Intangible Assets

- Knowledge Products and Intellectual Property: All templates, guidelines, training materials, and digital tools developed under the readiness support will be handed over to the NDA and relevant stakeholders.
- Process: (i) Centralized repository created within the NDA for storing all resources; (ii) Access credentials and user manuals provided to beneficiaries and (iii) Copyright and usage rights clarified to allow free use and adaptation.

3. Documentation and Handover

A **formal handover protocol** will be established, including:(i) Asset inventory list; (ii) Signed transfer agreements; (iii) Confirmation of beneficiary readiness to assume responsibility and (iv)Training completion certificates for staff.

4. Sustainability Measures

- Capacity to Maintain Assets: Beneficiaries will receive training in asset management and maintenance.

- Integration into National Systems: Tools and templates will be embedded into NDA workflows and national climate governance frameworks.
- Knowledge Continuity: A “train-the-trainer” approach will ensure ongoing capacity-building, while an online knowledge hub will provide continuous access to resources.

Table 5. Asset Transfer Plan.

Asset Type	Examples	Recipient(s)	Transfer Timeline
Tangible Assets	- IT hardware (computers, servers) - Project management software licenses - Monitoring and reporting tools	NDA (Ministry of Environment, Agriculture & Livestock) Technical ministries (Energy, Water, Finance)	At project close (Month 36)
Technology Platforms	- Digital project tracking system - Climate vulnerability database	NDA Climate Finance Coordination Unit	At project close (Month 36)
Intangible Assets	- Training manuals and facilitator guides - Templates for concept notes and proposals - Gender mainstreaming guidelines	NDA and technical institutions CSOs and private sector partners	Continuous handover during implementation
Knowledge Products	- Climate finance strategy documents - Updated policy frameworks - Research and data sets	NDA repository and national knowledge hub	Finalized by Month 30
Intellectual Property	- Customized software configurations - Adapted training modules	NDA and designated technical entities	At project close (Month 36)

Key Features of the Transfer Process:

- Formal Handover Protocol: Includes inventory list, signed agreements, and readiness verification.
- Capacity Building: Beneficiaries trained on asset use and maintenance before transfer.
- Integration: All tools and resources embedded into NDA workflows and national climate governance systems.