



| **GCF.10** |

| 10 YEARS OF CLIMATE IMPACT |

GCF REGIONAL DIALOGUE

with EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Colombo, Sri Lanka
14–17 September 2026

Institutional Accreditation with the Green Climate Fund

Annie Wallace and Cameron Tabrizi

Colombo, Sri Lanka
14–17 September 2026

Revised Accreditation Framework

Key Features

- Screening requirements: A subset of the current fiduciary and ESS standards and gender policy requirements



Legal Status



Corporate Governance
and Internal Control



Financial Management



Integrity



Project Preparation and Appraisal



ESS & Gender Safeguards

WHAT CHANGED: PURPOSE AND ENTRY TO ACCREDITATION

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Key change	Previously	Under the revised framework
 Purpose of accreditation	A full up-front assessment against every standard before accreditation.	A risk-based partner due diligence tool. Only the key screening requirements are checked at this stage.
 Screening and prioritization	No early fit check, and no set way to prioritize when applications surged.	Free pre-screening opens two months before each window. GCF prioritizes applications when demand is high, using published criteria .
 Entry points and fees	A narrow fast-track, and fees set case by case.	Non-governmental DAEs, including private sector, can self-nominate. Fast-track expanded to World Bank and AfDB project partners. Flat fee rate per access modality group.

WHAT CHANGED: A FASTER, MORE PREDICTABLE PROCESS



1. Prescreening

Eligibility and readiness checked before the application

2. Application window

Two fixed two-month windows each year

3. Screening and review

Up to 9 months with GCF and the Accreditation Panel

4. Board decision

Accreditation takes effect on approval

Key change

Previously

Under the revised framework

Predictability

No fixed timetable and no published service standards.

Service standards, criteria, forms and guidance are published.

Both GCF and applicants have set times to ask and answer questions.

What is checked at accreditation

All standards assessed up front, within a predefined accreditation scope.

Only a subset of fiduciary, ESS and policy requirements (see application form).

The rest are reviewed at concept note or funding proposal stage.

No predefined scope, apart from the E&S risk category.

The decision

Accreditation conditions, a fixed term and an Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA).

No conditions and no fixed accreditation term.

Accreditation becomes effective on Board approval, with no AMA.

AE performance tracked through the [Monitoring and Accountability Framework](#).

WHAT IS MAINTAINED FROM THE PREVIOUS FRAMEWORK

The bar has not been lowered. These elements are unchanged.

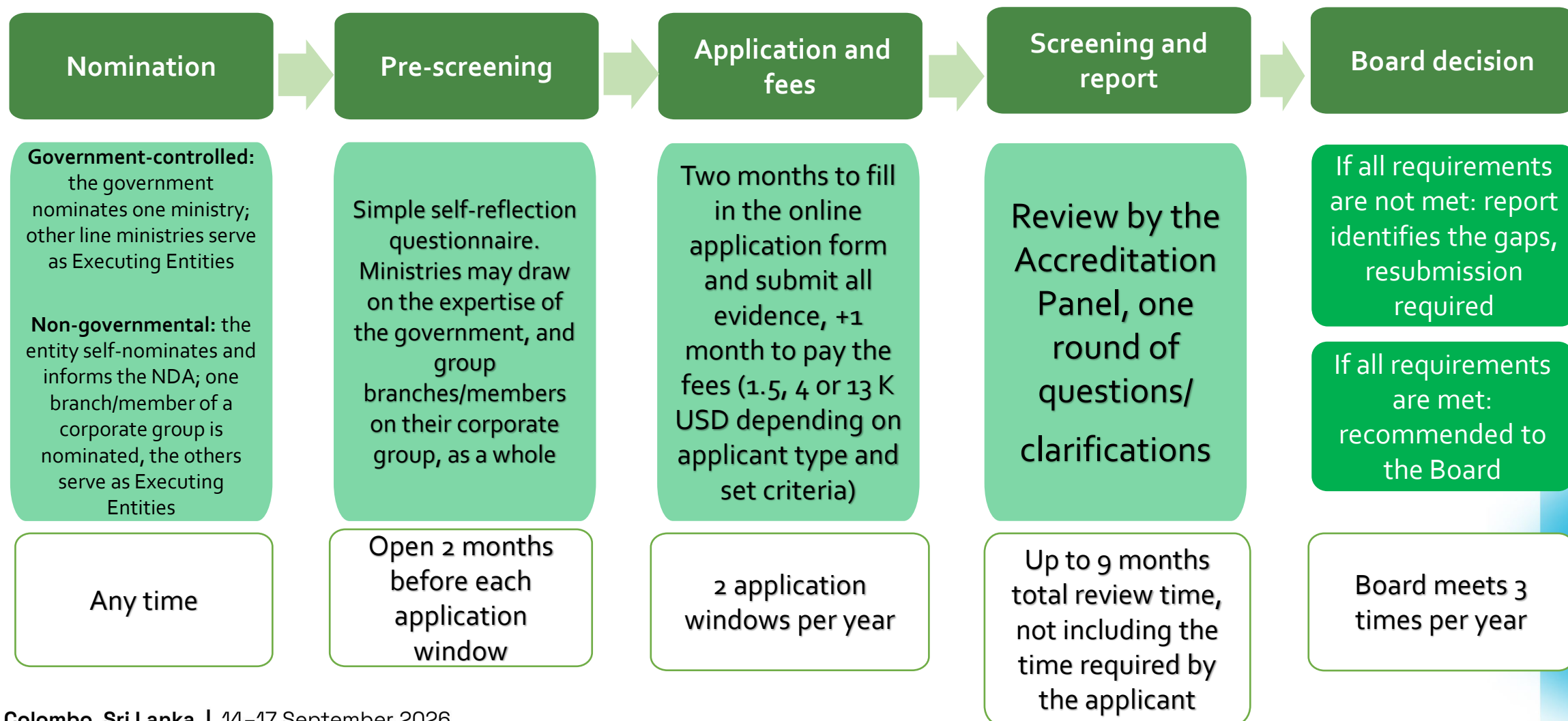
Nomination and standards	Governance and decision-making	Support and fees
 Nomination NDA nomination for governmental direct access applicants. International access applicants self-nominate.  Standards The full suite of fiduciary, ESS and policy requirements still applies.	 Assessment The Accreditation Panel continues to carry out the assessment.  Board approval In-session Board approval is still required, for accreditation and upgrades. Upgrades apply only to the E&S risk category.	 Readiness support Pre-accreditation support through the country window, post-accreditation through the DAE window.  Fees policy Discounted rates for national direct access applicants from SIDS and LDCs. Re-invoicing possible for multiple reviews.

ALLOCATION OF ACCREDITATION STANDARDS ACROSS THE BUSINESS CYCLE

(see Annex II: [14-accreditation-framework-gcf-b42-o4-addo1_1.pdf](#))

Standard / requirement area	Accreditation stage (screening requirements)	Programming stage (CN/FP –project-specific)
Legal status and authority	Legal personality and capacity to contract and assume legal/financial responsibility	Activity-specific licences, permits or registrations
Corporate governance	Institutional governance structure, roles, oversight and internal control framework	Project-level governance and implementation arrangements
Financial management	Institutional financial management, accounting and reporting systems	Application of fiduciary standards to the specific project/programme
Procurement	Existence of procurement policies, procedures and systems	Project-specific procurement plans and processes
Audit and internal control	Internal and external audit functions and control environment	Use of controls and audits at project level
Integrity (AML/CFT, prohibited practices, whistleblowers)	Institutional policies and systems in place	Transaction- and activity-level integrity risk checks
Environmental & social	Institutional ESMS and capacity, commensurate with indicative risk	Project-specific E&S screening, assessment, mitigation and monitoring
Indigenous Peoples	Institutional commitment and systems to meet policy requirements	Compliance with Indigenous Peoples Policy at funded activity level
Gender	Existence of gender policy/strategy or equivalent institutional commitment and institutional commitment	Project-level gender assessment and Gender Action Plan
Capacity & experience	Indicative fit-for-purpose assessment of track record	Confirmation that the activity is within demonstrated capacity

Streamlined Accreditation Process: All Applicant Types



Revised fee structure

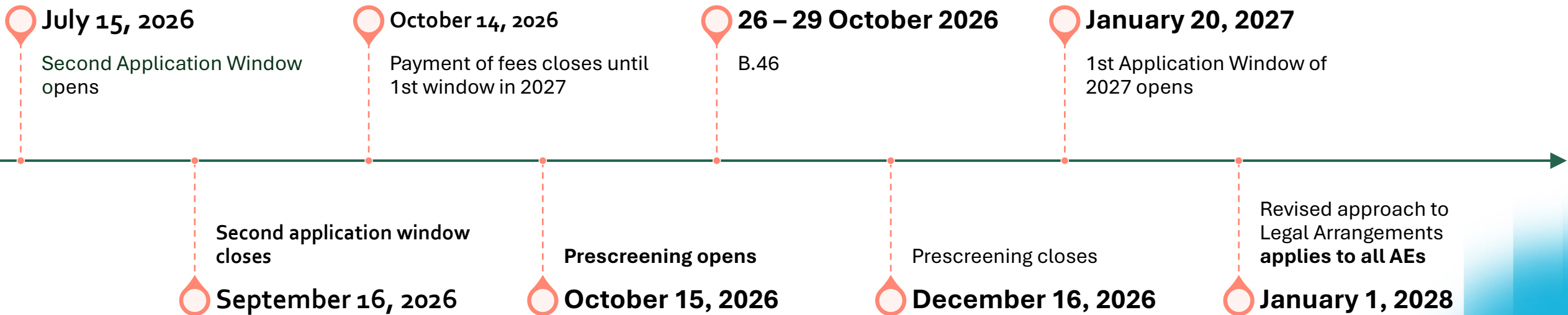
Fees	SIDS & LDCs*	Non-SIDS, Non-LDCs**	International access applicants
Accreditation	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$13,000
Upgrade	\$375	\$1,000	\$3,250

*National direct access applicants

**Includes regional direct access applicants

**Submitted applications do not begin the screening and report step until after the fees are paid*

Key Dates for 2026



Resources



GCF Accreditation Process Guidance
available on the [GCF Accreditation website](#)

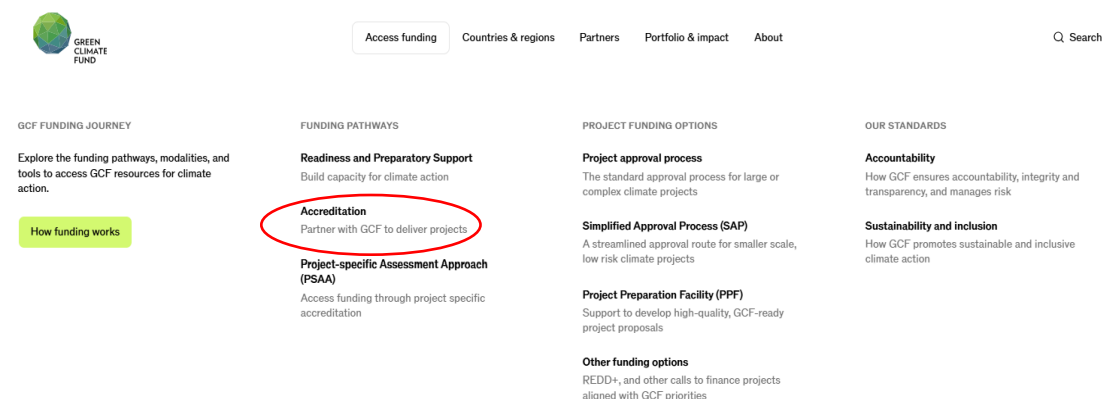
Guidance and Screening Requirements
available on the [‘Annex II: Screening requirements and mapping of Initial Fiduciary Principles and Standards and other relevant policies’](#)

Video Navigating the Application Form
[Access and Navigate Accreditation Application on GCF Partner Portal](#)
[Add New Users to GCF Partner Portal](#)

Updated Monitoring and Accountability Framework
[Updated monitoring and accountability framework for accredited entities | Green Climate Fund](#)

Standard Conditions (Projects)
[Standard conditions \(Projects\) | Green Climate Fund](#)

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Overview of the Revised Approach to Legal Arrangements

Christopher Brough

Colombo, Sri Lanka
14–17 September 2026

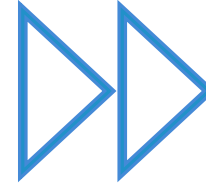
Overview of the Revised Approach

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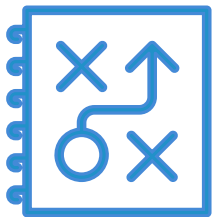
Accreditation Reform

- AMA not required
- PSAA not affected
- Existing projects not affected



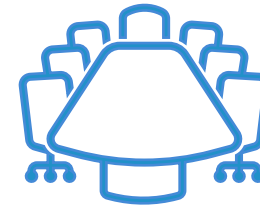
Simpler; Faster

- Standard Conditions
- Transparent
- Predictable



Programming Focus

- No institutional AMA
- Process controls
- Project-specific



Board approval

- Required for any deviation or modification to GCF Policy

Key features of the Standard Conditions

Application

- Apply to **one project only** (i.e. not a framework; not a replacement for the AMA)
- Apply to **all types of financial instruments**
- SCs incorporated into Term Sheets and FAAs by reference

Substance

- Substance of requirements for AEs/projects has not changed; **drafting simplified**
- Text of SCs is not Board-approved; **policy modifications require Board approval**
- Focus on matters relating to project implementation

Project-specific FAA

- Short-form FAA for each approved project that incorporates the SCs [**note:** SCs are not signed]
- If necessary for a project, SCs can be modified in the Term Sheet/FAA to reflect specific requirements of project/AE

Transparency and Predictability

- SCs published on the GCF Website
- SCs updated as needed when new/updated policies are adopted
- SCs in effect on the date of project approval apply to the project and will be incorporated in the FAA

Terminology used in the Standard Conditions (1)

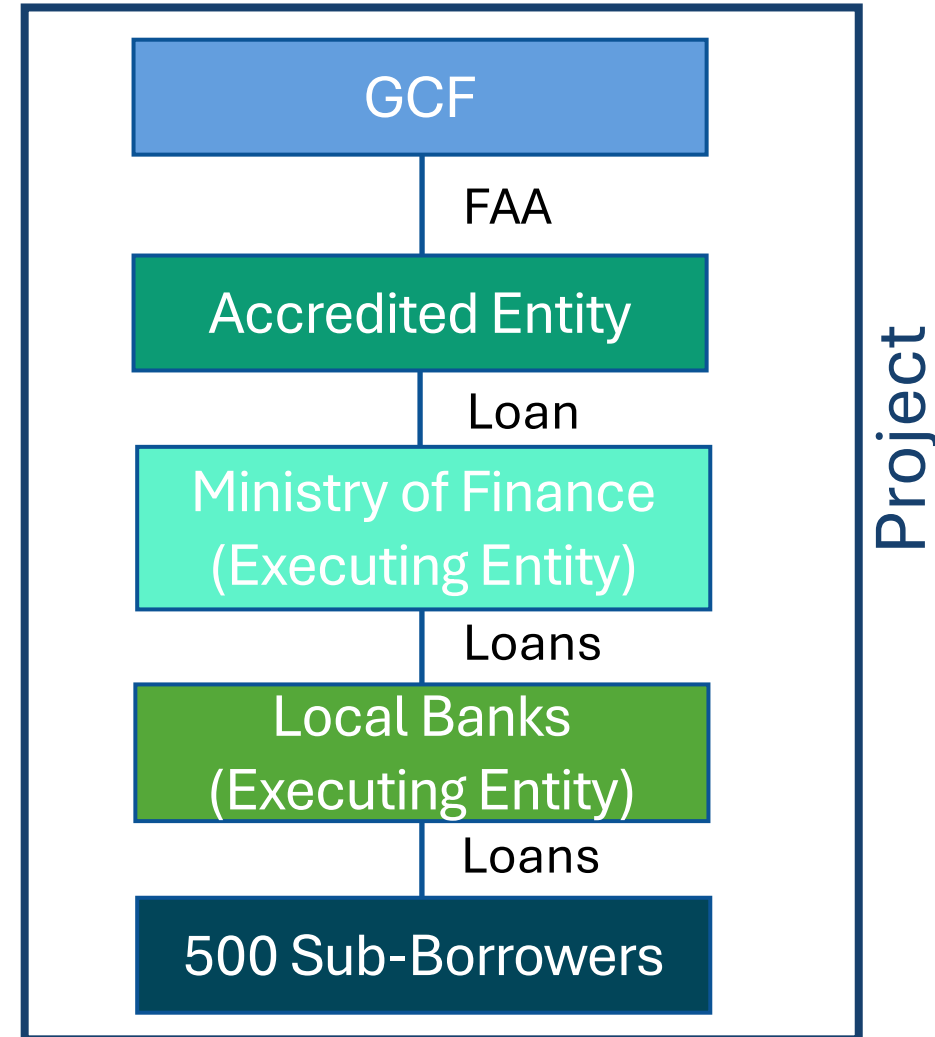
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“Accredited Entity” / “Executing Entity”

- No changes to existing terminology
- No concept of “implementing partner” in GCF terminology

“Project”

- The project described in the funding proposal and financed, in whole or in part, by GCF proceeds



Terminology used in the Standard Conditions (2)

“Subsidiary Agreement”

- Each agreement between AE and an EE
- Requirement for AEs to pass down GCF requirements to an EE under a “Subsidiary Agreement” remains

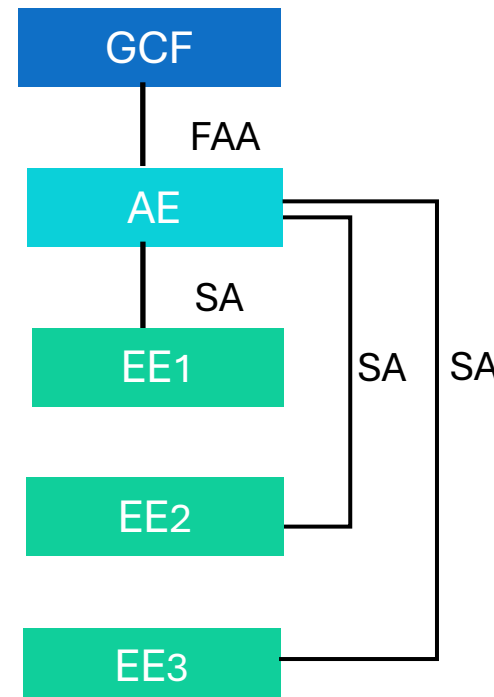
“EE Agreement”

- Each agreement between Executing Entities
- AE not required to contract directly with each EE

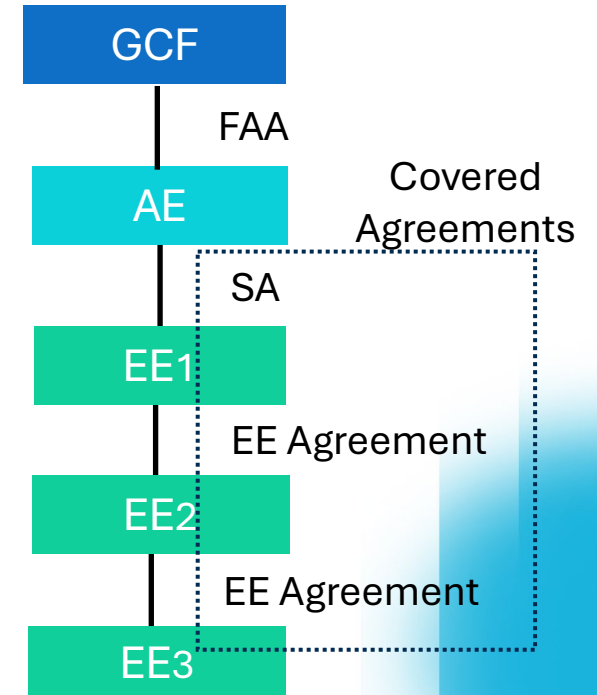
“Covered Agreements”

- Subsidiary Agreement(s) and EE Agreement(s)
- Enables ‘chain’ of agreements

AMA/FAA



SC/FAA



Legal arrangements for programming with GCF

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Until 31 Dec 2027

Institutional-accredited AEs:

- **Traditional, two-stage approach**
 - **Accreditation Master Agreement + a Funded Activity Agreement (FAA)** for each approved project
- **OR**
- **Revised approach (one-stage)**
 - **FAA** for each approved project that incorporates **Standard Conditions**

PSAA AEs:

- **One-stage approach**
 - **FAA** for each approved project that includes elements from the template AMA and FAA (decision B.31/06)

1 Jan 2028 onwards

Institutional-accredited AEs:

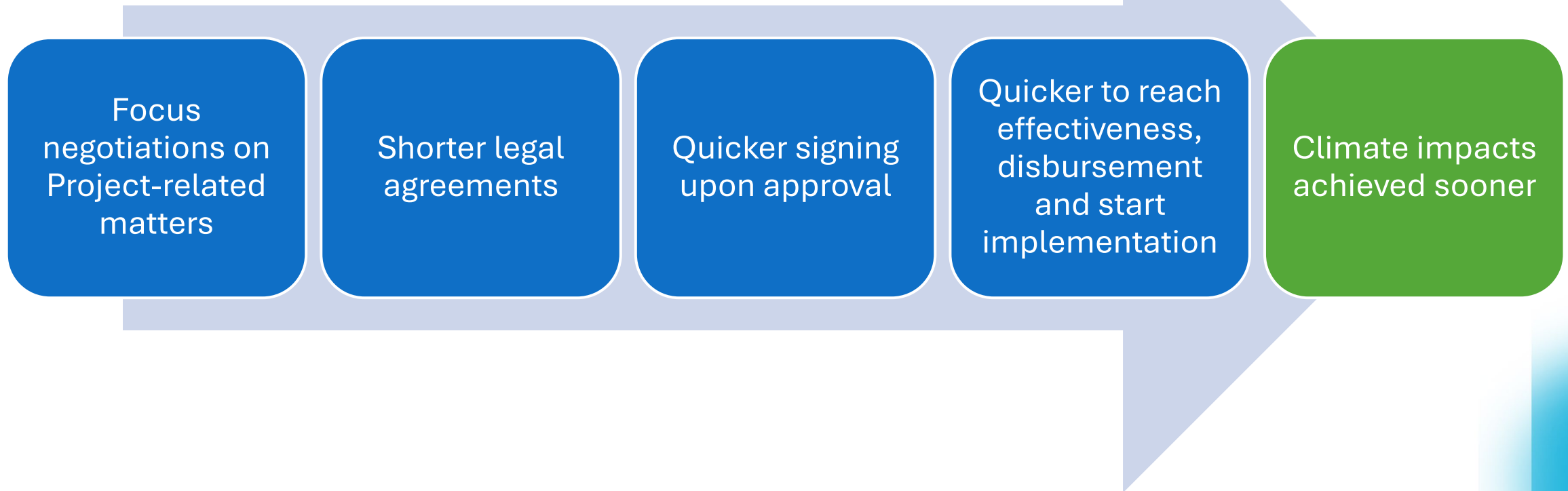
- **Revised approach (one-stage)**
 - **FAA** for each approved project that incorporates **Standard Conditions**

PSAA AEs (no change):

- **One-stage approach**
 - **FAA** for each approved project that includes elements from the template AMA and FAA (decision B.31/06)

Better for Countries, Better for Partners

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GCF strongly encourages all Accredited Entities to undertake their next project based on the revised approach.



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Thank you

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