



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

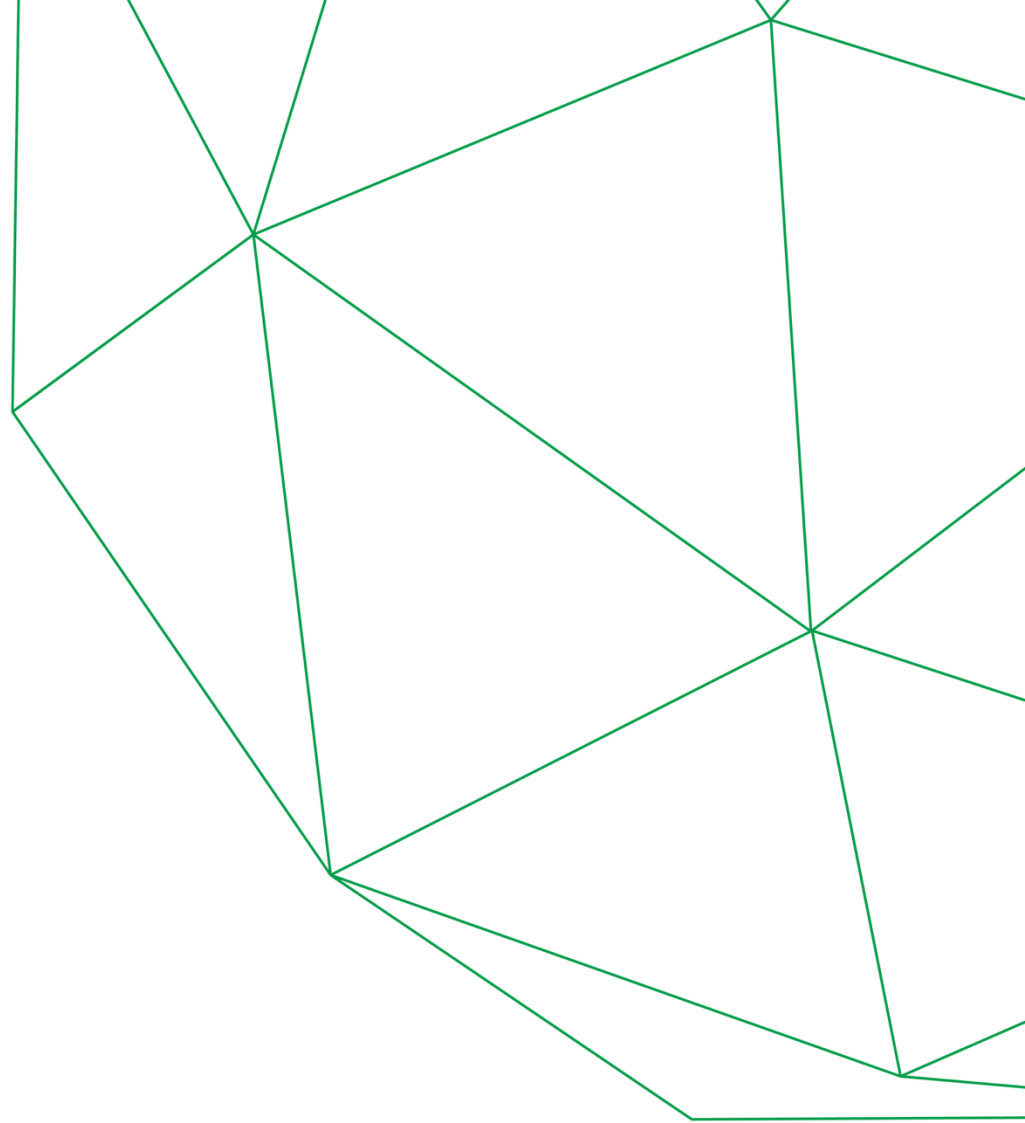
GCF REGIONAL DIALOGUE
with WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Institutional Accreditation with the Green Climate Fund

Annie Wallace and Mallé Fall Sarr

Accra, Ghana

29 September–2 October 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



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.

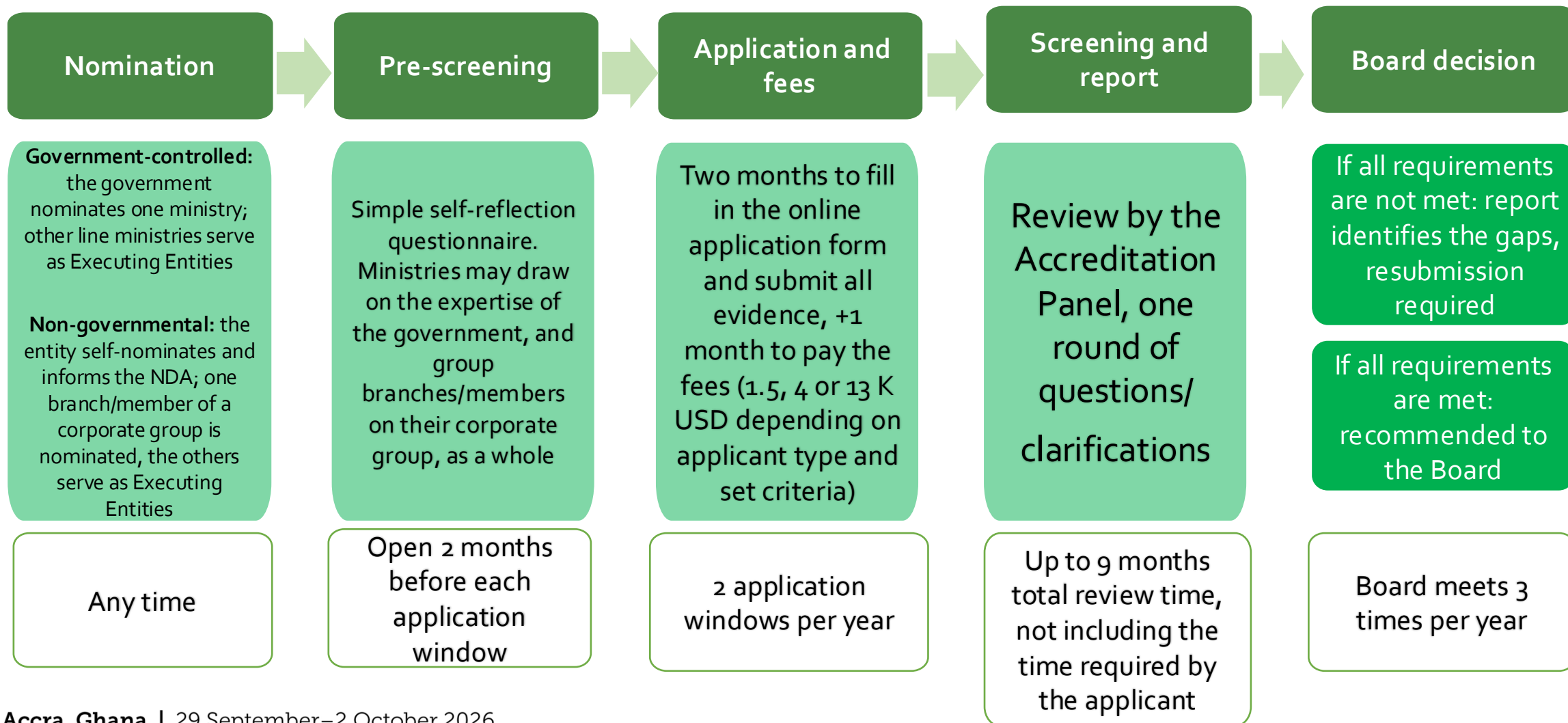
ALLOCATION OF ACCREDITATION STANDARDS ACROSS THE BUSINESS CYCLE

(see Annex II: [14-accreditation-framework-gcf-b42-04-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



RAF Key Features



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*

GCF ACCREDITATION FAST TRACK MODALITY and expansion to include AfDB borrowers



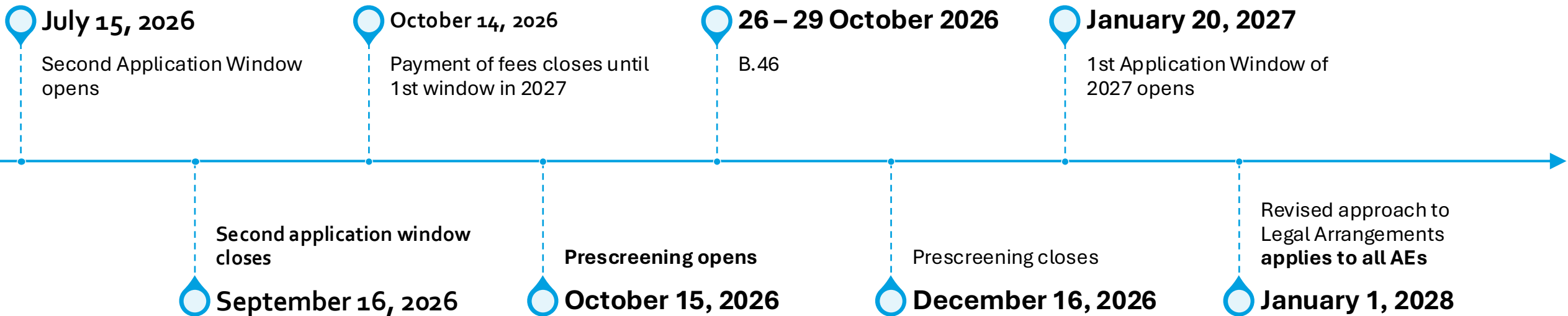
Eligible Institutions

- Global Environment Facility (GEF); Adaptation Fund (AF); EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)
- **New:** African Development Bank (subject to scope and implementation track record); WB (to be operationalized later in 2026/27)

Technical criteria for AfDB borrowers

Criteria	Range	Eligibility confirmation
Legal entity	The AfDB borrower is the same legal entity as applicant	Acceptable
Status of financing	Board approved	Acceptable
	Signed	Acceptable
	On-going	Acceptable
	Closed	Check the timing
Recency	Approved no more than 5 years before the entity submits its pre-screening application	Acceptable
Status of implementation	Breaches of the legal agreement; events of default/events of non-compliance during the AfDB project implementation	To be reviewed by the Secreteriat

Key Dates for 2026



Resources



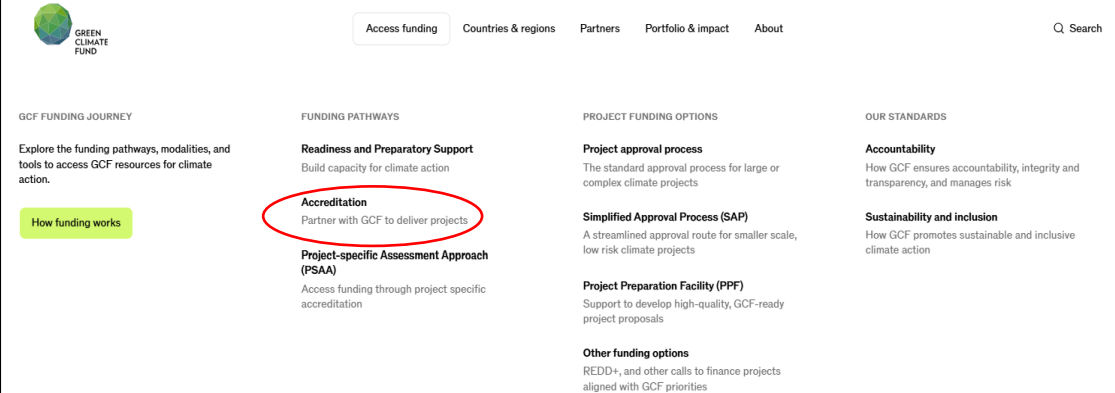
GCF Accreditation Process Guidance
available on the [GCF Accreditation website](#)

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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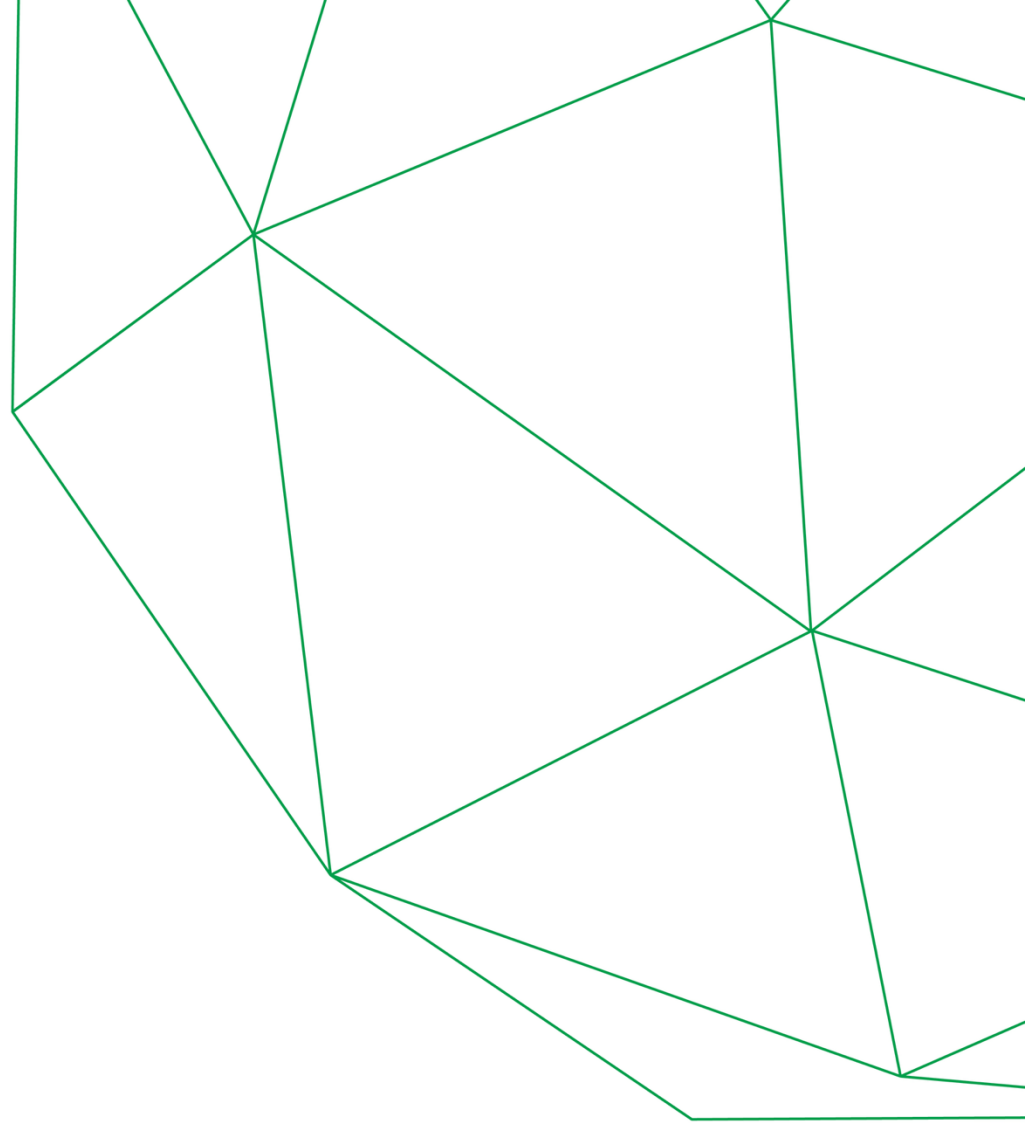
Fiduciary Standards for Government Applicants

Preparing Ministries of Finance for GCF
accreditation

Diana Isiye, Accreditation Panel

Accra, Ghana

29 September–2 October 2026



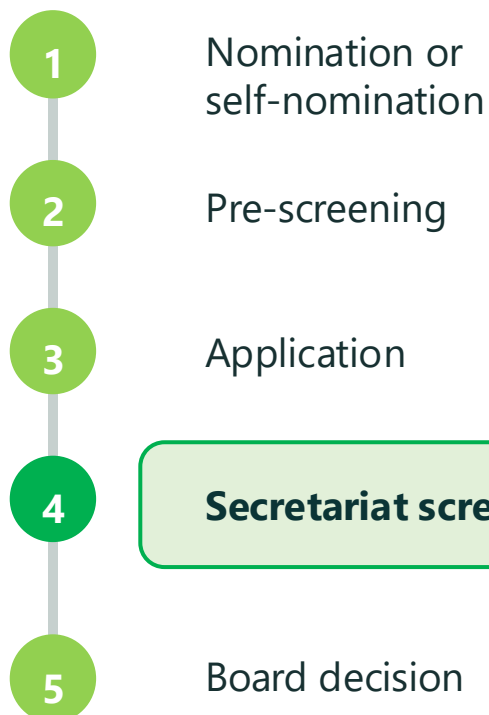
The Accreditation Panel in the revised framework

Accreditation Panel

Independent assessment of accreditation applications and makes recommendations for Board consideration

- Reviews evidence against GCF standards
- Assesses capacity against the requested scope
- Recommends to the Board the outcome of the review

Where the Panel fits



An **independent** technical panel of the Fund that reports and is accountable to the **Board**

The Board makes the final accreditation decision

The fiduciary assessment question

Can the applicant manage and oversee GCF resources safely and accountably across the proposed accreditation scope?



Each standard requires operational governance documentation such as policies, guidelines or procedures; evidence of operational capacity – systems and resources and recent evidence of implementation (capability)

Two models

MODEL 1

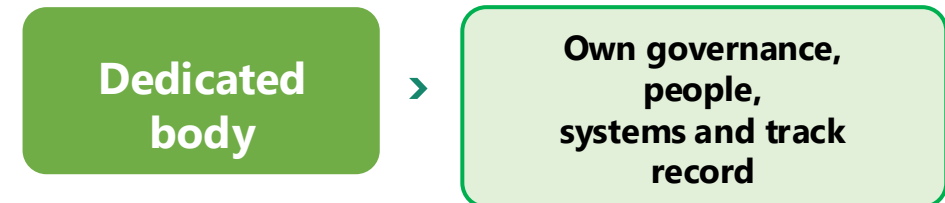
Government represented by the Ministry



- Government or Republic is the counterparty
- Relevant capacity may sit across public institutions
- Every relied-on function needs to provide relevant evidence

MODEL 2

Dedicated body supervised by the Ministry



- The body may be the applicant if it has legal personality and authority
- The standards should be met within the body
- Permitted outsourcing does not transfer accountability

Section 5: Corporate governance and internal control

5

Current screening requirement

The applicant ensures that corporate governance arrangements and actors are in place with roles and responsibilities defined, and is able to demonstrate a track record of effective and efficient organisational management in line with its mission and objectives.

FOR GOVERNMENT APPLICANTS

The evidence may sit across Parliament, the Ministry, the supreme audit institution and other public bodies. The application must link each function to the Government applicant and track record provided

Mandatory evidence at application

Governance arrangements

- Governance structure, terms of reference, composition and appointment rules
- Two consecutive meeting records from the past three years
- Approved organization chart and evidence that stakeholders can access it
- Strategic plan and three years of annual plans and performance reports

Internal audit arrangements

- Audit committee terms of reference, member qualifications, independence and two meeting records
- Internal audit charter or arrangement, professional standards and independent reporting
- Required audit plans and annual reports, management follow-up and quality-assessment evidence

External audit

- Three years of audited financial statements and external audit reports
- Public audit opinion, or an approved commitment to publish the audit of GCF resources
- Two recent management letters and evidence that the oversight body reviewed the findings

Control and risk

- Internal control framework and financial manual, including segregation of duties and corrective action
- Risk policy and process, a recent risk report and the latest risk register
- Procurement oversight mechanism, evidence that it operates and action follow-up

A

Mandatory evidence must demonstrate recent operation of the arrangements

Section 6: Financial management

6 Current screening requirement

Financial inputs and outputs must be properly accounted for, reported and administered transparently in line with relevant laws and regulations. The applicant also needs capacity for international transactions.

FOR GOVERNMENT APPLICANTS

Government-wide accounts show the financial environment. Ministry, Treasury and programme records must also show the operational ability to identify, reconcile, report and audit GCF transactions.

Mandatory evidence at application

Financial statements

- Audited annual financial statements for the last three years
- Complete statements, comparative figures, accounting policies, notes and disclosures
- Use of IFRS, IPSAS or an equivalent recognized framework

Systems and people

- Description of the accounting and financial information system and its alignment with accounting principles
- Explanation of how the system will report on the use of GCF resources
- Finance team structure and qualifications for operating and overseeing the system

SECTION 6.5

No attachment is designated mandatory for international receipts and repayments. The narrative must still explain the applicant's operational capacity to receive and return funds to the GCF Trustee.

A dedicated body provides its own statements, systems and finance-team evidence

Section 7: Procurement

7 Current screening requirement

Procurement must follow written standards and systems that promote economy, efficiency and accountability, with guidance for each relevant procurement type.

FOR GOVERNMENT APPLICANTS

Public procurement law and regulations may form the core framework. The application must show how they are operationalised and how authority is divided across the Ministry, line ministries and executing entities.

Mandatory evidence at application

- 1 **Procurement instructions**
Approved policy, manual, standard operating procedures or equivalent written instructions
- 2 **Authority and accountability**
Procedures should show who initiates, evaluates, approves and executes procurement, with adequate segregation of duties
- 3 **Guidance by procurement type**
Instructions for the relevant categories, including consultants, contractors and service providers, where separate from the main instructions

SUPPLEMENTARY EVIDENCE

Two recent competitive procurement files are supplementary. They help demonstrate implementation.

The applicable must demonstrate a competitive process and cover every procurement type and every institution involved

Section 8: Integrity

8

Current screening requirements

High ethical standards must apply to staff and related parties. The applicant must prevent and investigate prohibited practices, protect whistleblowers, provide an anonymous reporting channel, and apply risk-based due diligence for AML/CFT.

FOR GOVERNMENT APPLICANTS

Where integrity functions sit in other public bodies, the application needs a clear referral and outcomes, access to case information, follow-up authority and the ability to meet GCF reporting obligations.

Mandatory evidence at application

Ethics and zero tolerance

- Code or equivalent provisions covering all related parties, with communication evidence
- Ethics body terms of reference and evidence of operation during the last three years
- Zero-tolerance policy and recent communication to all relevant parties

Whistleblowing

- Whistleblowing and protection policy covering confidentiality, non-retaliation and protection
- Evidence of two public reporting avenues, local-language access, anonymous reporting and website publication

Investigations

- Independent in-house function or documented third-party arrangement
- Terms of reference, investigator capability and publicised investigation procedures
- Trend and outcome reporting, including irregularities from the last three years

AML/CFT and due diligence

- AML/CFT policy with KYC or equivalent risk-based due-diligence procedures
- Designated responsible person or function and relevant training
- Two recent due-diligence reports showing sanctions screening and checks at disbursement

Integrity coverage must extend beyond civil servants to every party involved including Executing Entities

Section 9: Project design and appraisal

9 Current screening requirement

The applicant can identify, formulate and appraise projects or programmes within the respective jurisdiction (subnational, national, regional or international, as applicable), including capabilities to examine and incorporate technical, financial, environmental, socioeconomic and legal aspects at the appraisal stage, and is guided by appropriate fiduciary oversight procedures.

For government applicants

Technical design may sit in line ministries, but the Government applicant must show an integrated process, oversight and authority to condition or reject incomplete proposals.

Mandatory evidence at application

9.1 Project design and appraisal

- Organization chart for appraisal teams and job profiles for key project-management roles
- Two appraisals from the past three years showing objectives, outcomes, KPIs, baselines, targets and the required assessments
- Project-management guidelines covering direct implementation and work through executing entities or third parties
- Quality-assurance and oversight procedures where these sit outside the project-management guidelines

9.2 Financial instruments, if applicable

- Valid operating licence for each jurisdiction where the applicant will provide loans, equity or guarantees
- Three-year summary of experience with on-lending, blending, equity or guarantees using international or multilateral funds
- Two project agreements or implementation reports for each financial instrument sought

If Government is lawfully exempt from licensing, the application should provide authoritative evidence of the exemption and the control framework that applies.

A

Samples reflecting the instrument and risk category requested would be preferable (not mandatory)

**National policies need
operational procedures
and recent
implementation
evidence**

**Questions the evidence must
answer**

- Can the Ministry require performance and corrective action?
- Who remains answerable to GCF when another institution fails?

Common areas of strengthening

- ! Lack of ownership over aspects overseen by other institutions
- ! Whistleblowing arrangements
- ! Legislation appears without operational procedures or implementation track record
- ! Operational procedures not aligned with inhouse resources
- ! Implementation of AML /CFT
- ! Project units or consultants lack durable authority and continuity arrangements

Why these gaps matter

The Panel can rely on capacity only when authority, access, implementation and accountability are clear.

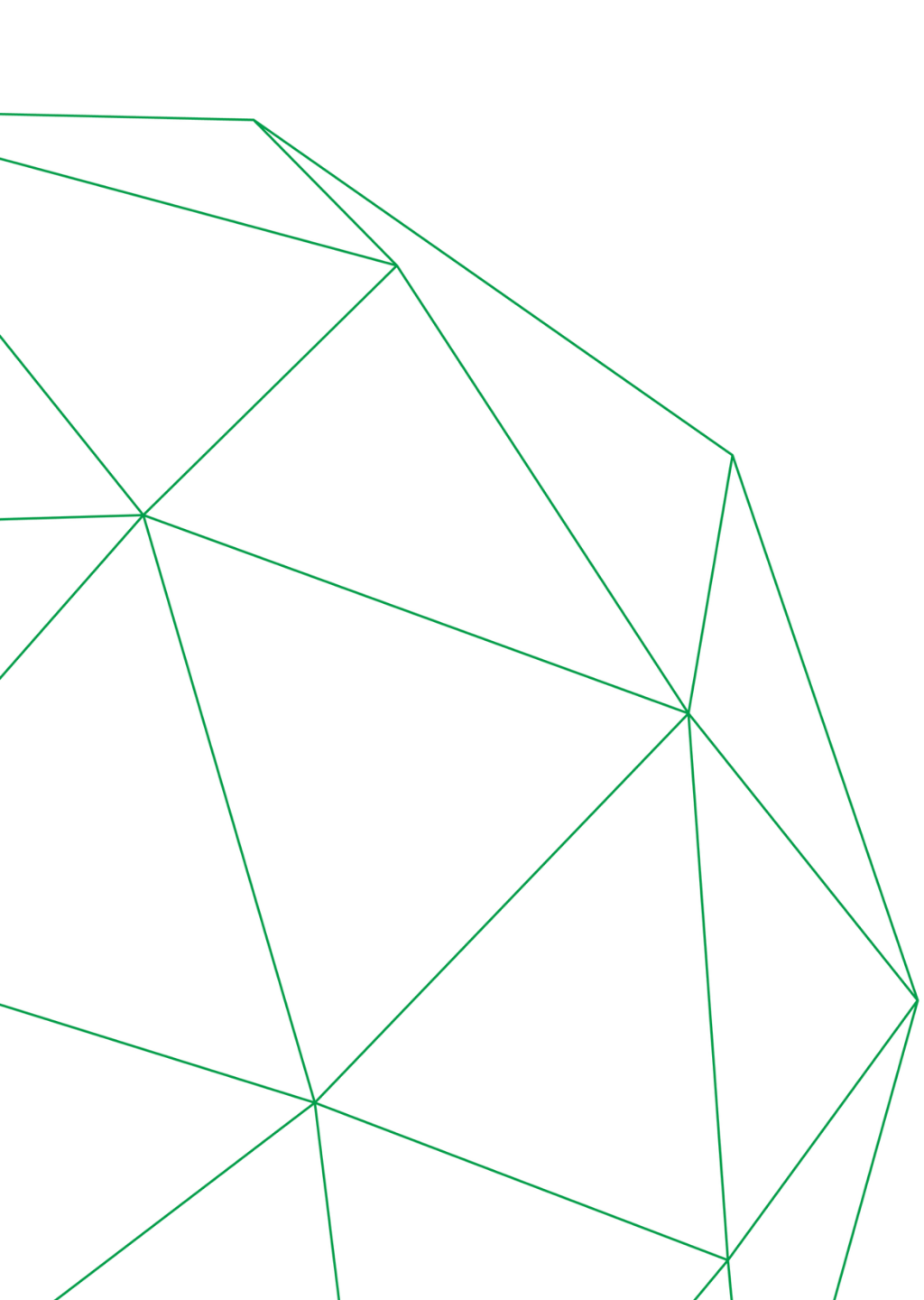
Early gap assessment creates time to formalize arrangements

Preparation before submission

Preparation process



Strong applications show that government systems, policies and procedures that will apply to the proposed GCF portfolio, operate in practice and the accredited entity remains accountable.



Thank you



GCF Accreditation Clinic

Operationalizing ESS & Gender
Standards for Ministries of Finance

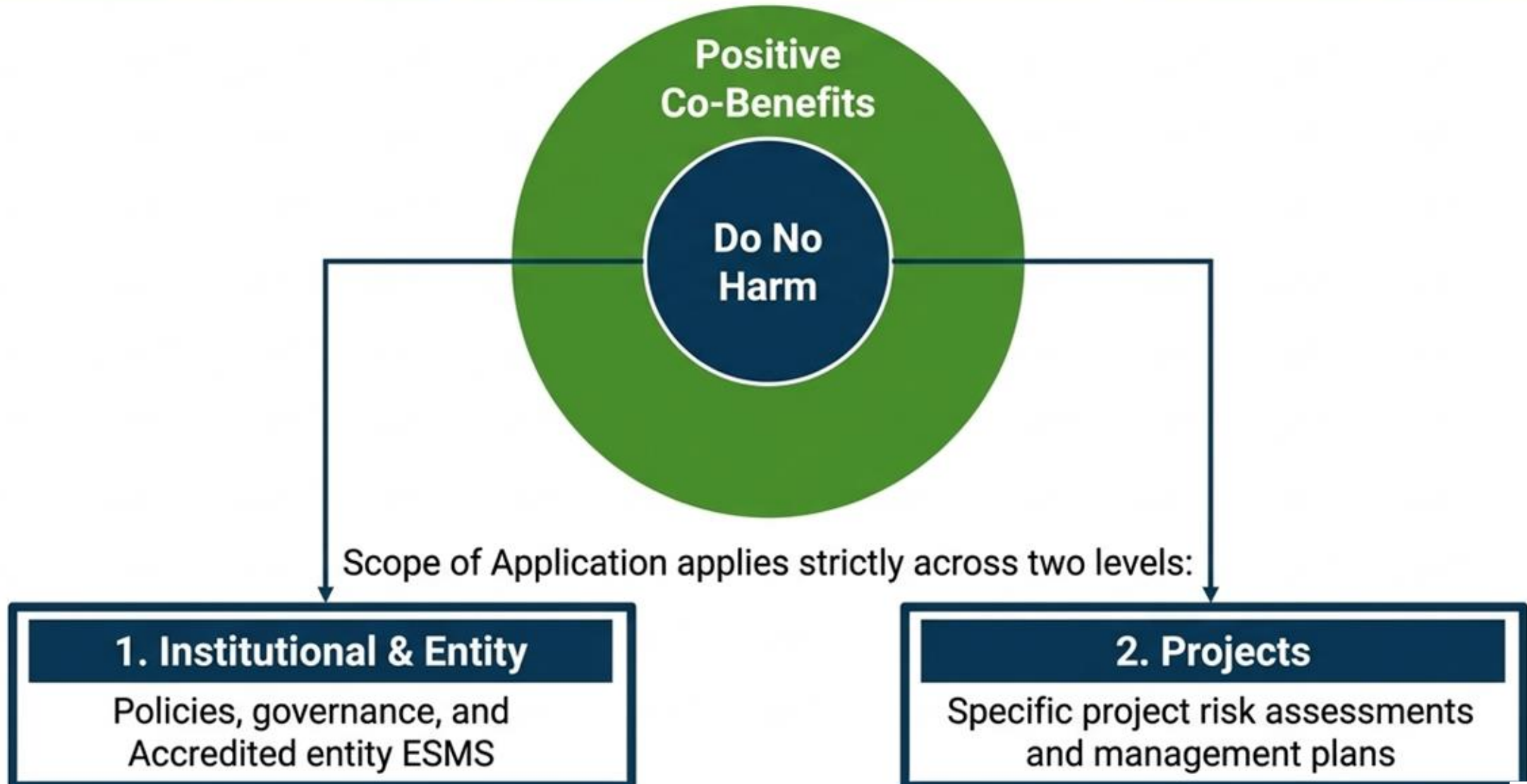
Natalie Unterstell
GCF Accreditation Panel Expert

Session 3.5.2 | Day 3
GCF Regional Dialogue for West
and Central Africa, Accra

The Four Core Pillars of GCF Evaluation

Sound Policies	Clear Procedures	Functioning Systems	Demonstrated Track Record
Mandated by highest decision-making bodies; addressing E&S risks.	Fit-for-purpose screening, categorization, and assessment processes.	ESMS, Grievance Redress Mechanisms, external communication channels.	Documented evidence of applying these standards over the past three years.

The Evolution of Safeguarding: GCF E&S Policy (B.19)



The Universal Language of Safeguarding: IFC Performance Standards 1–8

1 PS1 Assessment & Management Identifying and managing environmental/social risks through an ESMS.	2 PS2 Labor & Working Conditions Fair treatment, non-discrimination, safe facilities.	3 PS3 Resource Efficiency Pollution prevention and sustainable resource use.	4 PS4 Community Health & Safety Mitigating impacts and protecting local populations.
5 PS5 Land & Resettlement Avoiding displacement; adequate compensation for loss of livelihood.	6 PS6 Biodiversity Conservation Sustainable management of living natural resources.	7 PS7 Indigenous Peoples Respecting rights and requiring early, culturally appropriate consultation.	8 PS8 Cultural Heritage Avoiding adverse impacts on tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

E&S Policy



Relying ONLY on National Environmental Laws

Often lacks a dedicated ESMS.

Public consultation is limited to regulator websites on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Fails to cover all PS1-8 categories (e.g., Indigenous Peoples, Resettlement).

Result: Accreditation Failure.



National Law + Explicit IFC PS1-8 Implementation

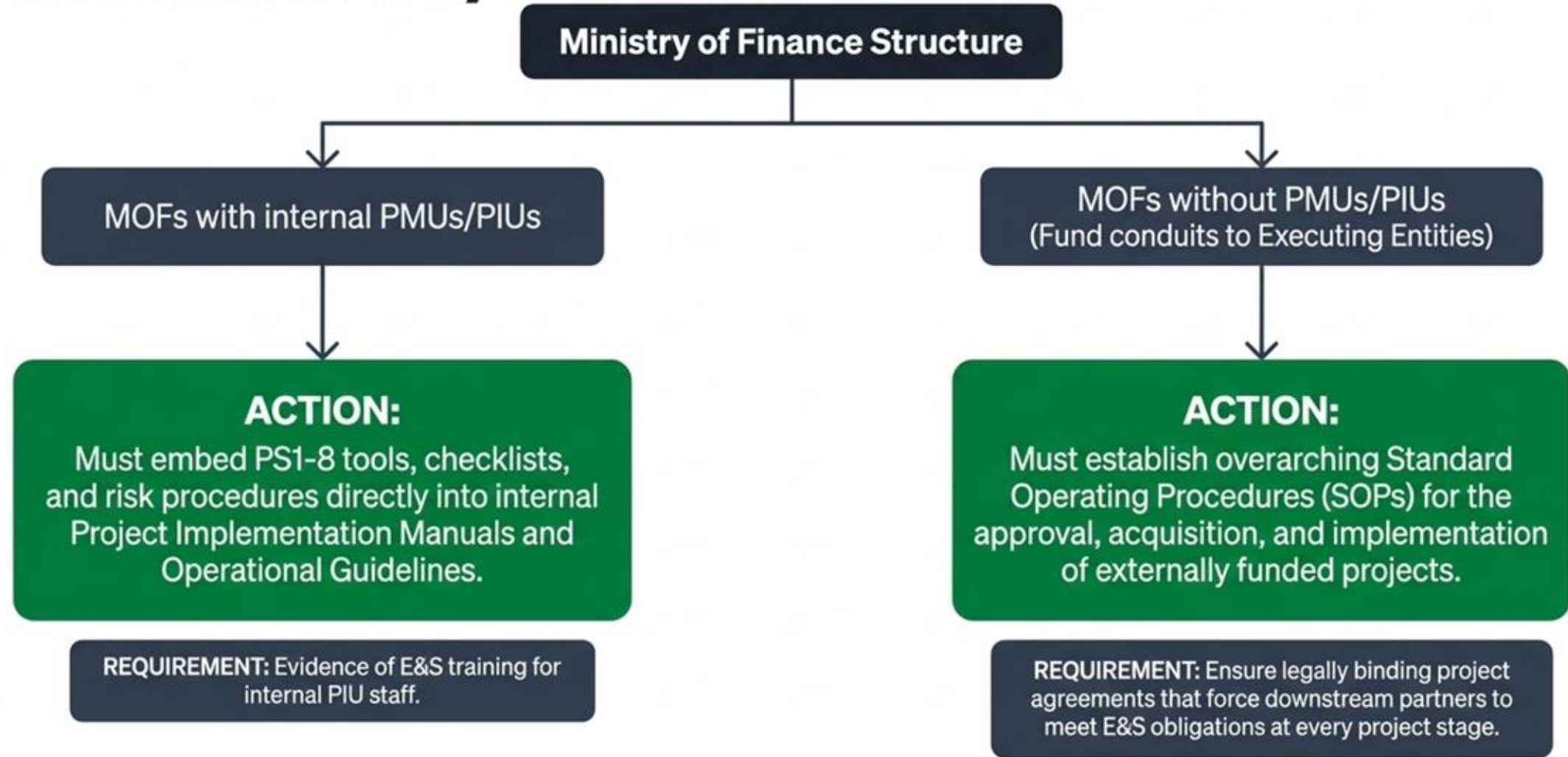
A documented institutional process proportionate to entity size.

Explicit gap analysis comparing national frameworks against PS1-8.

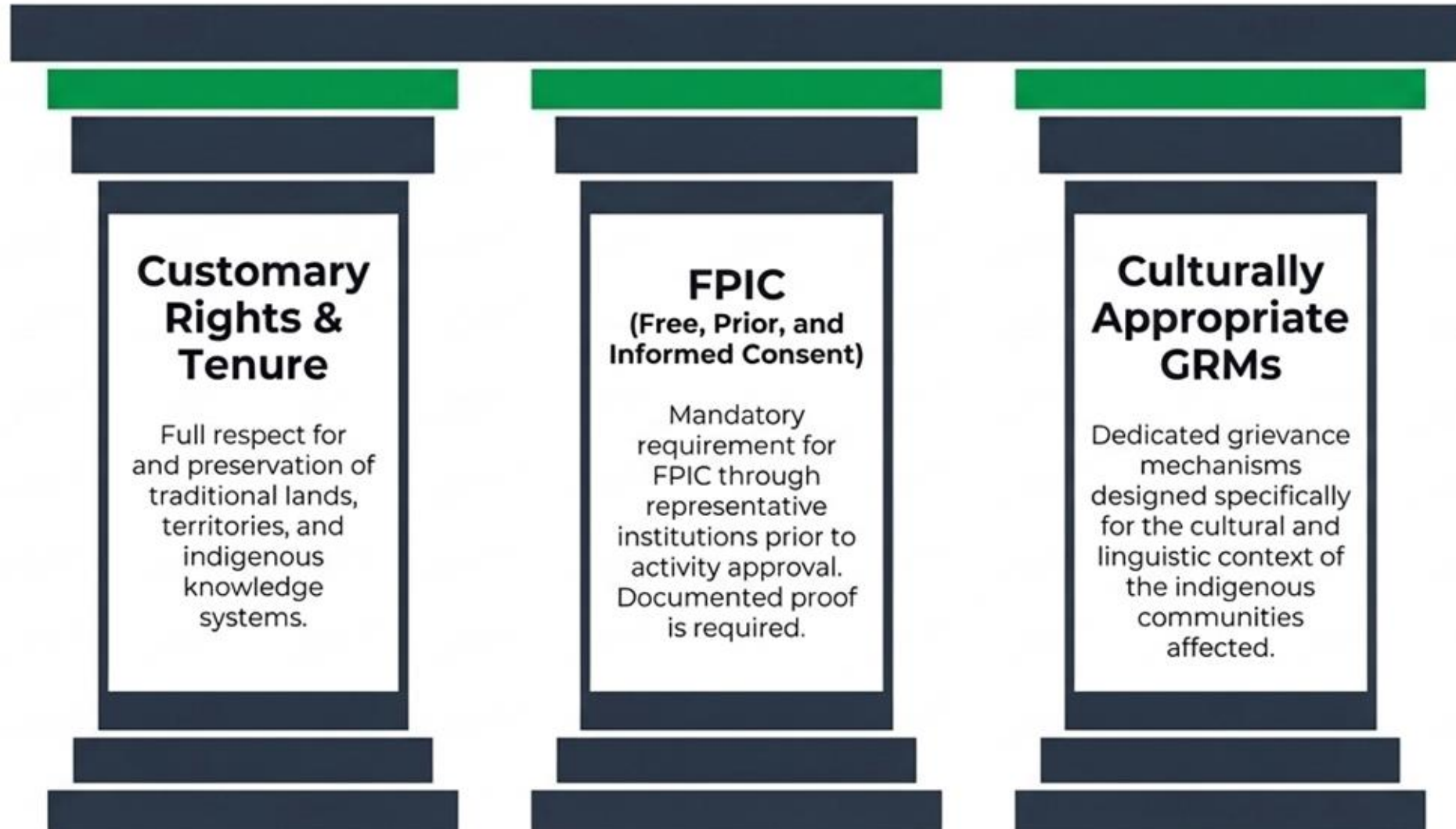
Active integration of E&S considerations across ALL stages of the project cycle.

Result: Ready for GCF Accreditation.

Implementation Pathways Tailored to Your Institutional Reality



GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy: The Consent Imperative



Essential E&S Risk Systems: Protection and Redress

SEAH

(Sexual Exploitation, Abuse,
and Harassment)

Mandate: Zero-tolerance policy at the institutional level.

Approach: Survivor-centered methodologies ensuring safe victim support.

System: Mandatory maintenance of a confidential SEAH incident register.

GRMs

(Grievance Redress Mechanisms)

Mandate: Accessible, independent, project-level mechanism for third parties.

Crucial Distinction: General state fraud/corruption platforms do NOT serve the same purpose as institutional, project-specific GRMs.

System: A dedicated register of external E&S complaints and the documented responses from the past 3 years.

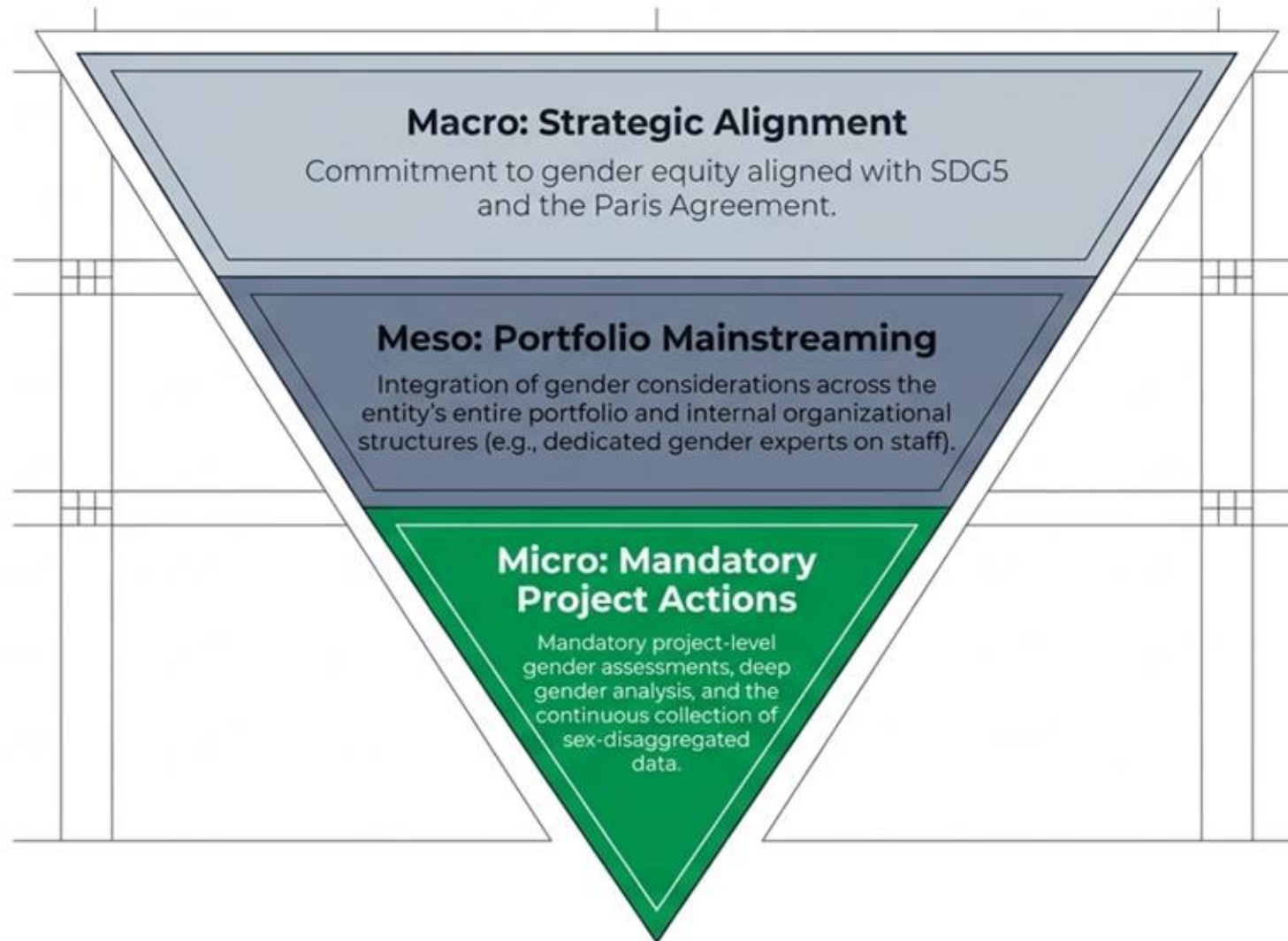
Mandatory Transparency: Information Disclosure Policy (IDP)

CORE PRINCIPLE: Maximize access. Documents must be published directly on the MOF's dedicated website—not just hidden on a regulatory agency's site or restricted behind formal requests.

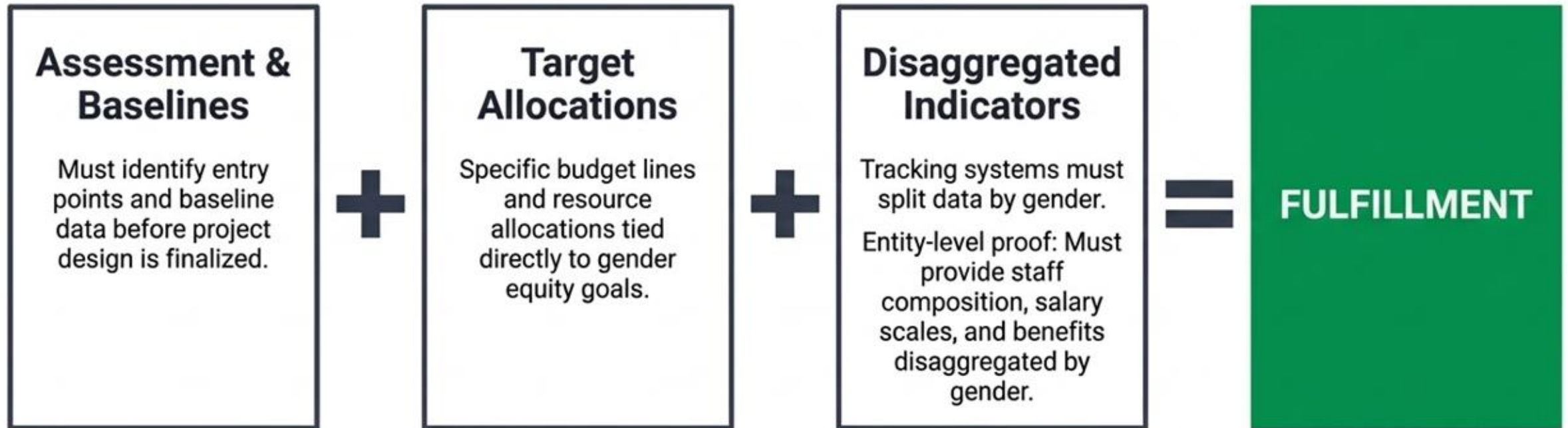


Required Documents: Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), ESMPs, Resettlement Action Plans, and Gender Action Plans.

GCF Updated Gender Policy (B.24): Systemic Mainstreaming



The Mandatory Gender Action Plan (GAP)



Your 3-Year Track Record

Policies are required, but execution is what gets evaluated. You must provide evidence from externally funded projects over the last 3 years.

File 1: Screening & Action

Sample E&S screening checklists and Environmental and Social Action Plans (ESAPs).

File 2: Third-Party Monitoring

Independent project evaluation reports incorporating ESS elements (or Annual Impact Reports).

File 3: Accountability Registers

Active, maintained SEAH and GRM incident registers showing complaints received *and* institutional responses.

File 4: Gender Execution

Project monitoring reports indicating performance against gender-disaggregated indicators.

Summary Readiness Checklist for MOF Applicants

<input data-bbox="142 319 341 515" type="checkbox"/>	Check 1: Policies
<input data-bbox="142 568 341 763" type="checkbox"/>	Check 2: Procedures
<input data-bbox="142 816 341 1012" type="checkbox"/>	Check 3: Systems
<input data-bbox="142 1065 341 1260" type="checkbox"/>	Check 4: Track Record

Your views can help how GCF works with you

GCF 2026 Stakeholder Perception and Satisfaction Survey

Tell us about your experience engaging with GCF.

أخبرنا عن تجربتك في التعامل مع الصندوق الأخضر للمناخ (GCF).

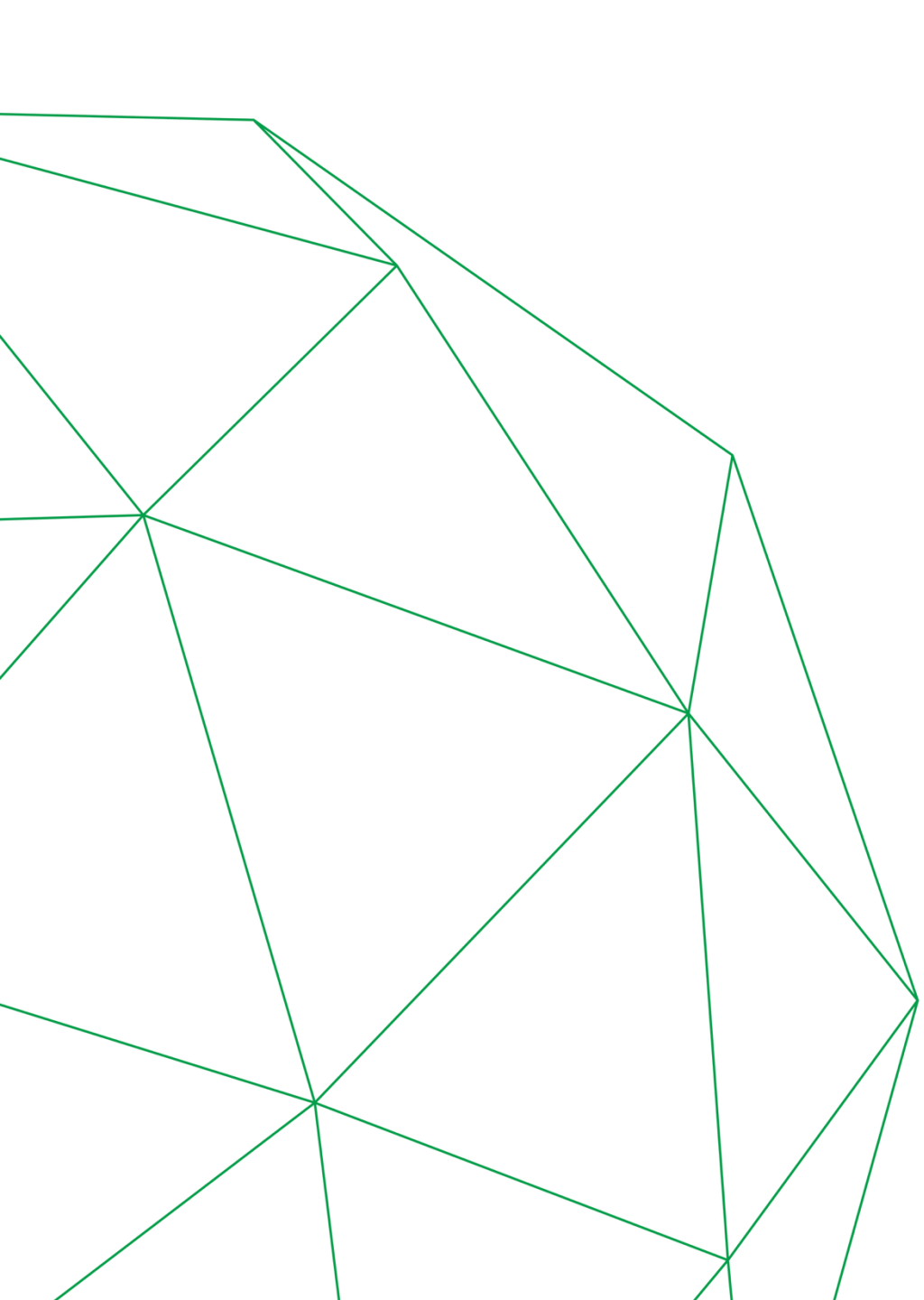
Parlez-nous de votre expérience avec le GCF.

Cuéntenos sobre su experiencia con el GCF.

Conte-nos sobre sua experiência com o GCF.

Расскажите о своём опыте взаимодействия с Зелёным климатическим фондом (GCF).





Thank you