

Readiness & Preparatory Support Proposal

Proposal title:

Establishing the Kazakhstan Country Platform to Catalyze Climate Finance in Kazakhstan

Reference:

KAZ-RS-004

Country(ies):

Kazakhstan

Date of approval:

30 September 2026

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

Section 1: Summary

Proposal Details

Title of the Direct Access Proposal	Establishing the Kazakhstan Country Platform to Catalyze Climate Finance in Kazakhstan
Total Requested Amount in USD	\$1,038,928
Implementation Period (in Months)	12 months

Country Information

Proposal scope	Single Country
Country	Kazakhstan
NDA/focal point name	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Name of contact person (NDA, DAE or FWA)	Saule Sabiyeva
Contact person's position	Director of Climate Policy Department
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Type of Access	Direct Access by Designated Agency
Name of Designated Agency	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MENR RK)

Summary of the proposal

Kazakhstan has established a comprehensive climate policy framework, including its Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2023) and the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060. These commitments require a sustained and coordinated flow of public and private investment into priority mitigation and adaptation sectors. However, despite growing investor interest and increasing engagement by development partners, the country continues to face structural constraints in translating policy ambitions into a coherent, finance-ready investment pipeline.

Climate-related investment planning, project identification and preparation functions are currently dispersed across line ministries, state-owned enterprises, sub-national authorities and financial institutions, often operating through parallel and weakly coordinated processes. Project concepts frequently enter financing discussions without standardized appraisal, consistent financial structuring, or clearly defined pathways to blended and concessional finance. This fragmentation limits the country's ability to prioritise, monitor and mobilise investments in line with its climate commitments and adaptation priorities. It also increases transaction costs, weakens investor confidence, and limits the scale and speed of climate finance mobilization.

This Readiness proposal addresses these systemic barriers by establishing and operationalizing the Kazakhstan Country Platform (hereinafter – the Platform) as a permanent country-owned coordination and investment facilitation mechanism under the oversight of the National Designated Authority. The Platform will function as a national “one-stop” system that connects climate policy priorities with standardized pipeline management, structured project preparation, and coordinated engagement with domestic and international financiers.

It is important to note that the Platform is dedicated to climate investment and operates across all sectors. In this regard, it is distinct from the QaJET Energy Transition Platform, launched by the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the EBRD in April 2026, which has a specific focus on the energy sector.

Supported through this Readiness proposal, the establishment of the Platform is envisaged as an overarching, multisectoral national framework, coordinated by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR). Operating under the official designation of the Platform, Platform under MENR, it is intended to serve as the country's unified **climate investment** architecture, providing the institutional framework within which sector-specific platforms and initiatives platforms, including QaJET, can be aligned and integrated over time.

Under this integrated institutional model, sector ministries will retain responsibility for leading specialised, sector-specific interventions, while the Platform will provide the overarching cross-sectoral coordination, governance and investment management framework. For example, the Ministry of Energy will continue to lead energy-sector investment mobilisation through the QaJET platform, while the Platform will ensure that these interventions are integrated with broader national climate priorities, including water resources management,

agriculture, waste and circular economy, resilient infrastructure, and cross-cutting adaptation measures.

This approach enables sector-specific initiatives to retain their technical depth while operating within a unified national climate investment architecture overseen by the MENR. In doing so, it reduces institutional fragmentation, strengthens strategic coherence across sectors, and streamlines the mobilisation of international climate finance as well as climate reporting.

Through Readiness support, the Platform will establish four integrated and mutually reinforcing functions.

First, robust **governance and coordination arrangements** will be institutionalized through clearly defined roles and interaction mechanisms among the Managing Committee, Investment Committee, Platform Secretariat, Expert-Analytical Hub and Consultative Council. These arrangements will ensure transparent decision-making, accountability, and systematic stakeholder participation in pipeline development and financing engagement.

Second, **standardized pipeline development and project appraisal systems** will be embedded through a multi-stage workflow covering eligibility screening, technical and climate assessment, strategic prioritization and financial appraisal. These systems will be aligned with GCF investment criteria and common MDB/DFI requirements, enabling consistent, comparable and decision-relevant project assessments.

Third, **structured and cost-efficient investment preparation and mobilization functions** will be operationalized to advance selected priority projects from concept stage toward early investment readiness. The Platform will implement a modular preparation process combining light technical, institutional and financial diagnostics, refinement of project scope and implementation arrangements, preliminary financial structuring, and full integration of environmental and social safeguards, gender and just transition considerations. This approach is designed to avoid resource-intensive pre-feasibility studies while ensuring sufficient analytical depth to support informed engagement with financiers. The process will generate concise, investor-oriented investment packages suitable for engagement with MDBs, DFIs, national development banks and private investors. Where relevant, the Platform will collaborate with institutions such as the Development Bank of Kazakhstan, EBRD and other partners to validate financing structures, co-financing pathways and risk-sharing arrangements.

Fourth, **systems for transparency, learning and continuous improvement** will be strengthened through standardized MRV and ESG methodologies, digital pipeline management tools, and institutionalized learning mechanisms. These systems will support evidence-based decision-making and progressive improvement in project quality and financing outcomes.

By the end of the Readiness period, the Platform will be fully operational under MENR's strategic coordination, featuring established multisectoral governance bodies, a functioning

Secretariat hosted by NJSC 'International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center' (IGTIC), standardized cross-sectoral appraisal tools, and a unified digital pipeline management system. It will deliver a prioritized, comprehensive multi-sectoral climate investment pipeline and will complete up to two fully developed, investment-oriented concept notes and/or funding proposals in priority sectors supported by comprehensive preparation and engagement packages.

This calibrated target reflects what is realistic within the Readiness timeframe and budget, while effectively demonstrating the Platform's capability to serve as the single umbrella architecture capable of organizing diverse sectoral flows—including the seamless integration of deep, specialized frameworks such as the Ministry of Energy and EBRD's 'QaJET' platform. Ultimately, this will create a credible, nationally owned foundation for scaling up and channeling subsequent climate financing across Kazakhstan's entire climate ecosystem.

Importantly, this Readiness support does not finance project implementation. Instead, it focuses on building the institutional, analytical and procedural foundations required to unlock sustained public and private climate finance. By embedding investment planning and preparation functions within national systems, the Platform will enable Kazakhstan to transition from fragmented, ad hoc project development toward a structured, programmatic and finance-ready climate investment ecosystem aligned with national development priorities and global climate goals.

Section 2: Country Context

2.1. Country Climate Challenges

Kazakhstan's climate trajectory presents both **systemic risks and significant opportunities** for transformation. The country is already experiencing faster-than-average warming, with national records showing an increase of approximately 0.32°C per decade^[1]. Climate modelling undertaken by national research institutions projects a further temperature rise of 1.7–1.9°C by 2030, and up to 6°C by 2100 under a high-emission scenario (IPCC RCP8.5)^[2]. This warming trend has intensified the frequency and severity of droughts, floods and heatwaves, while the melting of mountain glaciers – which supply the majority of Kazakhstan's freshwater – continues to accelerate^[3]. National meteorological data also indicate a continued increase in extreme weather events, including strong winds and dust storms, contributing to widespread disruptions across regions in recent years. Since 2000, more than half of the national territory has experienced drought in at least two of every five years, contributing to declining agricultural productivity, desertification, and rural income losses^[4]. Water scarcity is becoming increasingly critical, exacerbated by Kazakhstan's transboundary dependence, as around 50% of its river inflows originate outside its borders^[5]. Projections further suggest that the country may face severe water stress by mid-century, with expected impacts on food security, labour productivity and rural livelihoods.

The structure of Kazakhstan's economy amplifies these vulnerabilities. Energy, industry, and agriculture remain highly emissions-intensive, with the power sector still over 50% reliant on coal^[6]. Ageing infrastructure, inefficiencies in energy generation, and limited diversification into low-carbon industries have constrained competitiveness and deepened environmental pressures. Simultaneously, over 40% of the population resides in rural areas with limited adaptive capacity, where climate-related shocks threaten livelihoods and social stability^[7]. Recent disaster events, including severe flooding in 2024 affecting northern and western regions, have highlighted growing risks to infrastructure, housing and economic activity, underscoring the urgency of strengthened climate resilience.

In its Updated Nationally Determined Contribution^[8], **Kazakhstan has committed to an economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction** of 15% by 2030 (unconditional) and 25% with international support, relative to 1990 levels, alongside a long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060. Delivering these commitments requires deep structural reform – including the gradual phase-out of coal, expansion of renewable energy to 60–70% of the energy mix by 2060, and deployment of energy storage, hydrogen, and carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies^[9]. The policy and institutional framework for this transition have been strengthened through the Environmental Code^[10], which mandates national systems for MRV and ESG compliance, supported by the emissions trading scheme and the development of a green taxonomy to guide investment decisions.

The scale of investment required to meet Kazakhstan's NDC, and carbon-neutrality goals is considerable, with national assessments estimating **tens of billions of dollars annually in climate-aligned finance by 2030 and beyond**^[11]. Yet the investment landscape remains fragmented, domestic fiscal space is limited, and the cost of capital is among the highest in the region, constraining private sector participation and institutional capacity to manage complex climate finance flows.

Readiness support is therefore critical to establish the Platform and strengthen national capacity for coordinated planning, resource mobilization and project oversight. The Platform will provide a structured

and transparent framework for project origination, appraisal, and monitoring, supported by capacity-building for government and implementing entities. This will help reduce regulatory and financing risks, attract blended investment, and ensure that Kazakhstan's transition to a low-emission, climate-resilient economy is predictable, inclusive and nationally owned.

^[1] Kazhydromet, National Climate Monitoring Report 2022, Astana: RSE Kazhydromet, 2022.

^[2] Republic of Kazakhstan, Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the Paris Agreement, submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, 2023.

^[3] Kazhydromet, National Climate Monitoring Report 2022, Astana: RSE Kazhydromet, 2022.

^[4] World Bank, Climate Risk Country Profile: Kazakhstan, Washington, DC: World Bank Group, 2022.

^[5] United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Second Environmental Performance Review: Kazakhstan, Geneva: UNECE, 2020.

^[6] International Energy Agency (IEA), Kazakhstan Energy Profile 2022, Paris: IEA, 2022.

^[7] Republic of Kazakhstan, Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the Paris Agreement, submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, 2023.

^[8] Republic of Kazakhstan, Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the Paris Agreement, submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, 2023.

^[9] Republic of Kazakhstan, Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the Paris Agreement, submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, 2023.

^[10] The Ecological Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 2, 2021 № 400-VI.

^[11] Republic of Kazakhstan, Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the Paris Agreement, submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, 2023.

2.2 Policy Framework

Kazakhstan has signed the Paris Agreement and submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in April 2023. The country has pledged to reduce GHG emissions by 15% unconditionally and by 25% conditionally by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. These targets are **legally enshrined in Articles 283 and 286 of the Environmental Code**, making them enforceable and positioning Kazakhstan as one of the few countries in the region with legally mandated climate commitments. The updated NDC includes strengthened adaptation components and provides the policy foundation for long-term decarbonization.

The key guiding document for mitigation is the **Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060^[1]**, which aligns with the updated NDC and was adopted in February 2023 and submitted to the UNFCCC in October 2024. The Strategy outlines long-term decarbonization pathways across energy, industry, transport, agriculture and waste, anchored in just-transition principles, technology deployment and diversification of the energy mix. It calls for national GHG trajectory assessments up to 2060 in ten-year intervals and is

supported by a **Roadmap** that is being expanded to define implementation sequencing, institutional roles and monitoring mechanisms.

Complementing this, Kazakhstan is finalizing its first **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**, which includes vulnerability assessments and specific adaptation targets. Adaptation responsibilities have also been decentralized through the Environmental Code, requiring regional authorities to conduct climate-risk assessments and develop adaptation plans as part of territorial planning.

Urban resilience is further supported through the Law on Agglomerations Development^[2] and the National Spatial Development Forecast to 2030^[3], ensuring that **infrastructure expansion and urbanization are climate-informed and risk-sensitive**. These measures strengthen the climate-resilience dimension referenced in Kazakhstan's Updated NDC.

In addition to the legislative framework, Kazakhstan in 2023 adopted a new State Planning System, consisting of a suite of interlinked strategic documents. The Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality until 2060 is designated as a key top-level goal-setting document. **The National Development Plan until 2029 includes several medium-term KPIs for decarbonization, which are being translated into annual targets through the Carbon Budget and National Carbon Quota Plan.** This reflects the evolving policy architecture highlighted in the GCF-referenced policy landscape.

A key milestone in Kazakhstan's policy evolution is the updated Concept for Transition to a Green Economy^[4]. It strengthens strategic priorities for water efficiency, energy efficiency and renewable deployment, circular-economy measures, biodiversity protection and green finance mobilization. It serves as a cross-cutting policy bridge linking environmental and economic priorities and is aligned with the 2060 Strategy and NDC.

At the instrumental level, Kazakhstan operates a comprehensive set of regulatory and market tools to support its low-carbon transition. The Kazakhstan Emissions Trading System (KAZ ETS), established under the Environmental Code and operational since 2013, is the first ETS in Central Asia and covers roughly half of national CO₂ emissions. **The Government is finalizing a new trading phase (2026–2030) with enhanced MRV and benchmark-based allocation.** Renewable-energy deployment is regulated by the Law "On Support for the Use of Renewable Energy Sources"^[5] and its amendments introducing competitive auctions (2018), which have enabled the commissioning of over 3 GW of wind and solar capacity. Energy efficiency is governed by the Law "On Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency"^[6], mandating energy audits and enabling energy-service contracts and digital energy-management tools.

Additional regulatory measures include restrictions on routine flaring under the Subsoil and Subsoil Use Code^[7], the development of a Methane Emissions Reduction Plan, and the Concept for the Development of Hydrogen Energy until 2030^[8] targeting around 1 GW of electrolyze capacity. Transport decarbonization is advancing through the Roadmap for electric-vehicle infrastructure by 2029, foreseeing fiscal incentives, localization of assembly and charging infrastructure, and electrification of public transport in major cities.

Financial and market mechanisms are expanding to mobilize private investment. The Environmental Code introduced Kazakhstan's Green Taxonomy, defining sustainable economic activities and threshold criteria for green finance. The Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) has issued regulations for green, social and sustainability bonds and provides an incentive framework for ESG-compliant issuers. Together, these tools

form the basis for aligning financial flows with climate objectives and support the development of a sustainable-finance market, consistent with the direction highlighted in GCF-referenced national frameworks.

Despite this climate policy progress, **Kazakhstan still lacks a national mechanism that translates policy intent into coordinated investment action**. Current frameworks operate in silos: strategic documents define priorities, but delivery processes and climate-finance mobilization remain fragmented, with limited linkage between the Green Taxonomy, project pipelines and financing sources. Monitoring and reporting systems under the Environmental Code are developing but are not yet consolidated to track climate-finance flows, impacts or performance across multiple actors and financing instruments.

The proposed Platform is intended to bridge this gap by linking Kazakhstan's robust policy architecture with a **coherent system of investment planning and climate-finance mobilization**.

^[1] Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated February 2, 2023 No. 121 On approval of the Strategy for achieving carbon neutrality of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2060

^[2] Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Development of Agglomerations dated January 1, 2023 No. 181-VII

^[3] Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on approval of the Forecast scheme for territorial-spatial development of the country until 2030 dated October 9, 2019 No. 18

^[4] Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Concept for the Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a "Green Economy" dated May 30, 2013 No. 577 (updated in 2024)

^[5] Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan On support of the use of renewable energy sources dated July 4, 2009 No. 165-IV (amended in 2024)

^[6] Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Energy Saving and Improving Energy Efficiency dated January 13, 2012 No. 541-IV. (amended in 2023)

^[7] Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Subsoil and Subsoil Use dated December 27, 2017 No. 125-VI

^[8] Order No. 342 of the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan On approval of the Concept for the Development of Hydrogen Energy until 2030 dated September 27, 2024

2.3 Institutional Framework, Capacity and Coordination

Kazakhstan's institutional framework for climate governance and climate finance is defined primarily by the Environmental Code (2021) and the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2023).

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) is the central authority responsible for developing and coordinating national climate policy and for implementing international climate commitments. Under Article 283 of the Environmental Code, MENR serves as the working body for climate-related treaties and is mandated to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and removals to ensure delivery of NDC targets. The Department of Climate Policy functions as the main technical unit responsible for coordinating mitigation and adaptation measures and overseeing national MRV systems. Under MENR's supervision, JSC "Zhasyl

Damu” administers the Kazakhstan Emissions Trading System (KAZ ETS) and the national GHG inventory, while the NJSC ‘International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Centre’ (IGTIC) promote best available technologies and supports industrial decarbonization.

Sectoral ministries retain responsibility for integrating mitigation and adaptation measures within their own portfolios. The Ministry of National Economy (MNE) plays a central role in integrating climate priorities into macroeconomic planning and public finance management, including coordination of the Roadmap for Implementing the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060. The Ministry of Energy leads decarbonization measures in the energy sector, including renewable-energy deployment, energy-efficiency standards and implementation of the Hydrogen Energy Concept to 2030. The Ministry of Industry and Construction and the Ministry of Agriculture coordinate sectoral mitigation and adaptation measures, while the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, established in 2023, is responsible for water-sector resilience and transboundary water cooperation. The Ministry of Finance provides fiscal alignment through the State Planning System, and the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) and its Green Finance Centre develop green-finance instruments and standards, working with domestic financial institutions and private-sector actors to expand access to sustainable capital.

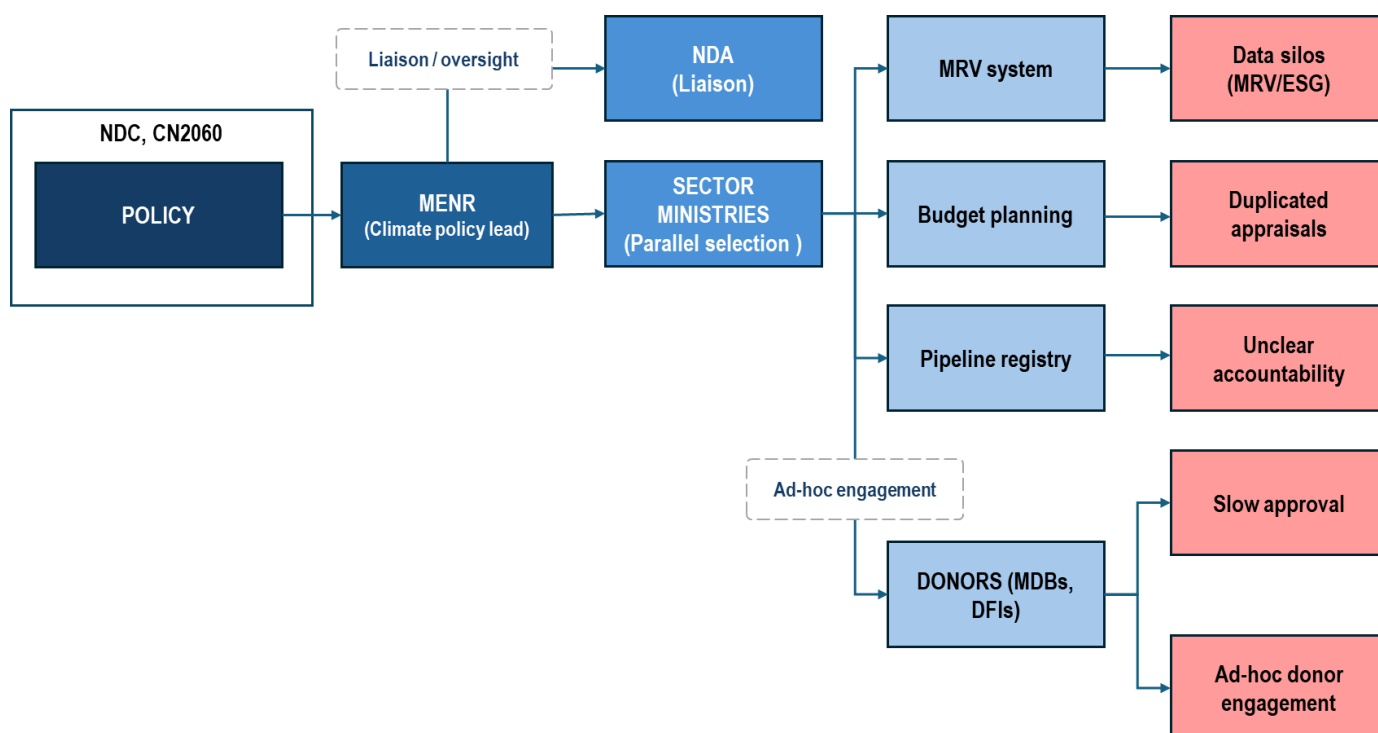
Adaptation planning and monitoring are guided by the Rules for the Organization and Implementation of the Process of Adaptation to Climate Change^[1], which stipulate annual reporting by sectoral agencies to MENR. Urban and regional climate resilience is further supported through territorial planning requirements and the national Spatial Development Forecast to 2030. At the sub-national level, regional akimats (municipal bodies) develop and implement adaptation measures based on climate-vulnerability assessments, working closely with the Ministry of Emergency Situations on disaster-risk management. However, local authorities often lack technical capacity and financing tools for large-scale resilience projects.

Strategic-level coordination takes place through existing inter-ministerial mechanisms. The Council for the Transition to a Green Economy, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, provides cross-sectoral policy oversight and monitors implementation of the Concept for Transition to a Green Economy. The Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms (ASPR) ensures alignment of state-level planning instruments and may initiate cross-sectoral reviews to mainstream climate considerations into national development processes. State-owned enterprises, particularly the Sovereign Wealth Fund “Samruk-Kazyna”, play an increasingly important role in operational delivery, including through a corporate low-carbon development concept aligned with the 2060 Strategy.

Despite this broad institutional architecture, **fragmentation persists due to the absence of a permanent cross-sectoral platform.** Decision-making is distributed across ministries without an operational mechanism to synchronize investment priorities, track financing flows, or manage a unified climate-project pipeline. Multiple agencies operate parallel systems for project selection, budgeting and donor engagement, leading to duplication, long approval cycles and investor uncertainty. Vertical coordination between national and regional levels remains limited, technical and analytical capacity for MRV is insufficient, and climate-related data and finance-tracking systems are not yet harmonized or linked to planning and budget processes. As a result, policy implementation often stalls between strategy and investment, and international partners face difficulties identifying bankable entry points for climate finance.

To address these constraints, the proposed Platform will establish **a single coordination and delivery framework uniting MENR, MNE, the Ministry of Energy and other sectoral actors under one coherent**

climate-finance architecture. In addition, the Platform will engage the AIFC Green Finance Centre, domestic financial institutions and private-sector stakeholders, as well as development finance institutions, through dedicated coordination tracks aligned with its functional pillars. By creating a shared registry of climate projects, harmonized MRV and ESG methodologies, and clear investment-planning procedures, the Platform will enhance policy coherence, reduce transaction costs and improve visibility for private and concessional financiers. It will also develop a digital portal serving as a national “one-stop window” for submission, screening and tracking of climate projects, and build the capacity of national and sub-national institutions to mobilize and manage climate finance. By linking policy, planning and finance under a single framework, the Platform will enable Kazakhstan to translate its robust institutional foundation into scalable and well-coordinated climate investments aligned with national and international commitments.



^[1] Order of the Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan on approval of the rules for organizing and implementing the process of adaptation to climate change dated June 2, 2021 No. 170

2.4 Gender Equality Analysis

Despite progress on equality frameworks, **women in Kazakhstan remain underrepresented in climate- and energy-related decision-making and technical roles.** Recent analysis of the energy workforce shows women clustered in lower-skilled jobs (e.g., 53% of unskilled workers in electricity are women) while holding only 16% of managerial and 19% of technical positions; fewer than 10% of students majoring in energy are women. These gaps constrain the country’s ability to meet its decarbonization and resilience goals^[1]. Structural and sociocultural barriers, including unequal care responsibilities, limited access to finance, and

occupational segregation, continue to restrict women's participation in higher-value economic sectors and leadership roles, particularly within climate-relevant industries such as energy, water management and transport.

Climate risks intensify gendered vulnerabilities, particularly in rural areas where livelihoods depend on water and land. Kazakhstan is already experiencing water shortages; projections indicate a possible 50% shortfall in water resources by 2040, with economy-wide GDP losses up to 6% by 2050 if water stress persists – impacts that disproportionately affect women engaged in household water management, small-scale agriculture and unpaid care work^[2]. Regional disparities amplify these risks, with rural women facing lower access to training, financial products and social protection systems. Global evidence underscores these national patterns: across low- and middle-income countries, female-headed rural households lose significantly more income to climate stressors (e.g., heatwaves and floods) than male-headed households, highlighting the need for targeted measures in adaptation finance.

Policy momentum exists to mainstream gender: Kazakhstan's "Concept of Family and Gender Policy to 2030" institutionalizes gender equality principles across sectors, and a "Women for Just Transition" network launched with UNDP and Qazaq Green creates a ready civil-society partner for gender-responsive energy transitions^[3]. However, gender mainstreaming within climate and green-finance policies remain at an early stage. Most climate-related investment planning still lacks disaggregated data, gender-responsive budgeting and inclusive project-design frameworks, resulting in limited integration of gender considerations within mitigation and adaptation pipelines.

The Platform will comply with the GCF Gender Policy and Action Plan by (i) conducting an initial gender and social assessment, (ii) preparing a project-specific Gender Action Plan (GAP) with targets, indicators and budget, and (iii) integrating sex-disaggregated baselines, risk screening and a gender-responsive grievance redress mechanism (GRM) into the MRV system. The GAP will set time-bound targets for women's participation in governance (minimum 40–50%), training cohorts and women-led SME participation in the pipeline through dedicated outreach windows. All Platform tools (screening, MRV/ESG, CN/FP templates) will include gender-analysis fields, sex-disaggregated baselines and SEA/SH risk screens with mitigation actions and referral pathways.

In addition, the Platform will **build national capacity for gender-responsive climate finance** by:

(i) developing gender-responsive project-appraisal methodologies, including gender indicators within monitoring systems; (ii) collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data on beneficiaries, employment and access to finance across supported projects; (iii) prioritizing inclusive pipelines that empower women in climate-smart entrepreneurship, renewable energy, agriculture and local adaptation programs; and (iv) collaborating with financial institutions, including the AIFC Green Finance Centre and commercial banks, to expand access to tailored green-finance products for women-led SMEs. By aligning gender-equality objectives with climate-finance architecture, the Platform will strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of Kazakhstan's transition to a low-emission and climate-resilient economy.

^[1] <https://www.undp.org/kazakhstan/news/undp-report-shows-womens-rising-role-kazakhstan-renewable-energy-sector>

^[2] <https://openknowledge.fao.org/>

^[3] <https://leap.unep.org/en/countries/kz/national-legislation/concept-family-and-gender-policy-kazakhstan-until-2030>

2.5 Stakeholder Engagement

Kazakhstan has an established legal and institutional framework that enables public participation in environmental and climate-related decision-making. The Environmental Code (2021) guarantees access to environmental information and regulates public participation in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes through early disclosure, public hearings, and publication of final decisions. Draft regulatory acts are disclosed for public comment through the national “Open NPA” portal, providing an accessible channel for engagement on policy reforms, including climate- and energy-related legislation. Public Councils under central government ministries and regional authorities, including the Public Council under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), provide advisory mechanisms for consultations on environmental and climate policies. Parliamentary oversight is exercised through the Mazhilis Committee on Ecology and Natural Resources Management, which reviews draft legislation and conducts hearings with representatives of civil society, academia, and business associations.

Despite this framework, climate-related stakeholder engagement remains fragmented and largely policy- or project-specific. Existing consultation mechanisms are not systematically linked to climate investment prioritization, project pipeline development, or financing decisions. Independent expert input is frequently channeled through development partner-led technical assistance rather than institutionalized national mechanisms, while climate-related data and analytical outputs remain dispersed across multiple platforms. At the sub-national level, engagement practices vary significantly across regions, and local authorities often lack structured channels to contribute to climate investment planning beyond individual project consultations.

The Platform is designed to address these gaps by embedding multi-sectoral stakeholder engagement directly into the investment cycle, rather than treating consultations as a stand-alone or ad hoc process. The Platform builds on extensive national consultations conducted during the formulation of Kazakhstan’s Carbon Neutrality Strategy and Just Energy Transition initiatives, co-led by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) and the Ministry of Energy. Between 2023 and 2025, structured dialogues systematically engaged line ministries, Akimats, state-owned enterprises, national financial institutions, the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), development partners, and private investors to identify priority investment areas, financing constraints, and governance bottlenecks. This collaborative groundwork culminated in April 2026 with the formal launch of the ‘QaJET’ Energy Transition Platform, institutionalized by the Ministry of Energy and MENR in partnership with the EBRD to serve as the nation’s operational Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) framework. Bringing together more than 50 institutions across government bodies, multilateral development banks, commercial financial actors, and private developers, the QaJET facility has solidified strong political ownership and established a dedicated, highly specialized consultative track for the energy sector.

Rather than duplicating this active stakeholder ecosystem, the Platform integrates the QaJET framework as its core energy-sector pillar within a comprehensive national climate-finance architecture. The Platform expands this collaborative model beyond energy transition, uniting diverse actors from other critical mitigation and adaptation sectors—such as water resources management, climate-smart agriculture, and the

circular economy. This ensures that while deep, specialized energy sector networks continue to be managed with technical depth by the Ministry of Energy and the EBRD, they are seamlessly synthesized into a single, comprehensive national dialogue strategically coordinated by MENR as the NDA, eliminating institutional silos and streamlining international climate finance mobilization at the country level.

Building on this foundation, the Platform will formalize and scale up stakeholder engagement through a structured and transparent governance framework aligned with its investment facilitation mandate. Engagement will be organized around clearly defined roles across the investment pipeline, including project origination, appraisal, structuring, and financing engagement. Key stakeholder groups will include:

- Government ministries and agencies responsible for climate, energy, finance, and sectoral policy, contributing strategic direction, policy alignment, and regulatory inputs;
- National development and commercial financial institutions, providing early feedback on bankability, financing structures, and risk allocation;
- Private sector entities, including project developers, utilities, and industry associations, contributing project concepts and market perspectives;
- Development partners and international financial institutions, supporting co-financing dialogue, technical validation, and alignment with international standards;
- Civil society organisations, academia, and research institutions, providing independent expertise and input on social, environmental, and gender dimensions.

Stakeholder engagement will be institutionalized through the Platform's governance bodies, including the Managing Committee, Investment Committee, and Consultative Council. The Consultative Council will function as a formal advisory body, providing structured feedback on pipeline priorities, project preparation approaches, and cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, social inclusion, and just transition considerations. Gender balance targets (minimum 40% women) and representation of women-led organizations will be applied across relevant governance and advisory structures, in line with GCF Gender Policy principles.

The Platform will also establish regular coordination mechanisms between national and sub-national authorities to ensure that regional priorities and implementation realities are reflected in pipeline development. By linking stakeholder engagement directly to investment decision-making processes, the Platform will enhance transparency, reduce duplication across funding sources, and ensure that public, concessional, and private climate finance is mobilized and monitored within a coherent national framework.

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

GCF Readiness Activities

GCF Readiness project for Kazakhstan

KAZ-RS-001



Start And End Dates	29 August 2017 - 29 August 2018
Amount Approved	\$282191.69
Status	Completed
Key Outcomes & Results ⓘ	Institutional capacity building; country programme development
Objectives	Institutional capacity building; country programme development
Complementarity with the proposed readiness proposal	Yes
Reference Number	KAZ-RS-001
End Date	Aug 29, 2018

Readiness and Preparatory Support to the Republic of Kazakhstan ✓	
KAZ-RS-002	
Start And End Dates	10 November 2022 - 9 July 2025
Amount Approved	\$900000
Status	Disbursed
Key Outcomes & Results ⓘ	Strengthened NDA institutional capacity; supported GCF Direct Access accreditation; enhanced national climate finance coordination; developed institutional and technical foundations for climate finance.
Objectives	Support GCF Direct Access accreditation
Complementarity with the proposed readiness proposal	Builds upon the institutional capacity and climate finance coordination established under the previous Readiness project by creating a permanent Country Platform for coordinated investment planning, project preparation and climate finance mobilization.
Reference Number	KAZ-RS-002
End Date	Jul 9, 2025

Institutionalization of adaptation planning and integration of climate risks into Kazakhstan's development planning processes to enable implementation of adaptation measures as part of coherent National Adaptation Planning (NAP) policies

KAZ-RS-003

Start And End Dates	29 November 2023 - 29 November 2027
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Amount Approved	\$1601132
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Status	Disbursed
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Key Outcomes & Results 	-
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Objectives	-
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Complementarity with the proposed readiness proposal	-
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Reference Number	KAZ-RS-003
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End Date	Nov 29, 2027
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pre-accreditation support

PwC

Start And End Dates	10 October 2019 - N/A
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Amount Approved	\$19823.13
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Status	Completed
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Key Outcomes & Results 	-
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Objectives	-
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Complementarity with the proposed readiness proposal	-
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Reference Number	PwC
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End Date	-
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Kazakhstan Climate Investment Platform

2602-18066

Start And End Dates	N/A - N/A
Amount Approved	-
Status	Pending Completeness Check
Key Outcomes & Results 	-
Objectives	-
Complementarity with the proposed readiness proposal	-
Reference Number	2602-18066
End Date	-

Other Capacity-Building Initiatives Funded or Commissioned by Parties Other Than GCF

Project title	Start And End Dates	Status	Funding Agency	Main Objectives	Complementarity with the proposed readiness proposal
QaJET Energy Transition Platform	10 November 2026 - 31 December 2029	Under implementation	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	Supports the identification, preparation and financing of energy transition investments in Kazakhstan.	Complements the proposed Country Platform by supporting energy-sector investment preparation, while the Platform provides overarching cross-sectoral coordination and investment planning.
End Date	Dec 31, 2029				

Project title	Start And End Dates	Status	Funding Agency	Main Objectives	Complementarity with the proposed readiness proposal
Partnership for Market Implementation	30 April 2025 - 31 December 2028	Under implementation	World Bank	Supports the strengthening of Kazakhstan's emissions trading system and carbon pricing framework.	Complements the proposed Country Platform by strengthening the enabling environment for climate finance while the Platform focuses on investment planning and project preparation.
End Date Dec 31, 2028					

2.7 Project Pipeline and Priorities

Kazakhstan's climate investment priorities are defined by the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060 and its Implementation Roadmap planned for adoption in 2026. The Strategy identifies six nationally endorsed decarbonization pillars:

- (i) low-carbon power and heat;
- (ii) industrial decarbonization and methane management;
- (iii) energy-efficient buildings and district energy;
- (iv) sustainable transport and electromobility;
- (v) climate-smart agriculture and forestry; and
- (vi) circular economy and waste management.

These pillars provide the strategic basis for national and international investment alignment and form the long-term prioritization framework for the Platform under the strategic coordination of MENR.

Readiness support will be used to establish a coherent and standardized investment pipeline by introducing common project screening and appraisal criteria, coordinated project preparation pathways, and shared analytical frameworks aligned with international financing requirements. Rather than restricting its initial focus to a single sector, the Platform will operationalize technical workflows across a **comprehensive, multi-sectoral climate pipeline**. This will enable early-stage concepts across diverse sectors—such as water resources management, climate-smart agriculture, and circular economy—to progress in a transparent and predictable manner from initial identification to investment-grade preparation.

Concurrently, with respect to the low-carbon energy sector, the Platform establishes the comprehensive, macro-level umbrella framework for the entire country. Within this overarching national architecture, the EBRD-led 'QaJET' platform operates with operational independence regarding the specific origination, commercial structuring, and implementation of energy-sector projects.

At the current stage, interaction within this single country framework focuses on robust information exchange and the potential inclusion of these energy initiatives into the unified national climate pipeline registry. This strategic setup ensures that while the EBRD-managed platform maintains autonomous delivery at the project execution level, the energy sector is fully synchronized with a comprehensive, coordinated, and nationally owned climate investment landscape overseen by MENR as the NDA.

In practical terms, the Platform will transform multi-sectoral policy priorities into a bankable national pipeline by:

- **Applying standardized, multi-criteria investment-readiness tools** to prioritize projects with the highest financing potential across diverse mitigation and adaptation pillars;
- **Coordinating line ministries, state-owned enterprises, national development banks, and financing partners** around harmonized and transparent project-preparation pathways; and
- **Facilitating structured engagement with MDBs, DFIs, and private financiers** to align specific project designs with explicit investor expectations.

Through these functions, Readiness support will directly contribute to the development of future Funding Proposals, including but not limited to the GCF, by strengthening institutional capacity, improving project quality, and reducing transaction costs for financiers. Importantly, the Platform will support the mobilization of capital from a diverse range of public and private sources, with the GCF positioned as a potential catalytic partner rather than the sole source of project financing.

This integrated, multi-sectoral implementation logic ensures that Readiness resources remain focused on building a scalable, system-wide architecture capable of organizing diverse sectoral flows under a single national system. By treating deep, specialized facilities such as QaJET as highly optimized sectoral pillars rather than parallel silos, the Platform establishes a cohesive national framework. This balanced approach delivers tangible pipeline outcomes in the near term across underfunded adaptation and mitigation sectors, while providing international financiers with a transparent and unified gateway to Kazakhstan's entire climate-finance ecosystem.

2.8 Specific Readiness needs

Kazakhstan has established a comprehensive climate policy framework, including the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060, and the Green Economy Concept. However, the institutional systems and operational capacities required to translate these strategic commitments into coordinated, finance-ready investments remain underdeveloped and fragmented.

Responsibilities for project origination, appraisal, structuring and monitoring are currently dispersed across multiple ministries, state-owned enterprises and sub-national authorities, without a dedicated national mechanism to align climate investment priorities with financing pathways. Parallel planning and financing processes operate across institutions, resulting in limited coordination, inconsistent project preparation standards and weak sequencing of investments. As a result, policy objectives are not systematically translated into bankable pipelines that meet the requirements of MDBs, DFIs and private investors.

Stakeholder consultations confirmed that, despite strong political commitment, **fragmented coordination arrangements and uneven technical capacity continue to constrain climate finance mobilization.** Existing coordination bodies primarily serve strategic or consultative functions and are not designed to operate as investment facilitation mechanisms. Sub-national authorities and utilities – critical actors for energy transition, district heating, infrastructure and resilience investments, often lack access to standardized analytical tools, financial structuring expertise and governance frameworks required for investment-grade project preparation. In parallel, climate-related data systems, MRV approaches and ESG frameworks exist across institutions but remain largely unstandardized and weakly linked to investment decision-making, limiting comparability, risk management and reporting.

Based on these diagnostics, the following specific readiness needs have been identified:

- **Absence of an operational national mechanism** to coordinate climate investment planning, define roles and accountability, and link policy priorities with project pipelines and financing sources.
- **Limited institutional capacity for investment-oriented project preparation and appraisal**, including financial structuring, risk assessment, fiduciary standards, environmental and social safeguards, and gender integration.
- **Lack of standardized methodologies, SOPs and tools** for project screening, multi-criteria appraisal, MRV/ESG integration and climate finance tracking.
- **Fragmented and early-stage project pipelines**, characterized by weak concept development, insufficient pre-feasibility analysis and limited alignment with available financing windows.
- **Constraints in mobilizing private and blended finance**, including limited use of de-risking instruments, concessionality and structured engagement with financiers.
- **Insufficient systems for systematic monitoring, learning and feedback**, preventing continuous improvement of project quality and investment decision-making.

Addressing these readiness needs requires the establishment and operationalization of the Country Platform as a unifying, investment-oriented mechanism. Through Readiness support, the Platform will provide the institutional, procedural and analytical foundation necessary to shift from fragmented planning toward coordinated, finance-ready investment pipelines.

Specifically, the Platform will respond to these readiness needs by:

- (i) establishing a national “one-stop” mechanism that links climate policies, project pipelines and financing actors across ministries, state-owned enterprises, national development banks, MDBs and private investors;

(ii) strengthening institutional capacity for full-cycle project preparation and investment facilitation, with an initial focus on energy transition and just transition–related investments;

(iii) developing and applying standardized appraisal, MRV and ESG methodologies integrated into pipeline screening and reporting processes;

(iv) advancing a prioritized portfolio of investment-ready concepts aligned with the NDC and the 2060 Strategy; and

(v) improving the enabling environment for private and blended capital mobilization by reducing transaction costs and supporting structured engagement with financiers.

Through these measures, Readiness support will enable Kazakhstan to move early-stage climate initiatives toward investment-ready concepts and financing packages, while establishing durable national systems for coordinated climate investment delivery consistent with international climate finance standards.

Section 3: Statement of Objectives

3.1 Objectives of the Readiness Support

The overall objective of this Readiness support is to establish and operationalize the Platform as Kazakhstan's central investment facilitation and coordination mechanism for climate investment planning and financing mobilization. The platform will strengthen national capacities for strategic climate programming, project pipeline development and engagement with climate finance providers, including the Green Climate Fund, without substituting for project-level financing.

The proposed Readiness support is fully aligned with Kazakhstan's national climate priorities and directly supports the implementation of key national climate frameworks, including:

- Nationally Determined Contributions (2023 NDCs) and the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060, by operationalising energy sector mitigation commitments and just transition measures through coordinated planning, prioritisation and investment programming under the country platform;
- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), where relevant, by integrating climate resilience, social and regional considerations into energy transition planning and investment prioritisation processes;
- Long-Term Strategies (LTS / LT-LEDS), by translating long-term decarbonisation and net-zero pathways into phased, actionable and investment-ready transition frameworks;
- National energy, development and social policies, ensuring coherence between climate ambition, economic transformation, energy security and social inclusion.

The country platform will serve as an implementation-enabling mechanism linking national climate strategies with financing frameworks and delivery pathways.

The country platform is designed as a modular and scalable system, structured around thematic pillars to enable a phased approach to institutionalisation and operationalisation across priority sectors.

During the Readiness period, support will focus on:

- establishing and testing the platform's core governance arrangements,
- developing pipeline identification and prioritisation functions, and
- strengthening investment facilitation and coordination mechanisms..

As sectoral frameworks mature and institutional capacities are strengthened, the platform's architecture, processes and tools will be designed for replication across additional priority pillars in subsequent phases, beyond the Readiness period.

The specific objectives of this Readiness proposal are to:

1. Strengthen national capacity for strategic climate programming and direct access through the establishment of a nationally led country platform;

2. Enhance institutional and technical readiness to design, prioritise and structure climate projects and programmes aligned with GCF and other climate finance providers' investment criteria;
3. Support the effective implementation of national climate strategies, including the NDC, NAP and LTS, by linking policy objectives with financing and delivery mechanisms;
4. Address key capacity gaps identified in the national 2024–2027 Readiness Strategy, particularly in inter-institutional coordination, climate finance mobilisation and project preparation.

The Readiness support will have a catalytic impact on national climate programming by addressing upstream institutional, coordination and capacity constraints that currently limit the translation of climate commitments into coherent and bankable investment pipelines.

Through the establishment and operationalisation of the country platform, the Readiness support will:

- Strengthen national capacity for strategic and programmatic climate planning, enabling a shift from fragmented, project-based approaches to integrated, multi-sectoral climate programmes;
- Enhance the ability of national institutions and Direct Access Entities (DAEs) to identify, structure and prioritise GCF-aligned project pipelines, including the application of blended finance and risk-sharing approaches;
- Improve coordination between policy formulation, investment planning and climate finance mobilisation, increasing efficiency, consistency and strategic focus in climate programming;
- Reinforce national ownership of climate finance by embedding programming and project preparation functions within a nationally governed and coordinated platform.

As a result, the Readiness support will enhance Kazakhstan's readiness for future GCF investment proposals and strengthen the effective and strategic use of direct access modalities.

By the end of the Readiness support project, a functional and nationally owned country platform will be established, providing the institutional, analytical and coordination foundations required to mobilise scaled-up climate finance and support the implementation of a just, inclusive and investment-ready energy transition aligned with Kazakhstan's national climate goals.

Objective 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.

Objective 2. Paradigm-shifting GCF pipeline development and implementation for adaptation and

mitigation, based on country needs and guided by USP-2 programming targets.

- ✓ 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.

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 Anticipated Impact on Climate Programming and Direct Access

The establishment of the Country Platform is expected to have a transformative impact on Kazakhstan's climate programming by strengthening the country's capacity to plan, coordinate and mobilize climate investments in a strategic, coherent and country-owned manner. By addressing long-standing fragmentation between policy formulation, investment planning and financing processes, the Platform will enable the Government to systematically translate priorities set out in the updated NDC (2023) and the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060 into a structured and investment-ready pipeline.

Building on Kazakhstan's strong policy and institutional foundations, the Platform will support a transition from isolated, ministry-led project preparation toward a unified national system for climate-investment programming. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (as NDA), and in close coordination with the Ministry of National Economy, IGTIC and other key public and financial actors, the Platform will provide an institutional mechanism to manage the full climate-investment cycle - from identification and prioritization of investment ideas, through structured preparation and engagement with financiers, to monitoring and learning.

The Platform will strengthen country programming by introducing a single analytical and coordination framework through which sectoral ministries, state-owned enterprises, sub-national authorities and financial institutions can align project concepts with national strategies and financing pathways. This will enable a shift from ad hoc and project-by-project development toward multi-year, programmatic investment planning consistent with GCF requirements and the practices of other international financial institutions. Standardized appraisal methodologies, MRV and ESG integration, and finance-tracking tools will support more transparent, comparable and evidence-based decision-making across the investment pipeline.

A digital "one-stop" interface for project submission, tracking and information exchange linked to existing national systems such as the GHG inventory, KAZ ETS and relevant environmental and statistical databases will reduce transaction costs, improve transparency, and enhance visibility of climate-investment flows for public institutions, financiers and private-sector stakeholders.

To operationalize this integrated investment architecture without creating parallel workflows, the Platform will establish a direct methodological and data-sharing link with the EBRD-led QaJET platform. While the Ministry of Energy and the EBRD will continue leading the commercial structuring and implementation support for energy-sector investments, the Platform will provide the overarching cross-sectoral appraisal, coordination and investment-planning framework under the strategic oversight of MENR.

Instead of maintaining separate institutional registries, the Platform will seek to integrate relevant information from QaJET into the national digital climate investment portal, applying standardized validation, harmonized MRV methodologies and common project-tracking procedures. This operational alignment will ensure that specialized sectoral initiatives contribute to a unified national climate investment pipeline, strengthen monitoring of progress toward NDC implementation, and improve coordination between policy priorities, investment planning and climate finance mobilization.

The Platform will establish the comprehensive macro-level country **umbrella framework** under the strategic coordination of MENR as the NDA. Concurrently, the EBRD-led 'QaJET' platform operates with **complete functional independence** regarding the origination, commercial structuring, and implementation of energy-sector projects.

At this stage, coordination will focus on:

- **Structured information exchange** and strategic alignment.
- The **potential inclusion** of energy initiatives into the Platform unified national climate project registry.

This data-sharing link allows the NDA to maintain a consolidated national overview and track macro-level NDC alignment against the 2060 carbon-neutrality target, without interfering with the independent execution, financing, or procurement processes of the EBRD-managed pipeline[cite: 1, 2].

Impact on Direct Access and national institutional capacity

For Direct Access, the Platform will play a critical enabling role by strengthening the technical, fiduciary, safeguards and gender-responsive capacities of national institutions to engage effectively with the GCF and other climate-finance providers. Rather than acting as an implementing entity, the Platform will function as a support and coordination mechanism that improves the quality, consistency and readiness of project proposals developed by accredited and prospective entities.

Through structured capacity support and standardized procedures, the Platform will help national institutions streamline internal review, endorsement and coordination processes, and improve alignment with international investment and governance standards. This will facilitate the preparation of high-quality concept notes and, over time, funding proposals that are aligned with national priorities and appropriate financing instruments, whether through the GCF or other international and domestic sources.

Capacity-building efforts supported by the Platform will strengthen the ability of MENR, sectoral ministries, utilities and sub-national authorities to engage in investment-oriented project preparation, including financial structuring, blended-finance approaches, MRV and ESG integration, economic appraisal, and gender-responsive planning. These capabilities are essential to improving Direct Access performance and ensuring sustained national ownership of climate investment pipelines.

Gender and inclusion impacts

The Platform will contribute to improved gender outcomes in climate programming by embedding gender considerations across governance, pipeline development and monitoring processes. This includes the application of gender-responsive project-selection criteria, targeted outreach to women-led SMEs, and the integration of gender action plans within supported project concepts. Over time, the Platform will serve as a national knowledge and coordination hub, supporting peer learning and consistent application of gender, MRV and ESG standards across climate investments.

Expected results over the Readiness implementation period

Over the Readiness implementation period, the Platform is expected to deliver tangible impacts in five interrelated areas:

- **Strengthened national coordination and institutional functionality**, through the establishment of permanent governance structures with clear roles, regular decision-making processes and inclusive stakeholder participation.
- **Enhanced strategic planning and investment prioritization**, supported by an integrated climate-investment framework and unified systems for tracking progress against national climate objectives.
- **Improved systems and tools for project preparation**, including standardized screening and appraisal workflows, strengthened fiduciary and safeguards processes, and an operational digital platform supporting monitoring and reporting.
- **Development of a structured and bankable investment pipeline**, aligned with national priorities and capable of engaging international and domestic financiers through improved project quality, structuring support and coordinated dialogue.
- **Strengthened knowledge, learning and cooperation mechanisms**, through regular capacity-building activities, targeted knowledge products and structured collaboration with national and regional partners.

Through these integrated functions, the Platform will significantly enhance Kazakhstan's climate-finance readiness and its capacity for effective Direct Access, ensuring that future funding proposals are technically sound, institutionally coordinated and strategically aligned with both national priorities and international climate-finance requirements.

3.3 Alignment with NDC/NAP/LTS Implementation

The proposed Country Platform for Climate Finance is fully aligned with Kazakhstan's national climate-policy framework and is designed to support effective implementation of the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2023), the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) process, and the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060. The Platform provides the institutional and operational mechanisms required to translate these strategic commitments into coordinated, finance-ready investment pipelines.

With respect to mitigation, the Platform directly supports implementation of the Updated NDC, under which Kazakhstan has committed to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 15% unconditionally and up to 25% conditionally by 2030. Rather than introducing new policy targets, the Platform operationalizes existing commitments by strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, aligning project preparation with national priorities, and supporting investment planning and financing processes that contribute measurably to NDC targets.

The Platform addresses current implementation gaps by establishing a structured coordination mechanism that enables line ministries, state-owned enterprises, sub-national authorities and financial actors to work within a shared framework for investment planning. Standardized project appraisal methodologies, together with harmonized MRV and ESG approaches consistent with national systems under the Environmental Code, will allow investment contributions to mitigation targets to be tracked in a transparent and comparable manner.

The Platform also supports implementation of the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060, which defines long-term decarbonization pathways across energy, industry, transport, agriculture and other sectors. By translating these pathways into prioritized and sequenced investment pipelines, the Platform will help accelerate the transition from strategic planning to concrete, finance-ready investment opportunities. In its initial phase, the Platform will focus on the energy and heat transition, where mitigation potential and near-term investment demand are most significant, before progressively expanding to additional strategic pillars in line with national sequencing and institutional readiness.

In relation to adaptation and resilience, **the Platform complements Kazakhstan's National Adaptation Planning process by strengthening systems for risk-informed investment planning, data integration and cross-sectoral coordination**. Through Readiness support, the Platform will enhance the capacity of national and sub-national authorities to identify, structure and prioritize climate-resilient investments, particularly in areas such as water management, agriculture and disaster-risk reduction, ensuring consistency with emerging NAP implementation arrangements and territorial planning requirements.

The Platform further reinforces cross-cutting national frameworks, including the Green Economy Concept (Presidential Decree No. 568, 2024) and the State Planning System, which require integration of climate objectives into national and regional development strategies. By aligning project preparation, financial tracking and reporting processes with these systems, the Platform will strengthen institutional coherence across MENR, the Ministry of National Economy, sectoral ministries, sub-national authorities and financial institutions, including the AIFC.

Overall, the Country Platform provides an enabling architecture through which Kazakhstan can systematically implement its NDC, NAP and LTS commitments. By linking policy objectives with coordinated investment planning, standardized preparation processes and financing engagement, the Platform ensures that mobilized resources contribute directly to national climate targets and long-term decarbonization and resilience goals.

Section 4: Approach, Methodology and Implementation Activities

4.1 Theory of Change

Kazakhstan has established one of the most advanced climate-policy frameworks in Central Asia through the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2023), the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060, the Green Economy Concept, the Environmental Code and related sectoral decarbonization frameworks. Together, these instruments provide a comprehensive strategic direction for long-term mitigation, adaptation and economic transformation.

However, despite the existence of strong policy commitments and increasing engagement from international development partners and private investors, Kazakhstan continues to face major structural barriers in converting climate ambition into coordinated, investment-ready and financeable climate-investment pipelines at the scale required to achieve its long-term transition objectives.

The core constraint is not the absence of climate-policy ambition, but the absence of a permanent institutional architecture capable of systematically linking climate-policy priorities, investment planning, project preparation, financing coordination and long-term capital mobilization within a unified national system.

At present, climate-investment functions remain fragmented across ministries, state-owned enterprises, financial institutions, regional authorities and development partners. Project identification, appraisal, prioritization and financing engagement are undertaken through parallel and often inconsistent institutional processes using different methodologies, standards, timelines and decision-making frameworks. Existing coordination mechanisms are largely strategic or consultative in nature and do not function as operational climate-investment facilitation systems capable of supporting coherent pipeline development and structured financing engagement.

As a consequence, Kazakhstan's climate-investment ecosystem continues to experience a series of interconnected market and institutional failures.

Climate-related initiatives frequently remain at an early conceptual stage and are unable to progress toward financing readiness due to weak preparation capacity, fragmented institutional ownership and the absence of coordinated project-development pathways. Investment pipelines are dispersed across institutions, weakly prioritized and insufficiently aligned with financing requirements and sectoral transition sequencing. Project appraisal approaches vary significantly between institutions, reducing comparability, predictability and investor confidence.

At the same time, domestic and international financiers face high transaction costs in identifying, assessing and engaging with climate-investment opportunities. The absence of standardized screening, harmonized investment methodologies and unified pipeline visibility increases information asymmetries and reduces the efficiency of climate-capital allocation. As a result, financing engagement remains largely ad hoc and project-by-project rather than programmatic and strategic in nature.

These systemic constraints weaken Kazakhstan's ability to mobilize concessional, blended and private climate finance at scale and limit the country's capacity to operationalize its NDC commitments and long-term carbon-neutrality objectives through coordinated and investment-ready climate programmes.

The proposed Readiness intervention addresses these barriers through the establishment and operationalization of the Kazakhstan Country Platform as a nationally owned climate-investment coordination and facilitation mechanism operating under the strategic oversight of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, acting as the National Designated Authority, and operationally supported by IGTIC.

The Platform is not designed to function as a financing institution or project implementation entity. Rather, it functions as an enabling institutional architecture designed to reduce systemic fragmentation across the climate-investment ecosystem and establish a coordinated national system for climate-investment planning, pipeline development, project appraisal and financing facilitation.

The intervention is based on the Theory of Change that if Kazakhstan establishes a permanent and institutionally embedded climate-investment coordination mechanism with standardized investment methodologies, operational pipeline-management functions and structured engagement pathways with financiers, then national institutions will be able to systematically transform climate-policy priorities into prioritized, investment-ready and financeable climate-investment pipelines aligned with domestic and international financing requirements.

This transformation is expected to improve investment predictability, reduce transaction costs and information asymmetries, strengthen investor confidence, increase the efficiency of climate-capital allocation and significantly enhance Kazakhstan's capacity to mobilize public, concessional and private climate finance in support of national climate objectives.

Ultimately, the Platform is intended to support a broader structural transition from fragmented and project-by-project climate-investment approaches toward a programmatic, coordinated and scalable national climate-finance ecosystem capable of supporting Kazakhstan's long-term low-emission and climate-resilient development pathway.

Key Challenges

Challenge 1. Fragmented institutional governance and climate-investment coordination

Climate-investment planning and financing responsibilities are currently distributed across multiple ministries, state-owned enterprises, sub-national authorities, financial institutions and development partners without a unified operational coordination mechanism capable of linking policy priorities, investment planning, pipeline management and financing engagement.

Existing institutional arrangements often operate through parallel and weakly synchronized processes, resulting in duplication of efforts, inconsistent project prioritization, prolonged decision-making cycles and fragmented engagement with financiers. This institutional fragmentation reduces strategic coherence across climate investments and weakens the country's ability to develop coordinated investment programmes aligned with long-term transition objectives.

Challenge 2. Absence of a permanent national climate-investment facilitation mechanism

Kazakhstan currently lacks a centralized national “one-stop” climate-investment coordination mechanism capable of systematically supporting project proponents, public institutions and financiers through harmonized project-screening, appraisal, prioritization and investment-preparation processes.

As a result, climate-investment preparation remains highly fragmented, institution-specific and resource-intensive, limiting the country’s ability to generate visible, coordinated and finance-ready climate-investment pipelines.

Challenge 3. Limited institutional capacity for investment-oriented project preparation and structuring

Many national institutions, utilities, regional authorities and project proponents continue to face substantial technical and institutional capacity constraints in preparing climate investments consistent with international climate-finance requirements and investor expectations.

These constraints include:

- limited capacity for financial and economic appraisal;
- insufficient understanding of concessional and blended-finance structures;
- weak integration of safeguards and gender requirements;
- limited climate-rationale development capacity;
- insufficient understanding of investment-risk allocation;
- and weak institutional experience in preparing projects aligned with MDB, DFI and GCF standards.

Consequently, many climate-relevant projects fail to progress beyond preliminary conceptual stages or remain insufficiently mature for structured financing engagement.

Challenge 4. Lack of standardized appraisal methodologies and investment systems

Kazakhstan currently lacks a harmonized and nationally coordinated system for:

- climate-investment screening;
- project appraisal;
- prioritization;
- MRV integration;
- ESG and safeguards assessment;
- gender-responsive analysis;

- and climate-finance tracking.

The absence of standardized methodologies limits comparability across projects, weakens transparency in investment decision-making and creates uncertainty for financiers regarding project quality, risk allocation and implementation readiness.

This fragmentation contributes directly to elevated transaction costs, weak pipeline visibility and reduced investor confidence.

Challenge 5. Weak operational linkage between national climate strategies and investment pipelines

Although Kazakhstan has established strong climate-policy frameworks through the NDC, Carbon Neutrality Strategy, Green Economy Concept and sectoral transition pathways, these frameworks are not yet systematically connected to sequenced and investment-oriented project pipelines.

In practice, strategic climate objectives are frequently disconnected from operational investment planning, resulting in a weak translation of national climate commitments into structured financing opportunities and scalable investment programmes.

Challenge 6. Limited mobilization of blended and private climate finance

Current institutional systems remain insufficiently equipped to support systematic engagement with private investors, MDBs, DFIs and climate-finance providers through coordinated investment pipelines and structured financing pathways.

The absence of harmonized investment preparation, standardized appraisal systems and coordinated financing engagement reduces the bankability and scalability of climate investments and constrains the mobilization of blended and private finance at scale.

Challenge 7. Insufficient integration of gender equality, inclusion and just-transition principles

Gender equality, social inclusion and just-transition considerations are not yet systematically embedded across climate-investment governance, appraisal and prioritization systems.

As a result, climate-investment planning processes may insufficiently account for distributional impacts, regional transition risks, stakeholder participation and inclusive investment outcomes, potentially weakening long-term sustainability, public ownership and social resilience of the transition process.

Intervention Logic

The proposed Readiness intervention addresses these barriers through a sequenced and mutually reinforcing set of institutional, operational and capacity-building measures designed to establish the foundational

architecture of a national climate-investment coordination and facilitation system.

The intervention is designed not merely to support isolated project preparation, but to establish durable institutional systems capable of continuously generating, prioritizing and advancing climate-investment opportunities beyond the Readiness implementation period.

1. Establish institutional governance architecture and national coordination systems

The intervention establishes a formal and nationally embedded governance structure consisting of:

- a Managing Committee;
- an Investment Committee;
- a Platform Secretariat;
- an Expert-Analytical Hub;
- and a Consultative Council.

Together, these structures create a coordinated institutional framework for climate-investment governance, strategic prioritization, technical review and stakeholder participation.

The governance architecture establishes:

- clear institutional mandates;
- accountability arrangements;
- escalation and decision-making pathways;
- pipeline oversight functions;
- and structured interaction mechanisms between government institutions, financiers, technical experts, development partners and civil society.

This institutional architecture is expected to strengthen national ownership of climate-investment programming and reduce fragmentation across climate-investment planning and financing processes.

2. Operationalize the Platform Secretariat as the core climate-investment coordination mechanism

The Platform Secretariat functions as the operational engine of the national climate-investment system and supports day-to-day coordination of pipeline development and financing facilitation activities.

Its functions include:

- administration of the national climate-investment pipeline;
- coordination of institutional inputs;

- management of project-screening and appraisal workflows;
- organization of stakeholder consultations;
- coordination with financiers and development partners;
- monitoring of project progression;
- and management of pipeline information systems.

Standardized workflows, submission procedures, review calendars and operational protocols create a predictable and transparent pathway through which climate-investment concepts can progressively mature toward financing readiness.

This operational structure is expected to improve institutional predictability, reduce duplication and enhance efficiency across the climate-investment ecosystem.

3. Develop and institutionalize standardized climate-investment appraisal methodologies

The intervention develops and operationalizes harmonized methodologies, tools and procedures for:

- project screening and prioritization;
- climate rationale development;
- financial and economic appraisal;
- investment-risk assessment;
- MRV integration;
- ESG and safeguards screening;
- gender-responsive analysis;
- climate-finance tracking;
- and implementation-readiness assessment.

These methodologies are aligned with GCF investment criteria and relevant MDB/DFI practices and are embedded into standardized operating procedures and pipeline-management systems.

The institutionalization of standardized methodologies is expected to:

- improve consistency and comparability across projects;
- reduce information asymmetries for financiers;
- improve investment transparency;
- strengthen investment predictability;

- reduce transaction costs;
- and enhance confidence among domestic and international financing partners.

4. Establish a national digital climate-investment coordination and pipeline-management system

The intervention establishes a fit-for-purpose digital coordination platform functioning as a national “one-stop” interface for:

- project submission;
- screening and tracking;
- institutional coordination;
- pipeline visibility;
- information exchange;
- and monitoring of investment progression.

The digital system is expected to strengthen transparency, traceability and institutional learning while improving accessibility and visibility of climate-investment opportunities for project proponents, public institutions and financiers.

By improving pipeline visibility and coordination efficiency, the digital platform contributes to reducing institutional fragmentation and improving investor engagement.

5. Develop and prioritize a coordinated climate-investment pipeline

Through structured screening, appraisal and prioritization processes, early-stage climate initiatives are transformed into coordinated and investment-oriented pipeline components aligned with national climate priorities and financing requirements.

This process supports the transition from fragmented project development toward programmatic climate-investment planning and creates a structured pipeline capable of engaging multiple financing sources over time.

6. Strengthen investment structuring and financing facilitation functions

The Platform supports investment-oriented project development and financing facilitation through:

- preliminary financial structuring;
- identification of concessional and blended-finance pathways;

- analysis of risk-sharing approaches;
- coordination with MDBs, DFIs and domestic financial institutions;
- development of investment-oriented concept notes;
- and structured engagement with potential financiers.

The Platform itself does not finance projects directly. Instead, it reduces systemic investment friction across the national climate-finance ecosystem by improving the quality, consistency and financing readiness of climate-investment opportunities.

This is expected to strengthen Kazakhstan's ability to mobilize concessional, blended and private finance while improving alignment between national investment pipelines and investor expectations.

7. Integrate gender equality, inclusion and just-transition principles across the investment cycle

Gender-responsive and inclusive approaches are integrated across governance arrangements, pipeline-management systems and appraisal methodologies.

The intervention incorporates:

- gender-responsive screening criteria;
- gender-disaggregated indicators;
- stakeholder-engagement mechanisms;
- just-transition considerations;
- safeguards-related social-risk assessment;
- inclusive consultation processes;
- and participation mechanisms for civil society and women-led organizations.

This integrated approach strengthens the inclusiveness, legitimacy and long-term sustainability of climate-investment planning while improving alignment with GCF gender and safeguards principles.

8. Strengthen institutional learning, knowledge systems and long-term sustainability

The intervention supports long-term institutional strengthening through:

- targeted technical advisory support;
- practical application of appraisal methodologies;
- institutional learning processes;

- training and capacity-building activities;
- development of knowledge products and learning notes;
- and continuous feedback mechanisms linked to pipeline implementation.

Knowledge generated through the Platform is expected to support iterative improvement of climate-investment systems and reduce long-term dependence on fragmented external project-preparation approaches.

By embedding investment-coordination and appraisal functions within national systems, the intervention strengthens institutional sustainability beyond the Readiness implementation period.

Outputs

The intervention is expected to deliver the following outputs:

- An operational and nationally owned climate-investment platform with approved governance structures, operational mandates and coordination procedures;
- A functioning Platform Secretariat with operational pipeline-management and investment-coordination functions;
- Standardized and gender-responsive climate-investment appraisal, MRV and ESG methodologies aligned with GCF and MDB/DFI requirements;
- A national digital climate-investment coordination and pipeline-management interface;
- A prioritized and investment-oriented climate-investment pipeline;
- Up to two advanced investment-oriented concept notes and/or funding proposals positioned for further financing engagement and development;
- Enhanced institutional capacity for climate-investment planning, investment structuring, safeguards integration and financing facilitation;
- Institutionalized stakeholder-engagement, knowledge-sharing and coordination mechanisms;
- Practical recommendations supporting the enabling environment for blended and private climate-finance mobilization.

Outcomes

As a result of these outputs:

- national institutions will strengthen their capacity to coordinate climate-investment planning and financing engagement;

- climate-investment pipelines will become more strategic, transparent, standardized and financing-oriented;
- project quality, comparability and investment readiness will improve;
- coordination between public institutions, financiers and development partners will strengthen;
- institutional fragmentation and transaction costs for financiers will decrease;
- investor confidence and visibility of climate-investment opportunities will improve;
- Kazakhstan's ability to engage with GCF and other climate-finance providers will strengthen;
- and national systems for climate-investment programming and financing coordination will become more institutionalized and sustainable.

The intervention is also expected to strengthen national ownership of climate-finance programming by embedding investment-preparation and coordination functions within permanent institutional systems rather than isolated project-based arrangements.

Long-Term Impact

In the long term, the Platform is expected to function as a permanent national climate-investment coordination architecture capable of systematically translating Kazakhstan's climate-policy priorities into coordinated, scalable and finance-ready climate-investment pipelines.

By strengthening institutional coordination, standardized appraisal systems, investment facilitation mechanisms and financing engagement pathways, the Platform is expected to contribute to:

- increased mobilization of public, concessional and private climate finance;
- accelerated implementation of Kazakhstan's NDC and carbon-neutrality commitments;
- improved coherence between climate policy, investment planning and financing systems;
- stronger integration of gender equality, inclusion and just-transition principles within climate-investment governance;
- enhanced national readiness for future climate-finance engagement;

and the long-term transition toward a low-emission, climate-resilient and investment-ready economy aligned with Kazakhstan's sustainable development objectives.

4.2 Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries

Government ministries and national authorities

Primary beneficiaries include the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (as NDA), the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of National Economy, and relevant sectoral ministries (Industry and Construction, Agriculture, and Transport). These institutions will benefit from strengthened inter-ministerial coordination, clearly defined governance arrangements, standardized MRV/ESG and appraisal methodologies, and enhanced institutional capacity for climate-investment planning and prioritization.

Through the Country Platform, ministries will be able to translate policy commitments under the updated NDC (2023) and the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060 into a structured and sequenced investment pipeline. The Platform will provide a permanent mechanism for coordinated decision-making, data sharing, pipeline oversight, and tracking of climate-finance flows across sectors and levels of government.

NJSC 'International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center' (IGTIC)

As the proposed implementing entity and proposed host of the Platform Secretariat, IGTIC will be a key direct beneficiary of the Readiness support. The project will strengthen IGTIC's institutional and operational capacity to perform core platform functions, including pipeline management, project screening, coordination of appraisal processes, MRV/ESG integration, and engagement with financing partners.

The Readiness will support IGTIC's transition from a primarily technical center into a national coordination hub for climate-investment preparation and financing, establishing systems and procedures that can support future Direct Access operations and sustained engagement with international climate-finance institutions.

Financial institutions, banks, and investors

National development banks, commercial banks, AIFC-based institutions, and other financial actors will benefit from increased transparency, predictability, and coordination in climate-investment engagement. The Platform will provide a standardized "one-stop" interface for pipeline visibility, project information, and engagement with public institutions.

Unified appraisal criteria, structured information on risks and mitigation measures, and clearer sequencing of priority investments will reduce transaction costs, improve risk assessment, and facilitate the mobilization of blended and private capital aligned with national climate priorities.

Public and private project developers

State-owned enterprises, utilities, municipalities, and private developers will directly benefit from improved access to standardized project submission tools, structured screening processes, and targeted technical support for project preparation and structuring.

Early-stage projects across priority climate sectors, including energy, industry, transport, water, agriculture, waste management and climate adaptation will benefit from clearer preparation pathways, improved

investment readiness, and coordinated engagement with financiers, increasing their prospects for securing financing.

Indirect beneficiaries

Private-sector enterprises and SMEs

Private enterprises, including SMEs adopting low-carbon and climate-resilient technologies, will benefit from improved access to concessional and blended finance, clearer investment signals, and reduced barriers to participation in climate-investment pipelines. Platform-supported structuring and engagement processes will help unlock market opportunities in climate mitigation, adaptation, resource efficiency, circular economy and resilient infrastructure.

Regional and local governments

Akimats and municipal authorities will benefit from enhanced capacity to identify, structure, and advance climate-resilient and just-transition investments. Integration into the proposed Platform's workflows will enable sub-national priorities -particularly in heating, water, and adaptation-relevant infrastructure—to be reflected in national investment pipelines and financing discussions.

Civil society, academia, and research institutions

Civil-society organizations, universities, and research institutions will benefit from structured participation through the Platform's Consultative Council and Expert-Analytical Hub. Improved access to climate-investment data, analytical outputs, and knowledge products will support evidence-based policy dialogue, research, innovation, and public oversight of climate-finance decisions.

Communities, women, and vulnerable groups

Communities in coal-dependent and climate-vulnerable regions will benefit indirectly through improved planning and financing of just-transition and climate-resilient investments. The Platform's gender-responsive governance arrangements, parity targets, sex-disaggregated indicators, and targeted outreach to women-led SMEs will promote equitable access to skills, finance, and decision-making opportunities, consistent with the GCF Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan requirements.

Overall benefit

By strengthening national systems, improving coordination across public and private actors, and enabling the development of a coherent and investment-ready project pipeline, the Platform will deliver broad-based

benefits across Kazakhstan's climate-finance ecosystem. These benefits will extend from central ministries and financial institutions to local governments, enterprises, and communities, supporting an efficient, transparent, socially inclusive, and gender-responsive transition toward national climate objectives.

4.3 Implementation Activities

Objective 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.
- ✓ 1.1.1. 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. Strengthen institutional capacity for climate finance coordination and stakeholder engagement. Deliver targeted capacity-building for the NDA, IGTIC, relevant line ministries, sub-national authorities and other climate stakeholders on their respective roles in climate finance coordination, investment planning, stakeholder engagement and implementation of NDC, NAP and LTS-related priorities. The activity will focus on strengthening practical understanding of institutional mandates, coordination procedures, stakeholder consultation processes, and the use of the Platform as a national coordination mechanism.

1-1-1.b. Build capacity for coordinated engagement with public, private and international financing actors. Provide practical training and advisory support to relevant public institutions and stakeholders on how to engage effectively with MDBs, DFIs, national development banks, private investors and climate finance providers. The activity will cover coordination protocols, preparation of institutional inputs, communication with financing partners, and the use of structured engagement channels through the Platform.

1-1-1.c. Strengthen capacity for inclusive and gender-responsive climate-investment coordination. Deliver targeted capacity-building on integrating gender equality, social inclusion and just-transition considerations into climate-investment coordination processes. This will include practical guidance on stakeholder mapping, inclusive consultations, gender-responsive participation, documentation of stakeholder inputs, and integration of social and gender considerations into coordination and decision-making processes.

- ✓ 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. Conduct institutional mapping for the establishment of the Country Platform. Conduct a targeted institutional mapping to clarify mandates, decision-making responsibilities and coordination interfaces of key public institutions, state-owned enterprises, national financial institutions, sub-national authorities, development partners and private-sector actors involved in climate-investment planning and financing. The mapping will identify coordination bottlenecks, duplication risks, decision-making gaps and practical requirements for the effective functioning of the Kazakhstan Country Platform.

Activities

1-1-2.b. Define and formalize the governance architecture of the Platform. Develop and formalize the Platform governance architecture, including the Managing Committee, Investment Committee, Platform Secretariat, Expert-Analytical Hub and Consultative Council. The activity will define the mandate, composition, decision-making authority, accountability arrangements and interaction mechanisms of each governance body, including their role in pipeline intake, project screening, prioritization, endorsement, financing engagement and escalation of decisions.

1-1-2.c. Develop and adopt Terms of Reference, Standard Operating Procedures and decision protocols. Prepare and adopt Terms of Reference, Standard Operating Procedures, guidance notes and decision protocols for the Platform governance bodies. These documents will define decision thresholds, documentation requirements, review timelines, escalation pathways, stakeholder-engagement requirements, conflict-of-interest provisions and the sequencing of decisions across the full pipeline cycle from project identification to financing engagement.

1-1-2.d. Operationalize the Platform Secretariat. Establish the operational arrangements for the Platform Secretariat, including staffing roles, functional responsibilities, service standards, internal workflows, document-management systems, pipeline administration procedures, and coordination arrangements with ministries, project proponents and financing partners. The Secretariat will function as the day-to-day coordination unit for the Platform and will support pipeline administration, governance meetings, stakeholder engagement and preparation of projects toward financing readiness.

1-1-2.e. Develop and operationalize the Platform appraisal and pipeline-management system. Design and apply a standardized pipeline-management system for project submission, screening, appraisal, prioritization and tracking. This will include standardized appraisal criteria covering climate rationale, strategic alignment, financial viability, implementation readiness, environmental and social safeguards, gender considerations, risk assessment and financing potential. The system will be aligned with GCF investment criteria and relevant MDB/DFI practices while remaining practical for national institutions and project proponents.

1-1-2.f. Design, develop and operationalize the Digital Climate Investment Platform. Design, develop and operationalize the Digital Climate Investment Platform as the core digital infrastructure supporting the operation of the Platform. The activity will include business process analysis, functional and technical system design, software development, user interface design, system integration, testing, deployment, user training, and operational launch. The System will support the end-to-end management of climate investment projects throughout the entire project lifecycle, including project submission, registration, document management, workflow automation, eligibility screening, technical and financial appraisal, project prioritization, governance workflows, pipeline management, monitoring, reporting, and stakeholder communication. It will provide secure role-based access for government institutions, project proponents, development partners, financing institutions, and Platform governance bodies, ensuring transparent information exchange, traceable decision-making, standardized project management, and efficient coordination across multiple sectors. The Platform will also generate analytical dashboards and management reports to support evidence-based decision-making, pipeline oversight, progress monitoring, and coordination with domestic and international financing partners, providing the digital foundation for the long-term operation and continuous improvement of the national climate investment pipeline

1-1-2.g. Institutionalize regular Platform governance and coordination meetings. Establish regular governance and coordination meetings based on pipeline needs and international good practice. The Secretariat will conduct monthly internal pipeline review sessions; the Investment Committee will convene at least quarterly, and ad hoc where required, to review long-list and short-list decisions; the Managing Committee will meet semi-annually to confirm strategic direction and financing engagement priorities; and the Consultative Council will meet at least semi-annually to support stakeholder alignment and integration of gender, social inclusion and just-transition considerations.

Activities

1-1-2.h. Develop the National Institutional Framework for the Kazakhstan Country Platform. Develop a comprehensive National Institutional Framework for the Kazakhstan Country Platform as the overarching multi-sectoral coordination mechanism for climate investment in Kazakhstan. The Framework will define the Platform's institutional mandate, governance principles, operational model, coordination functions, stakeholder engagement arrangements, and interaction mechanisms among national and sub-national authorities, financial institutions, development partners, and project proponents. The Framework will also establish the overall project lifecycle, including project origination, submission, screening, appraisal, prioritization, financing engagement, monitoring, and pipeline management, while clarifying the respective roles and responsibilities of Platform governance bodies. It will further define principles for coordination and information exchange with sector-specific initiatives, including the EBRD-supported QaJET Platform, to ensure complementarity, avoid duplication, and support the future integration of sectoral investment pipelines into a unified national climate investment architecture. The Framework will serve as the principal institutional and strategic document guiding the long-term operation and continuous development of the Kazakhstan Country Platform.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 1.2.1. Inclusive strategic frameworks (NDCs, NAPs, and LTSSs) and policy instruments are created, updated and/or strengthened.

Activities

1-2-1.a. Prepare an alignment note linking the Investment Plan with national climate strategies and GCF programming priorities. Prepare a cross-cutting alignment note demonstrating consistency of the initial Investment Plan with Kazakhstan's Updated NDC, Carbon Neutrality Strategy, emerging NAP priorities where relevant, sectoral plans, Green Economy Concept and GCF programming priorities. The note will clarify how the Platform's investment priorities support national climate commitments and how they can inform future engagement with GCF and other climate-finance providers.

1-2-1.b. Identify enabling environment barriers affecting investment readiness. Identify key regulatory, institutional, market and financing barriers that reduce the bankability and investment readiness of priority climate-investment projects across relevant sectors. The activity will produce targeted recommendations and risk-mitigation options to inform policy dialogue, investment planning and structured engagement with financiers. This activity will not involve regulatory design or implementation but will provide analytical inputs to support investment-readiness and financing decisions.

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

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 2.2.1. 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. Commission technical assistance on concept note and funding proposal development. Commission national and international technical experts to deliver technical workshops for the NDA, IGTC, relevant ministries, project proponents, sub-national authorities and other climate stakeholders on the GCF project cycle, investment criteria and requirements for high-quality concept notes and funding proposals. The training will include applied exercises on climate rationale, theory of change, paradigm shift, investment logic, co-financing, financial structuring, environmental and social safeguards, gender integration and results frameworks.

2-2-1.b. Develop pre-screening guidance and minimum information requirements for project proponents. Develop Platform guidance for project proponents setting out minimum information requirements for early-stage project concepts, including strategic alignment, climate rationale, indicative technical scope, implementation arrangements, expected climate impacts, financing needs, risks, gender and safeguards considerations. This guidance will not replace the templates or requirements of individual funds or development partners. Final submissions will follow the specific formats and requirements of the targeted financing source, including GCF, MDBs, DFIs or other relevant climate-finance channels.

2-2-1.c. Commission Structured advisory support to strengthen project concepts before formal appraisal. Commission structured advisory support to project proponents to improve the technical, financial and institutional coherence of project concepts prior to formal screening and appraisal. Support will focus on strengthening project narratives, clarifying implementation arrangements, improving climate rationale, identifying preliminary financing needs, and ensuring that gender, safeguards and just-transition considerations are reflected from the early preparation stage.

2-2-1.d. Advisory support for investment-oriented financial structuring and financing pathway identification. Advisory support on preliminary financial structuring, concessionality, blended-finance options, risk-sharing instruments, co-financing logic and engagement with potential financiers. The activity will help national stakeholders understand how project concepts can be positioned for different financing channels and how funder-specific requirements should be reflected during project preparation.

- ☒ 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. Launch a targeted call for project proposals through the Platform. Launch a targeted call for project proposals through the Platform. The call will invite climate investment proposals across priority sectors identified by the Platform, including mitigation, adaptation and cross-sectoral climate investments aligned with national climate priorities. The call will specify eligibility criteria, priority investment themes, documentation requirements, submission procedures, evaluation stages and timelines. The call will be designed to identify project concepts with strong strategic alignment, climate rationale, investment potential and relevance to Kazakhstan's NDC and long-term decarbonization pathway.

2-2-2.b. Conduct Stage 1 screening to establish a long-list of eligible project concepts. Conduct initial screening of submitted project concepts to establish a long-list based on eligibility, alignment with national climate priorities, relevance to national climate priorities, the Platform Institutional Framework, applicable investment criteria, basic feasibility, indicative climate impact, gender and social considerations, implementation readiness and potential financing pathways.

Activities

2-2-2.c. Conduct Stage 2 appraisal and prioritize a short-list of investment-ready candidates. Apply the standardized appraisal methodology developed under the Platform to assess long-listed project concepts and identify a short-list of priority projects. The appraisal will review climate rationale, strategic relevance, financial and economic viability, implementation arrangements, safeguards and gender considerations, just-transition relevance, bankability constraints and potential financing pathways. The short-list will be reviewed and endorsed through the Platform governance process.

2-2-2.d. Develop up to two investment-oriented concept notes for targeted financing channels. Develop up to two advanced investment-oriented concept notes for priority climate-investment projects selected through the Platform appraisal and governance process.. The concept notes will be prepared as structured investment packages suitable for engagement with targeted financing channels, including GCF where appropriate, and/or MDB/DFI-managed climate-finance windows, CIF-supported facilities, EBRD, ADB, World Bank, national development finance institutions such as DBK, and other relevant public or private financing partners. Each concept note will include a clearly identified financing pathway and next steps for progression toward a funding proposal or further project-preparation support. The concept notes will not be presented as generic documents for all funders; instead, each will be tailored to the requirements, mandate and template of the most relevant financing channel identified during appraisal and financier engagement. Each concept note will be prepared through a modular and cost-efficient process including: (i) light technical, institutional and financial diagnostics; (ii) refinement of project scope, implementation arrangements and institutional roles; (iii) preliminary financial structuring and identification of suitable instruments; (iv) integration of environmental and social safeguards, gender and just-transition considerations; (v) preparation of an investor-oriented summary package; and (vi) identification of follow-on preparation needs required for progression toward funding proposal stage.

2-2-2.e. alidate concept notes and financing pathways through the Platform governance process. Submit the developed concept notes to the relevant Platform governance bodies for review and validation. The validation process will confirm that the concept notes are prioritized within the national pipeline, aligned with the Platform Institutional Framework and national climate strategies, and endorsed for active engagement with targeted financing channels.

2-2-2.f. Organize structured investor engagement and matchmaking. Organize structured investor engagement and matchmaking activities to present prioritized investment packages to potential financiers. This will include pre-circulation of project teasers, targeted matching with financier mandates, collection of feedback to refine structuring, and definition of next steps toward financing decisions, including further preparation support, co-financing arrangements or progression toward a funding proposal.

2-2-2.g. Prepare financing and implementation roadmaps for follow-on project development. Prepare tailored financing and implementation roadmaps for priority climate-investment projects following investor engagement and validation through the Platform governance process. Each roadmap will define the recommended financing pathway, implementation milestones, next-step actions, responsible stakeholders, additional project preparation requirements, and engagement strategy with the most appropriate financing partners. The roadmaps will facilitate the transition of investment-ready projects from concept development to funding proposals, investment decisions, implementation, or other appropriate follow-on financing mechanisms, ensuring continuity of project preparation and long-term support beyond the Readiness period.

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.
- ✓ 3.1.1. Climate knowledge products and resources is generated and disseminated to develop or advance policies, programming and/or implementation

Activities

3-1-1.a. Develop and disseminate Platform learning notes and pipeline summaries. Develop concise Platform learning notes and periodic pipeline summaries capturing implementation progress, lessons learned on project screening, appraisal, structuring, financing engagement, gender integration and investment readiness. The target audience will include the NDA, IGTIC, relevant line ministries, sub-national authorities, national development institutions, project proponents, development partners and domestic financial institutions. The learning notes and summaries will be stored in the Platform's digital knowledge repository and disseminated through the Platform portal, targeted email circulation and governance or stakeholder meetings.

3-1-1.b. Produce targeted briefs and case studies on priority implementation topics. Prepare targeted briefs and case studies on priority topics emerging from Platform implementation, including appraisal methodology, financing pathways, investment-readiness constraints, gender-responsive pipeline development, just-transition considerations and practical lessons from concept note preparation. These products will support continuous improvement of climate-investment programming and inform future policy and financing dialogue.

3-1-1.c. Organize thematic knowledge sessions and dissemination events. Organize thematic knowledge sessions, workshops or webinars for public institutions, project proponents, financial institutions, development partners and other relevant stakeholders. These sessions will disseminate lessons learned, strengthen practical application of Platform tools and support continued improvement in pipeline quality and financing outcomes.

4.4 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

The Platform is designed as an inclusive, transparent and country-owned mechanism that brings together public institutions, financial actors, private sector, civil society and knowledge institutions around a shared national climate investment agenda. Stakeholder engagement is therefore embedded as a core operational principle of the Platform, and integrated into its governance and operating model, rather than as a standalone or ad-hoc consultation exercise.

The engagement strategy aims to ensure that relevant stakeholders are systematically involved at each stage of the investment cycle from strategic planning and project identification to appraisal, financing, implementation oversight and learning while maintaining clear accountability, efficiency and decision-making authority within the Platform's governance structure.

To support effective pipeline development and financing mobilization, the Platform will establish formal coordination arrangements with international financial institutions and development finance institutions, enabling alignment on pipeline priorities, co-financing opportunities, and the sequencing of project preparation and financing processes.

Objectives of stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement under the Platform pursues four complementary objectives:

- ensure alignment of climate investments with national priorities, sectoral needs and regional contexts;
- improve project quality and investment readiness through early and continuous input from technical, financial and social stakeholders;

- enhance transparency, legitimacy and public trust in project selection and financing decisions;
- support learning, feedback and adaptive improvement of the Platform's policies, procedures and investment priorities.

Stakeholder groups

The Platform engages the following key stakeholder groups, each with clearly defined roles and entry points:

- **Government institutions and public authorities**, including the NDA (Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources), line ministries, national development institutions and sub-national authorities, as primary policy owners and project proponents. This will include, inter alia, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (NDA), Ministry of Energy, Ministry of National Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Construction, as well as relevant national development institutions and regional authorities, depending on the sectoral and geographic focus of the investment pipeline.
- **Financial institutions and investors**, including MDBs, DFIs, national development banks, commercial banks, institutional investors and private financiers, as partners in project appraisal, structuring and financing.
- **Public and private project developers**, including SOEs, utilities, municipalities and private companies, as originators and implementers of climate investment projects.
- **Civil society organisations, academia and research institutions**, as providers of independent expertise, social and environmental oversight, and knowledge support.
- **Communities, women and vulnerable groups**, particularly in regions affected by the energy transition, as ultimate beneficiaries and key stakeholders in ensuring just transition and social inclusion.

Institutionalised engagement mechanisms

During the Readiness phase, stakeholder engagement will be coordinated through the Platform's interim coordination mechanism, with the institutionalised engagement bodies described below to be designed and operationalised progressively as part of the Platform's establishment.

Engagement across the project cycle

Stakeholder engagement is structured along the full investment cycle:

- **Investment planning stage**: consultations with ministries, regions, experts and stakeholders to inform sectoral priorities, investment gaps and pipeline focus areas.
- **Project identification and appraisal**: engagement of project proponents, experts and financial actors to improve project design, assess risks and strengthen investment readiness.

- **Financing and structuring:** dialogue with investors and financiers to align project structures with market requirements and identify suitable financing instruments.
- **Implementation and MRV:** feedback from implementers, communities and civil society on implementation progress, social and environmental impacts, and grievance-related issues.
- **Learning and improvement:** dissemination of results, lessons learned and best practices to inform subsequent investment cycles and policy updates.

Coordination with EBRD's QaJET

The Kazakhstan Country Platform will serve as the country's overarching national coordination mechanism for climate investment across all priority sectors. Sector-specific initiatives developed by national and international partners will contribute to the Platform by supplying mature project pipelines within their respective sectors.

In particular, close coordination will be established with the EBRD-supported QaJET platform, which focuses on project pipeline development in the energy sector. Regular information exchange, technical consultations and coordination meetings will ensure alignment of project preparation approaches, avoid duplication of activities, and facilitate the integration of mature energy-sector projects into the national climate investment pipeline managed through the Kazakhstan Country Platform.

While QaJET will continue to support project development within the energy sector, the Kazakhstan Country Platform will provide the overarching national framework for coordinating, prioritizing and facilitating climate investments across all sectors of the economy.

Transparency, inclusiveness and safeguards

The Platform will ensure transparency and inclusiveness through:

- public disclosure of key documents, selection criteria and summary results via the Platform's digital interface;
- clear communication of decision-making processes and roles of governance bodies;
- application of GCF-aligned gender, environmental and social safeguards;
- structured grievance and feedback mechanisms linked to MRV and reporting processes.

Special attention will be given to gender-responsive engagement, including participation of women-led enterprises, gender-disaggregated indicators and targeted outreach in regions undergoing transition.

Outcome of stakeholder engagement

Through institutionalised, continuous and well-defined stakeholder engagement, the Platform will enhance the quality, legitimacy and effectiveness of Kazakhstan's climate investment pipeline. Engagement mechanisms will reduce information asymmetries, improve investor confidence, strengthen social acceptance of climate investments and ensure that the Platform evolves as a trusted national system capable of mobilising climate finance at scale.

4.5 Risk Assessment and Mitigation measures

Risk Category	Specific Risk(s)	Probability of Occurrence	Impact Level	Mitigation Action(s)	Entity Responsible
Political	Delays in government approvals and coordination between ministries	Medium	High	Early establishment of Managing Committee; formal ToRs and inter-ministerial agreements	NDA / IG TIC
Operational	Delays in IT platform development	Medium	Medium	Competitive procurement; phased implementation, testing. Coordination with data providers	IG TIC
Financial	Limited private sector participation	Medium	High	Awareness campaigns, incentives, and demonstration of successful pilot projects	IG TIC / NDA
Operational	Insufficient expertise for project appraisal	Medium	Medium	Training programs and engagement of external	IG TIC
Financial	Risk of funding gap post-Readiness phase	Medium	High	Development of self-sustainability model (service fees, state budget, Green Investment Fund). Early outreach to multilateral and bilateral donors, MDBs and private-sector financiers.	NDA / IG TIC
Other	Non-compliance with national AML/CFT regulations and GCF's integrity standards.	Low	High	Mechanisms will comply with national AML/CFT regulations and GCF's integrity standards.	NDA / IG TIC
Political	Limited engagement or inconsistent participation of key ministries and stakeholders in the Platform governance and coordination mechanisms.	Medium	High	Early stakeholder engagement, formal Terms of Reference, regular Steering Committee meetings. clearly defined institutional roles and responsibilities	NDA

Risk Category	Specific Risk(s)	Probability of Occurrence	Impact Level	Mitigation Action(s)	Entity Responsible
Operational	Limited availability of investment-ready projects for inclusion in the national investment pipeline and concept note development.	Medium	High	Early pipeline screening; close engagement with sector ministries and project proponents; application of standardized appraisal methodologies and targeted technical assistance.	NDA / IGTIC

Section 5: Logical Framework (output)

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.

Indicator 1.1.1.1

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

Project Countries	Strategic Framework	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	NDC	0	50
Kazakhstan	NAP	0	50
Kazakhstan	LTS	0	50

Please select the relevant stakeholders

Project Countries	Strategic Framework	Value
Kazakhstan	NDC	Governments/Ministries, Focal Points to UNFCCC, Private Sector, Civil society organizations (CSOs), Local Communities
Kazakhstan	NAP	Governments/Ministries, Focal Points to UNFCCC, Private Sector, Civil society organizations (CSOs), Local Communities
Kazakhstan	LTS	Focal Points to UNFCCC, Governments/Ministries, Private Sector, Civil society organizations (CSOs), Local Communities

OUTPUT 1.1.2

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

Indicator 1.1.2.1

An inclusive Coordination Mechanism or Country Platform* is supported.

Please provide the number of Coordination mechanisms per status

Unit: No. of Coordination Mechanisms

Project Countries	Effectiveness Status	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	Establish	0	1

Please select the relevant stakeholder(s) for Coordination mechanisms

Project Countries	Effectiveness Status	Value
Kazakhstan	Establish	Governments/Ministries, Focal Points to UNFCCC, Private Sector

Please provide the number of Country Platform per status

Unit: No. of Country Platforms

Project Countries	Effectiveness Status	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	Establish	0	1

Please select the relevant stakeholder(s) for Country Platform

Project Countries	Effectiveness Status	Value
Kazakhstan	Establish	Governments/Ministries, Focal Points to UNFCCC, Private Sector, Civil society organizations (CSOs), Local Communities, Climate Financiers, Academia

Indicator 1.1.2.2

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

Project Countries	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	0	12

Please select the relevant stakeholder(s)

Project Countries	Value
Kazakhstan	Governments/Ministries, Focal Points to UNFCCC, Private Sector, Civil society organizations (CSOs), Local Communities, Climate Financiers, Academia

Expected Deliverables

Select the key deliverables that will be produced under this outcome

- ☒ 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 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.

Indicator 1.2.1.1

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

Not provided

Indicator 1.2.1.2

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

Please select the policy instrument documents in relevance to the Strategic Framework(s)

Project Countries	Lifecycle Status	Policy Instrument Documents	Value
Kazakhstan	New	Climate Investment Plan	NDC, LTS

Please provide the number of Strategic Frameworks developed or updated

Unit: No. of Policy Instruments

Project Countries	Lifecycle Status	Policy Instrument Documents	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	New	Climate Investment Plan	0	1

Indicator 1.2.1.3

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

Not provided

Expected Deliverables

Select the key deliverables that will be produced under this outcome

- ☒ Status report on the nationally determined contribution (NDC).
- ☒ Status report on policies, regulations and mechanisms developed or enhanced to incentivize private sector engagement in the Country.

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 2.2

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.

Indicator 2.2.1.1

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

Project Countries	Conducted to	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	Conducted for both GCF and Others	0	2

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.

Indicator 2.2.2.1

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 Countries	Project Submission Type	Project Submission Destination	Project Submission Status	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	Concept Note	GCF	Submitted	0	1
Kazakhstan	Concept Note	Other Climate Fund/Entities	Submitted	0	1
Kazakhstan	Funding Proposal	GCF	Submitted for Approval	0	1
Kazakhstan	Funding Proposal	Other Climate Fund/Entities	Submitted for Approval	0	1

 Expected Deliverables

Select the key deliverables that will be produced under this outcome

- ☒ 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.

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

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

Indicator 3.1.1.1

Number of inclusive knowledge products and resources.

Please provide the number of knowledge products/resources

Unit: No. of Knowledge Products/Resources

Project Countries	Strategic Framework	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	NDC	0	7

Project Countries	Strategic Framework	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	LTS	0	7

Indicator 3.1.1.2

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

Project Countries	Strategic Framework	Baseline	Final Target
Kazakhstan	NDC	0	4
Kazakhstan	LTS	0	4



Expected Deliverables

Select the key deliverables that will be produced under this outcome

- ☒ 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.

Section 6: Implementation Arrangements

6.1.1 Partnering under the Direct Access

This Readiness project is implemented under the **Direct Access modality**, with the objective of ensuring national leadership, transparency, and accountability in the establishment of the Climate Investment Platform. The Direct Access mechanism is applied **exclusively for the implementation of Readiness activities**, aimed at the development and piloting of institutional, procedural, analytical, and technical elements of the Platform during the **12-month implementation period**. The project does **not** provide financing for investments, does **not** support the implementation of climate projects, and does **not** involve investment decision-making.

Implementation of Readiness activities and allocation of roles

The implementation of Readiness activities is carried out through a **clearly defined project structure**, within which the roles and responsibilities of all participating entities are distinctly delineated.

The **National Designated Authority (NDA)** performs functions of **strategic guidance and oversight**. Within the framework of this Readiness project, the NDA:

- ensures that all outputs developed under the project are aligned with national climate policy priorities and the programming priorities of the Green Climate Fund;
- facilitates inter-institutional coordination required for the development and validation of the institutional model of the Platform;
- endorses key Readiness outputs, including governance frameworks, standard operating procedures, methodological documents, and final reports;
- reviews and formally validates periodic and final reports prior to their submission to the GCF.

Proposed Designated Agency

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has nominated IGTIC to serve as the proposed Designated Agency for the implementation of the Readiness grant.

The proposed Designated Agency will:

- receive Readiness grant funds from the Green Climate Fund and manage them in accordance with GCF requirements;
- conduct procurement, enter into contracts, execute payments and maintain financial records;
- establish and manage the Project Implementation Unit (PIU);
- coordinate project implementation, monitor progress and prepare programme and financial reports;
- ensure the timely delivery of project outputs and compliance with GCF policies and procedures.

Implementing partners and consultants

Under this Readiness project, implementing partners will be engaged in the form of **consultants and contractors**, as well as government bodies and organizations involved in **consultative and validation roles**, but **not as grant implementers**.

- **Individual consultants and consulting firms** will be competitively selected to carry out key Readiness tasks, including the development of institutional and procedural documents, project assessment and selection methodologies, preparation of a demonstration investment pipeline, development and testing of digital tools, and delivery of capacity-building activities.
- All consultants and contractors will be **contracted directly by the Designated Agency**, which is responsible for procurement procedures, contract management, quality control, and acceptance of deliverables.
- **Government bodies and other relevant stakeholders** will participate through working groups, consultations, and validation processes, providing inputs, expert feedback, and institutional endorsement of developed solutions. They will **not receive grant funds** and will **not bear fiduciary responsibility**.

Project governance is implemented through a **clearly defined system of decision-making, control, and accountability**, as follows:

- **Strategic decisions** (including the overall approach to Platform establishment, endorsement of key deliverables, and validation of final results) are taken under the oversight of the NDA.
- **Operational and management decisions** (including work planning, contract management, coordination of consultants, and day-to-day implementation control) are taken by the Designated Agency through the Project Implementation Unit.
- **Financial control** is ensured by the Designated Agency in accordance with its internal procedures and GCF requirements, including segregation of duties, internal controls, and comprehensive documentation of transactions.
- **Programme and financial reporting** is prepared by the Designated Agency, reviewed and validated by the NDA, and submitted to the GCF in the agreed format and reporting schedule.

The application of the Direct Access modality enables the GCF to work through a **national institution holding an active Framework Readiness Agreement**, thereby ensuring:

- direct accountability for the use of Readiness funds;
- full compliance with GCF fiduciary, procurement, and reporting requirements;

clear institutional responsibility for the delivery of Readiness outputs and results.

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6.1.2 Framework Agreements

Not applicable

6.2 Organisation and Staffing

To be appointed

Organisation	IGTIC
Area of Expertise	Senior project leadership, fiduciary oversight
Position Assigned	Project Director / SRO
Task Assigned	Provides overall strategic leadership and accountability for grant implementation. Approves consolidated workplan, key deliverables, and programme/financial reports before submission to the NDA. Ensures compliance with IGTIC and GCF fiduciary and implementation requirements; decides on corrective actions when needed
Base Country During Assignment	Kazakhstan

To be appointed

Organisation	national expert
Area of Expertise	Project management, climate finance
Position Assigned	Project Manager / Platform Coordinator
Task Assigned	Leads day-to-day implementation and serves as integration point across all components. Coordinates PIU team, consultants/contractors, and delivery schedules; monitors progress against milestones and manages operational risks. Consolidates programme reporting and coordinates deliverable review/validation with the NDA
Base Country During Assignment	Kazakhstan

To be appointed

Organisation	national expert
Area of Expertise	Financial management, procurement
Position Assigned	Finance & Procurement Officer
Task Assigned	Ensures sound financial management and procurement compliance. Monitors budget execution, maintains full audit trail (contracts, acceptance certificates, payments), and administers contracts. Oversees procurement processes, processes payments based on verified deliverables, and prepares financial sections of reports and audit support
Base Country During Assignment	Kazakhstan

To be appointed

Organisation	national expert
Area of Expertise	MRV, ESG methodologies
Position Assigned	MRV / ESG Specialist
Task Assigned	Leads methodological work on MRV and ESG requirements for the Platform. Develops and/or quality-assures MRV/ESG methodologies, indicators, and assessment criteria; prepares templates, checklists, and data requirements. Provides technical appraisal of pilot project packages and supports embedding MRV/ESG into digital workflows and tools
Base Country During Assignment	Kazakhstan

To be appointed

Organisation	national expert
Area of Expertise	Stakeholder engagement, communications
Position Assigned	Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Specialist

Task Assigned	Ensures inclusive stakeholder engagement and effective communications. Plans and delivers consultations, workshops, and validation events; documents and integrates stakeholder feedback into outputs. Produces communication/information materials and supports knowledge management and dissemination activities under the project
Base Country During Assignment	Kazakhstan

To be appointed	
Organisation	national expert
Area of Expertise	IT systems, platform development
Position Assigned	IT Coordinator / Platform Manager
Task Assigned	Coordinates development of the Platform's digital prototype. Translates business needs into functional and technical requirements; manages IT contractors and oversees development, testing, acceptance, and cybersecurity aspects. Ensures readiness for transition from prototype to operational use and alignment with MRV/ESG and project appraisal requirements
Base Country During Assignment	Kazakhstan

Project Implementation Unit (PIU)

For the implementation of the Readiness project, a dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established by the proposed Designated Agency. The PIU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Readiness project, including project coordination, procurement, financial management, contract administration, reporting, monitoring of implementation progress, and delivery of project outputs in accordance with GCF policies and procedures. During the Readiness phase, the PIU will support the establishment and operationalization of the Platform Secretariat. As the governance arrangements and operational procedures developed under the project become functional, the Secretariat will progressively assume its long-term coordination role beyond the lifetime of the Readiness grant, while the PIU will cease to exist upon completion of the project.

Staffing approach (hybrid model)

To ensure institutional continuity and adequate operational capacity, the PIU will be established through a hybrid staffing model combining limited internal assignment from IGTIC with project-based recruitment. The

model includes the following components:

Use of existing IGTIC staff (internal assignment / secondment):

- only the **Project Director / Senior Responsible Officer (IGTIC)** will be assigned from within IGTIC to provide strategic leadership, institutional accountability, and formal oversight of grant implementation;
- this internal appointment ensures continuity of institutional governance, fiduciary accountability, and retention of institutional memory beyond the completion of the Readiness grant.

Temporary project-based contracts (national experts):

- all other PIU functions will be filled through **fixed-term contracts** for the duration of the Readiness project;
- this recruitment modality will be applied where specific technical competencies are required and/or to ensure sufficient operational capacity to deliver outputs on schedule, while remaining fully aligned with IGTIC and GCF requirements.

Key PIU roles and allocation of responsibilities

The PIU structure ensures a clear allocation of responsibilities across four core functional areas:

(i) project management and coordination; (ii) financial management and procurement; (iii) technical quality (MRV/ESG and assessment tools); and (iv) digital platform development and stakeholder engagement.

A) Project Director / Senior Responsible Officer The Project Director provides overall leadership and accountability for grant implementation on behalf of IGTIC. Key responsibilities include:

- **Strategic management and oversight**
 - approval of the consolidated work plan and schedule of key deliverables;
 - approval of major contractual commitments and oversight of compliance with IGTIC and GCF requirements.
- **Quality assurance and results control**
 - approval of final versions of key deliverables prior to their submission to the NDA;
 - decision-making on corrective measures in cases of deviations related to timelines or quality.
- **External interface and accountability**
 - serving as the formal interface between IGTIC and the NDA on implementation matters;
 - approval of programme and financial reports prior to NDA validation.

B) Project Manager / Platform Coordinator

The Project Manager is responsible for day-to-day implementation and serves as the central integration point for all project components. Responsibilities include:

- **Operational management**
 - coordination of the full PIU team;
 - management of the implementation schedule and monitoring of delivery of all outputs.
- **Contract management**
 - oversight of consultants and contractors;
 - organization of technical review and acceptance of deliverables.
- **Reporting and coordination**
 - consolidation of programme reporting;
 - coordination of deliverable validation processes with the NDA.

C) Finance and Procurement Specialist

This role ensures the fiduciary integrity of grant implementation. Responsibilities include:

- **Financial management**
 - monitoring budget execution;
 - maintaining a complete audit trail (contracts, acceptance certificates, payments).
- **Procurement and contracting**
 - implementation of procurement procedures;
 - administration of contracts and execution of payments based on verified deliverables.
- **Financial reporting**
 - preparation of financial sections of quarterly and final reports;
 - coordination and support of independent external audits.

D) MRV / ESG Specialist

The MRV/ESG Specialist is responsible for the methodological and technical core of the Platform. Key functions include:

- development and/or quality assurance of MRV and ESG methodologies;
- preparation of templates, checklists, and data requirements;
- technical appraisal of pilot project packages;

- integration of MRV and ESG requirements into the Platform’s digital tools.

E) Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Specialist

This role ensures transparency, inclusiveness, and usability of the developed solutions. Responsibilities include:

- organization of consultations and validation events;
- documentation and incorporation of stakeholder feedback;
- preparation of communication and information materials;
- support to knowledge management activities under the project.

F) IT Coordinator / Digital Platform Manager

The IT Coordinator is responsible for the development of the digital prototype of the Platform, including:

- definition of functional and technical requirements;
- management of IT contractors;
- oversight of testing, acceptance, and cybersecurity aspects;
- preparation of the Platform for transition into operational use.

Overall, the key roles are allocated as follows:

Name of staff	Organisation	Area of expertise	Position Assigned	Task Assigned	Base Country
To be appointed	proposed Designated Agency (IGTIC)	Senior project leadership, fiduciary oversight	Project Director / SRO	Provides overall strategic leadership and accountability for grant implementation. Approves consolidated workplan, key deliverables, and programme/financial reports before submission to the NDA. Ensures compliance with IGTIC and GCF fiduciary and implementation requirements; decides on corrective actions when needed	Kazakhstan

To be appointed	national expert	Project management, climate finance	Project Manager / Platform Coordinator	Leads day-to-day implementation and serves as integration point across all components. Coordinates PIU team, consultants/contractors, and delivery schedules; monitors progress against milestones and manages operational risks. Consolidates programme reporting and coordinates deliverable review/validation with the NDA	Kazakhstan
To be appointed	national expert	Financial management, procurement	Finance & Procurement Officer	Ensures sound financial management and procurement compliance. Monitors budget execution, maintains full audit trail (contracts, acceptance certificates, payments), and administers contracts. Oversees procurement processes, processes payments based on verified deliverables, and prepares financial sections of reports and audit support	Kazakhstan

To be appointed	national expert	MRV, ESG methodologies	MRV / ESG Specialist	Leads methodological work on MRV and ESG requirements for the Platform. Develops and/or quality-assures MRV/ESG methodologies, indicators, and assessment criteria; prepares templates, checklists, and data requirements. Provides technical appraisal of pilot project packages and supports embedding MRV/ESG into digital workflows and tools	Kazakhstan
To be appointed	national expert	Stakeholder engagement, communications	Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Specialist	Ensures inclusive stakeholder engagement and effective communications. Plans and delivers consultations, workshops, and validation events; documents and integrates stakeholder feedback into outputs. Produces communication/information materials and supports knowledge management and dissemination activities under the project	Kazakhstan

To be national appointed expert	IT systems, platform development	IT Coordinator / Platform Manager	Coordinates development of the Platform's digital prototype. Translates business needs into functional and technical requirements; manages IT contractors and oversees development, testing, acceptance, and cybersecurity aspects. Ensures readiness for transition from prototype to operational use and alignment with MRV/ESG and project appraisal requirements	Kazakhstan
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Reporting lines and reporting frequency

- **Within IGTIC**

- The Project Manager reports regularly to the Project Director on implementation progress;
- the Finance and Procurement Specialist provides financial summaries and updates on contract implementation.

- **IGTIC - NDA**

- Quarterly reports on implementation progress and financial execution.

- **NDA - GCF**

- Semi-annual progress reports (APR);
- a Final Completion Report upon completion of the project.

In addition to the core PIU team, the project will extensively engage **national and international consultants**, as well as **private-sector contractors**, to carry out specialized tasks. These resources are **not part of the PIU staff structure** and will be engaged on a **contractual basis**.

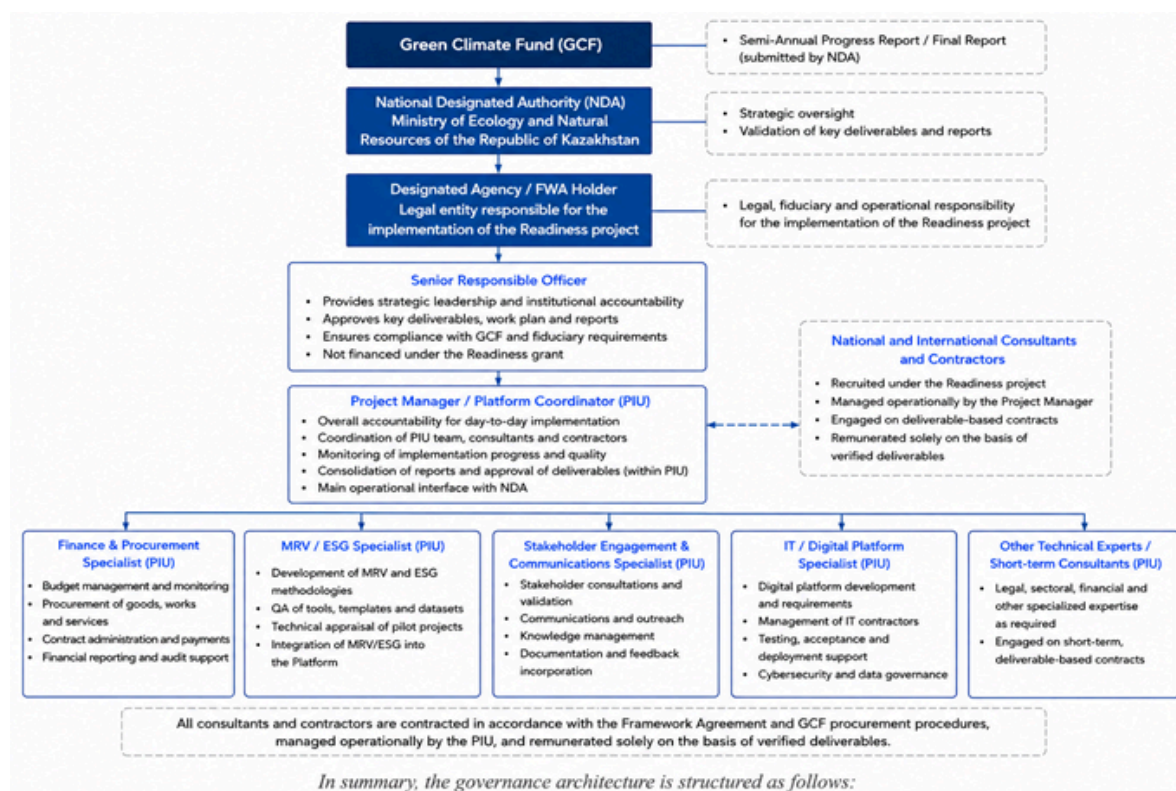
Consultants and contractors will be engaged, inter alia, to:

- develop methodologies and analytical tools;
- design, develop, and test the digital prototype of the Platform;
- prepare demonstration investment concepts;
- provide highly specialized international expertise.

All consultants and contractors will:

- be contracted directly by IGTIC;
- be managed operationally by the Project Manager;
- be remunerated solely on the basis of **verified deliverables**.

In summary, the governance architecture is structured as follows:



In addition, **general measures to strengthen institutional sustainability** are envisaged. The establishment of the Platform Secretariat within the proposed institutional arrangements will enable access to administrative support functions (accounting, IT infrastructure, legal support), thereby reducing the administrative burden on project specialists. Regular monitoring of management-related risks will form part of the project's monitoring and management (M&E/M) processes: identified issues will be discussed during Steering Committee meetings, and corrective measures will be taken where necessary (including additional staff training, adjustment of work plans, or reallocation of budget resources to strengthen the project team). This proactive approach to the management of operational and institutional risks will support stable team performance and ensure timely achievement of project objectives within the approved budget.

The proposed governance and interaction architecture under the Readiness phase establishes a **solid institutional and operational foundation** for the development of a sustainable Climate Investment Platform. Clear delineation of roles between the NDA, IGTIC, and the project team, a single vertical line of accountability, and the integration of fiduciary, technical, and coordination functions through a clearly defined institutional framework and a single implementation structure not only enable effective implementation of the Readiness grant, but also create a **replicable model of interaction** between government institutions, financial actors, and the market. Upon completion of the Readiness support, this architecture will be transformed from a project-based arrangement into an operational one, ensuring the

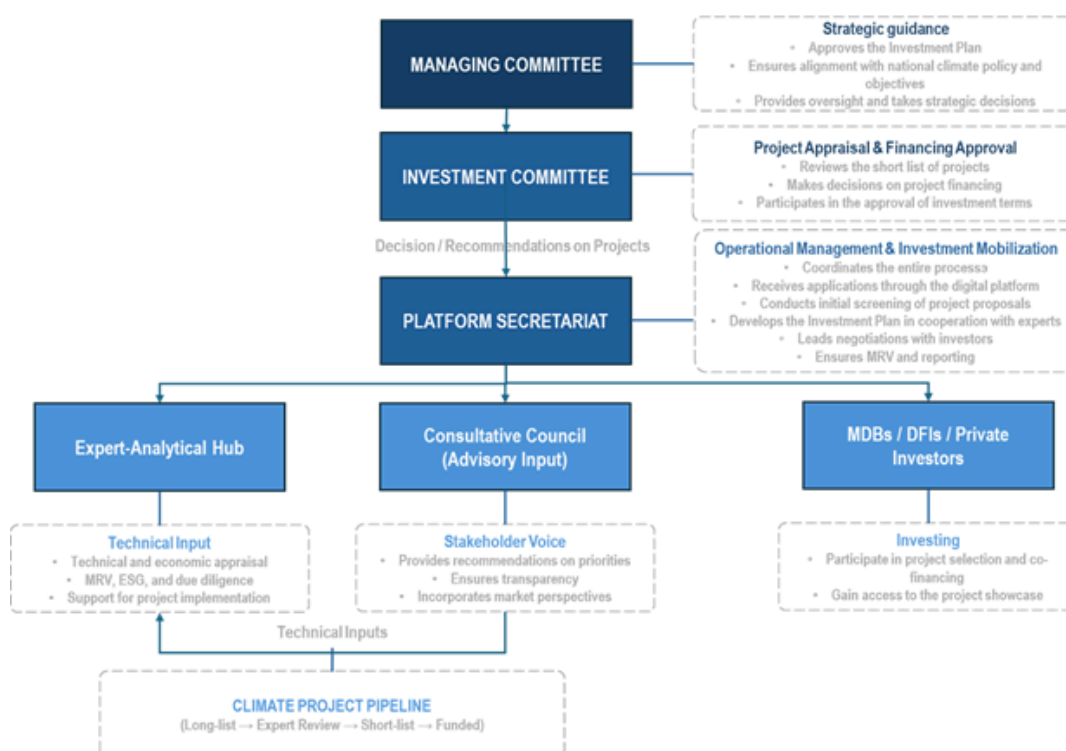
sustainable functioning of the Platform as a national mechanism for the preparation, structuring, and promotion of investment-ready climate projects, with the capacity to scale through the mobilisation of additional climate and blended finance.

The Platform is designed as an integrated institutional mechanism that links policy priorities, project preparation, and climate-finance mobilization through a clearly defined governance and operational structure. The Platform is built around five core institutional components, each with a distinct mandate and complementary functions across the full investment cycle:

- (i) the Managing Committee;
- (ii) the Platform Secretariat (hosted by IGTIC);
- (iii) the Expert-Analytical Hub;
- (iv) the Consultative Council; and
- (v) the Investment Committee.

Together, these bodies ensure that climate investments are identified, appraised, prioritised, structured, and monitored in a transparent, coordinated, and country-owned manner, consistent with Kazakhstan’s NDC, the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060, and international climate-finance standards. The Platform’s institutional design deliberately separates **strategic oversight**, **technical appraisal**, **financial decision-making**, and **stakeholder accountability**, while ensuring strong coordination among these functions.

Platform Governance and Institutional Structure



1. Managing Committee (Strategic Oversight and Coordination)

The Managing Committee is the Platform's highest strategic body, responsible for ensuring alignment of the Platform's activities with national climate objectives, including the updated NDC, the Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2060, and the State Planning System. It provides political leadership, inter-ministerial coordination, and strategic endorsement of key Platform decisions.

The Managing Committee:

- Endorses the Platform's governance architecture, operating rules, annual workplans, and decision calendars, ensuring clarity of roles and accountability across all Platform bodies.
- Approves strategic investment priorities and endorses updates to the national climate investment pipeline..
- Provides high-level coordination across ministries and public institutions to resolve policy, regulatory, or institutional bottlenecks that affect project preparation, investor engagement, or implementation.
- Endorses portfolio-level pipeline milestones, including confirmation of priority investment themes and endorsement of short-listed projects recommended for preparation and financing engagement.
- Reviews consolidated progress reports on pipeline development, financing mobilisation, and climate results, and endorses learning-oriented adjustments to criteria, procedures, and engagement approaches.

Through these functions, the Managing Committee ensures that the Platform remains strategically focused, politically supported, and fully embedded within national decision-making structures.

2. Platform Secretariat (Operational Coordination and Investment Facilitation)

The Readiness project envisages that the temporary Secretariat (Project Implementation Unit) established within IGTC for the purpose of grant implementation will serve as the institutional nucleus of the future Platform. As the Readiness activities are completed and the developed procedures, tools, and digital solutions are transitioned into the operational phase, this Secretariat will evolve from a time-bound project structure into a permanent operational unit within IGTC. This approach will ensure continuity of expertise, institutional memory, and management processes, while avoiding fragmentation between the Platform's establishment phase and its subsequent long-term operation.

The Platform Secretariat, hosted by the International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center (IGTC), serves as the operational hub of the Platform. It is responsible for day-to-day coordination, pipeline management, and facilitation of project preparation and financing engagement. The Secretariat acts as the central interface between project proponents, technical experts, governance bodies, and potential financiers.

The Secretariat:

- Coordinates the overall operation of the Platform, including scheduling of governance meetings, preparation of documentation, and implementation of approved procedures.

- Manages the digital “one-stop” pipeline system, including project intake, registration, tracking, and documentation management.
- Organises calls for project proposals and supports proponents in improving the quality and completeness of submissions prior to appraisal.
- Coordinates technical and financial appraisal processes with the Expert-Analytical Hub and the Investment Committee, ensuring consistency and transparency.
- Facilitates engagement with international climate funds, MDBs, DFIs, national development banks, and private investors, including preparation of investment packages and coordination with GCF-accredited entities.
- Oversees portfolio-level monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV), consolidating data on climate results, financing flows, and implementation progress.
- Supports institutional learning by documenting lessons learned and feeding them back into updates of appraisal methodologies, pipeline criteria, and investment planning.

Through these functions, the Secretariat operationalises the Platform as a continuous, end-to-end investment coordination mechanism rather than a one-off project preparation facility.

Key Personnel (indicative, funded by Readiness grant):

- **Project Manager/Platform Coordinator:** Overall lead, reporting, coordination
- **Finance & Procurement Officer:** Budget management, financial reporting, procurement processes.
- **MRV/ESG Specialist:** Develops methodologies, supports project assessment, leads related capacity building.
- **Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Specialist:** Manages Consultative Council, website content, knowledge dissemination
- **IT Coordinator/Platform Manager:** Oversees digital platform development and operation.

All core Secretariat staff will be based in Kazakhstan, ensuring institutional continuity, local presence, and integration of knowledge into national systems. Following completion of the grant, the core staff and acquired expertise will be retained within IGTIC to maintain the functionality of the Platform and support future climate finance coordination efforts. CVs for key proposed personnel will be submitted as required.

Name of staff	Organisation	Area of expertise	Position Assigned	Task Assigned	Base Country During Assignment
To be appointed (National Expert)	proposed Designated Agency	Project management, climate finance coordination, stakeholder engagement	Project Manager / Platform Coordinator	Overall project leadership; coordination of all outputs; supervision of experts; reporting to NDA and GCF; ensuring timely delivery of activities	Kazakhstan
To be appointed (National Expert)	national expert	Financial management, procurement, fiduciary standards, budgeting	Finance & Procurement Officer	Managing project budget; preparing financial reports; ensuring compliance with GCF procurement rules; overseeing contracting and payment processes	Kazakhstan
To be appointed (National Expert)	national expert	MRV systems, GHG accounting, ESG standards, sectoral methodologies	MRV/ESG Specialist	Development of methodological guidance; support to pilot assessments; delivery of MRV and ESG capacity building; technical inputs to platform content	Kazakhstan
To be appointed (National Expert)	national expert	Stakeholder processes, communications, knowledge management, outreach	Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Specialist	Managing the Consultative Council; coordinating stakeholder workshops; preparing communications materials; managing website and knowledge dissemination	Kazakhstan

To be appointed (National Expert)	national expert	IT Coordinator / Platform Manager	Digital platforms, IT project management, system administration	Overseeing design and development of the digital platform; managing technical contractors; ensuring system reliability and data security	Kazakhstan

3. Expert-Analytical Hub (Technical Appraisal and Quality Assurance)

The Expert-Analytical Hub provides independent technical, analytical, and methodological support to the Platform across all stages of the investment cycle. It functions as the Platform's analytical backbone, ensuring that project selection and preparation are grounded in robust evidence, standardized methodologies, and national and international best practices.

The Expert-Analytical Hub:

- Develops and applies standardized methodologies for technical, climate-impact, MRV, ESG, and gender appraisal of projects.
- Conducts detailed technical and climate assessments of long-listed projects, including feasibility, mitigation and adaptation potential, data availability, and alignment with national tracking systems.
- Provides analytical inputs to the Climate Investment Plan, including sectoral analyses, investment needs assessments, and scenario modelling where relevant.
- Supports quality assurance of project documentation (concept notes, analytical annexes, feasibility inputs) prior to engagement with financiers.
- Contributes to MRV and results reporting by analysing performance data, validating assumptions, and identifying lessons learned.
- Supports targeted capacity-building activities by translating analytical findings into practical guidance for project proponents and institutions.

The Hub ensures analytical rigour, comparability, and credibility of the Platform's pipeline, strengthening confidence among decision-makers and financiers.

4. Consultative Council (Multi-Stakeholder Advisory and Accountability)

The Consultative Council provides an institutionalised channel for stakeholder engagement, transparency, and social accountability. It brings together representatives of civil society, academia, the private sector, and, where appropriate, development partners, ensuring that diverse perspectives inform Platform decisions.

The Consultative Council:

- Provides advisory input on strategic documents, including the Climate Investment Plan and updates to Platform criteria and procedures.
- Reviews pipeline priorities from a social, gender, and just transition perspective, ensuring that investment decisions consider distributional impacts and inclusiveness.
- Observes and provides feedback on the transparency and fairness of project selection and prioritisation processes.
- Facilitates dialogue between national institutions, sub-national authorities, private sector actors, and affected communities.
- Supports dissemination of Platform results and communication of climate-investment outcomes to the public.

While advisory in nature, the Council strengthens legitimacy, trust, and national ownership of the Platform's decisions and outcomes.

5. Investment Committee (Investment Appraisal and Financing Decisions)

The Investment Committee is responsible for assessing the financial viability, investment readiness, and structuring options of projects advanced through the Platform. It ensures that projects are suitable for engagement with international climate funds, MDBs, DFIs, national development banks, and private investors, and that financing approaches maximise climate impact and leverage.

The Investment Committee:

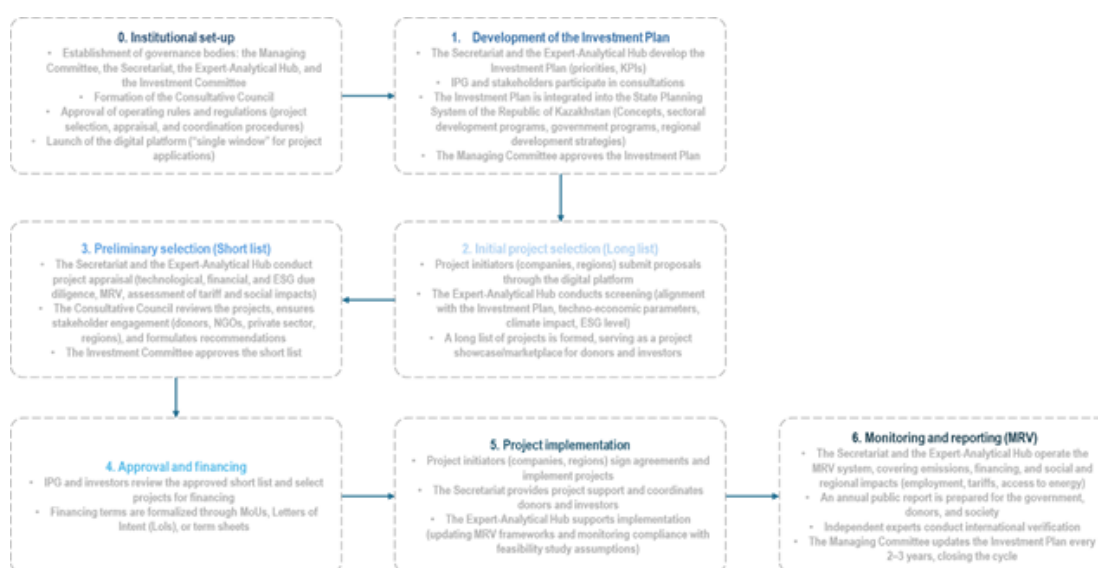
- Defines and periodically updates financial eligibility criteria, appraisal benchmarks, and minimum requirements for investment readiness.
- Reviews long-listed projects from a financing perspective, identifying bankability gaps, risk factors, and structuring needs.
- Recommends short-listed projects for preparation support and financing engagement based on financial viability and leverage potential.
- Recommends indicative financing structures, including the appropriate use of grants, concessional instruments, guarantees, and blended-finance approaches.
- Provides guidance on co-financing pathways, sequencing of financing sources, and investor engagement strategies.
- Reviews financial performance during implementation, including compliance with financing terms, leverage outcomes, and sustainability of financing structures at portfolio level.

Through these functions, the Investment Committee anchors the Platform’s investment logic and ensures disciplined, market-aware mobilisation of climate finance.

Taken together, the Managing Committee, Platform Secretariat, Expert-Analytical Hub, Consultative Council, and Investment Committee form an integrated operational system that supports the full climate-investment cycle – from strategic prioritisation and project intake to appraisal, financing engagement, implementation oversight, and learning.

While each body has a distinct mandate, their interaction is structured through clearly defined workflows, decision points, and feedback loops coordinated by the Platform Secretariat. This integrated operating logic ensures that strategic guidance, technical assessment, financial appraisal, and stakeholder input are systematically aligned throughout the pipeline lifecycle.

Integrated Platform Operating Logic



Project Selection and Appraisal Process

The Platform applies a structured, policy-driven and multi-stage project selection and appraisal process designed to ensure transparency, consistency, and investment readiness, while aligning national climate priorities with the requirements of international financiers. The process integrates strategic, technical, and financial assessments and is implemented through clearly defined roles across the Platform’s governance bodies.

1. Definition of the Platform Investment Prioritisation Framework Project selection is anchored in a Platform Investment Prioritisation Framework approved by the Managing Committee. Rather than creating a separate investment plan, the Framework establishes the strategic principles, sectoral priorities, appraisal criteria and decision-making rules that guide the continuous development and prioritisation of the national climate investment pipeline. This policy establishes the guiding principles for pipeline development, including:

- predictability and sustainability of financing;
- prioritisation of climate impact and sustainable development outcomes;
- application of strict exclusion criteria for projects with limited or no climate relevance;
- promotion of blended-finance approaches to maximise mobilisation of public and private capital;
- progressive scaling of financing volumes over time.

These principles provide the strategic foundation for project screening, appraisal, prioritisation and financing decisions throughout the Platform's continuous investment cycle.

2. Strategic Approach to Financing Areas

Based on the Platform Investment Prioritisation Framework, the Platform defines strategic investment priorities combining both sectoral and cross-sectoral approaches.:

- a **sectoral approach**, targeting priority sectors such as energy, heating, transport, industry, agriculture and forestry; and
- a **cross-sectoral approach**, focusing on themes that cut across sectors, including energy efficiency, just transition, innovation and enabling systems.

This dual approach ensures coherence between national climate strategies and the composition of the project pipeline.

3. Six-Criterion Project Assessment Framework

All project proposals are assessed against a standardized six-criterion framework aligned with GCF investment criteria and national priorities:

1. climate impact potential (mitigation and/or adaptation outcomes);
2. paradigm shift potential (innovation, scalability and systemic transformation);
3. sustainable development potential (environmental, social and economic co-benefits);
4. recipient needs (access to finance and institutional barriers);
5. alignment with Kazakhstan's climate strategies (NDC, Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2060);
6. efficiency and effectiveness (cost-effectiveness, co-financing and financial sustainability).

This framework ensures comparability, objectivity and consistency across all proposals.

4. Step-by-Step Assessment Methodology

Each criterion is operationalised through a transparent assessment methodology:

- **Step 1:** definition of quantitative and qualitative indicators for each criterion;

- **Step 2:** scoring of indicators using benchmarking for quantitative data and expert scoring scales for qualitative aspects;
- **Step 3:** calculation of average scores per criterion;
- **Step 4:** application of weighting factors, differentiated by project type (mitigation or adaptation), using weighted-sum and Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) approaches;
- **Step 5:** calculation of an overall project score;
- **Step 6:** prioritisation of projects to inform short-listing and financing recommendations.

5. Decision-Making Process

Projects progress through a structured, transparent and multi-stage decision-making process designed to ensure strategic alignment, technical quality and investment readiness.

1. Submission and eligibility screening

Project proponents submit project concepts through the Platform's digital portal. The Platform Secretariat conducts an initial eligibility and completeness screening to verify compliance with submission requirements. Where necessary, proposals are returned to applicants for revision before proceeding to technical appraisal.

2. Technical and climate appraisal

Eligible project concepts undergo a comprehensive technical, climate and socio-economic assessment conducted by the Expert-Analytical Hub using the standardized six-criterion appraisal methodology.

3. Preparation of the integrated appraisal package

The Platform Secretariat consolidates the technical assessment, appraisal scores, risk analysis and recommendations into a standardized appraisal package for decision-making.

4. Investment Committee review

The Investment Committee reviews the appraisal package, assesses investment readiness, financing options, bankability and potential financing pathways, and recommends projects for further preparation and engagement with financiers.

5. Strategic endorsement (where applicable)

For strategic or policy-significant decisions, the Managing Committee reviews the recommendations of the Investment Committee to ensure consistency with national climate priorities and the Platform's strategic direction.

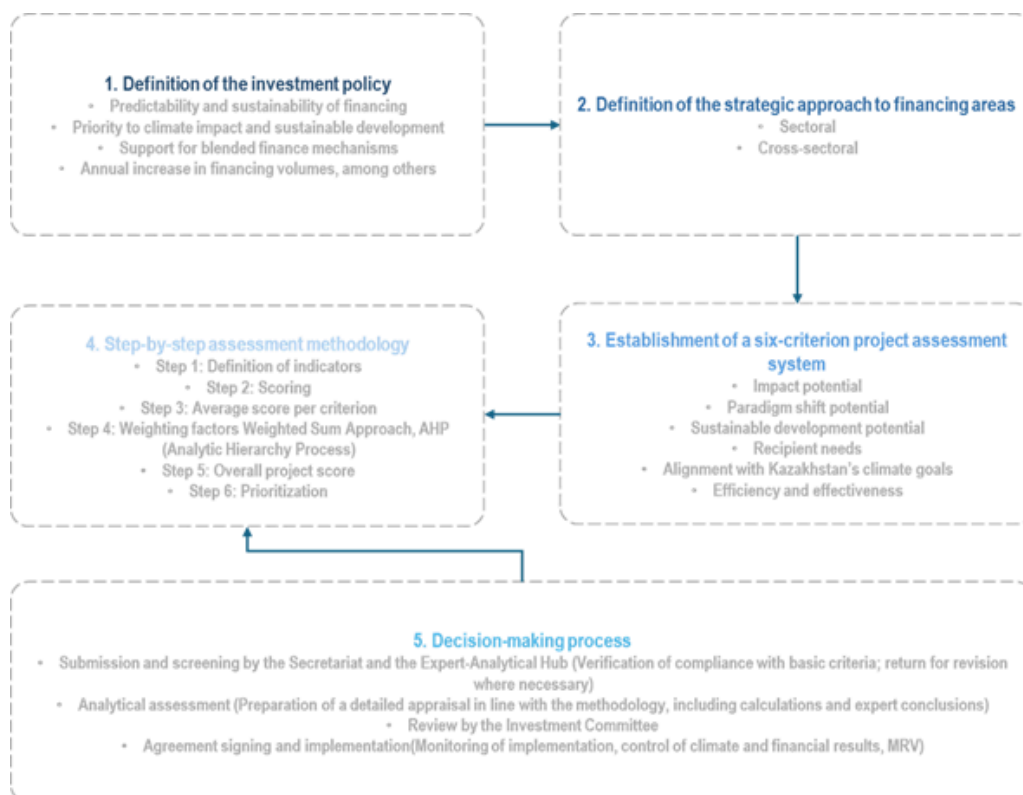
6. Financing engagement and project preparation

Priority projects receive targeted support to prepare investment-oriented concept notes, engage with potential financing partners, and define appropriate financing pathways, including public, concessional, private and blended finance options.

7. Implementation and monitoring

Projects that secure financing proceed to implementation, while the Platform supports portfolio-level monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), captures lessons learned and continuously improves appraisal methodologies and pipeline management.

This structured process ensures that project selection and preparation are transparent, consistent, evidence-based and aligned with Kazakhstan's national climate priorities while facilitating the mobilisation of climate finance.



6.3 Fund flow arrangements

Overview of the fund flow structure

Subject to the execution of the Framework Readiness Agreement (FWA), the proposed Designated Agency (IGTIC) will receive and administer the GCF Readiness grant under the Direct Access modality. Upon effectiveness of the Framework Agreement, IGTIC will assume full legal, fiduciary and operational responsibility for managing the grant funds, ensuring their appropriate use, administering contracts, executing payments and preparing financial reports. Neither the NDA nor any other government body will receive or administer GCF funds directly.

Disbursement from GCF to IGTIC

- Upon effectiveness of the Framework Readiness Agreement (FWA), GCF funds will be transferred to a **dedicated project bank account in USD**, established and managed exclusively by IG TIC for this Readiness grant.
- The account will be used **solely for expenditures under the approved Readiness budget and work plan**, with no commingling with other IG TIC funds or projects.
- Access to the account and payment authorizations will follow IG TIC’s internal financial procedures, which include **segregation of duties** between expenditure initiation, approval, and payment execution.

Local currency arrangements (USD / KZT)

To facilitate local expenditures, IG TIC will maintain a **linked project account in Kazakhstani Tenge (KZT)**.

- Transfers from the USD account to the KZT account will be made **on an as-needed basis**, immediately prior to local payments.
- This approach minimizes foreign exchange exposure and avoids holding significant balances in local currency.

Payment modalities:

- **USD account:** international consultants and experts, IT and digital service providers, software, and other international obligations.
- **KZT account:** national consultants, workshops and events, logistics, and other local operational costs.

Expenditure approval and payment process

All expenditures under the grant will follow a standardized approval and payment chain:

1. Expenditure initiation

- The Project Manager confirms the necessity of the expense in line with the approved work plan.

2. Contracting

- Contracts with consultants and contractors are concluded by IG TIC in accordance with its procurement procedures and GCF requirements.

3. Technical acceptance

- The relevant PIU specialist (or the Project Manager) confirms satisfactory completion of the deliverable(s).

4. Financial verification

- IG TIC’s finance/procurement function verifies compliance with the contract, budget line, and accepted deliverables.

5. Payment execution

- Payment is made by IGTIC from the project USD or KZT account, in the currency stipulated in the contract.

No funds will be transferred to third parties except through contracts administered by IGTIC and upon verification of completed deliverables.

Role of the NDA in financial oversight

The **National Designated Authority (NDA)** does not participate in day-to-day financial management or payment execution. Its role includes:

- providing **oversight** of Readiness grant implementation;
- reviewing and validating consolidated programme and financial reports prepared by IGTIC;
- confirming alignment of expenditures with Readiness objectives and national climate priorities **prior to submission to GCF**.

Financial reporting and audit

- IGTIC will maintain **comprehensive financial records** for all project transactions, including contracts, deliverable acceptance certificates, payment documents, and bank statements.
- **Quarterly financial summaries** will be submitted to the NDA as part of regular implementation reporting.
- **Annual financial statements**, including an **independent external audit**, will be prepared by IGTIC and submitted to GCF through the NDA in accordance with Readiness requirements.
- The audit will be conducted by an **independent auditor**, selected in line with IGTIC procedures and applicable standards.

Foreign exchange risk management

To mitigate foreign exchange risks:

- the primary project account will be held in USD;
- conversion to KZT will occur only when local payments are required;
- where feasible, major contracts (e.g., international consultants and IT development) will be denominated and paid in USD.

This approach reduces exposure to exchange rate volatility and enhances budget predictability.

The proposed fund flow arrangements:

- fully comply with the Direct Access modality;
- ensure clear accountability and robust financial control;
- minimize foreign exchange and operational risks;

establish a transparent link between verified deliverables and payments.

Section 7: Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

7.1 Programme Monitoring and Reporting (Output-Level)

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

7.2 Financial Audits

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

Private Auditor

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

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

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

7.4 Final Evaluation

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.

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

7.5 Sanctions and Restrictive Measures

As of the date of this proposal, there are no United Nations Security Council (UNSC) restrictive measures currently in force within the Republic of Kazakhstan. IGTIC and the NDA confirm their commitment to comply with all applicable national laws, UNSC resolutions, and GCF policies regarding sanctions, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist financing, and prohibited practices throughout the implementation of this grant. **A formal sanctions assurance letter will be provided as required.**

Sanction assurance letter

-

7.6 Grievance Redress Mechanisms

A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be in place for the Readiness project to provide stakeholders with a **safe, accessible, and transparent channel** to raise concerns, complaints, or grievances related to project activities. The GRM is designed to promote accountability, integrity, and trust throughout project implementation.

Given the nature of the Readiness support, focused on institutional development, analytical work, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, the GRM is designed as a **proportionate, streamlined, and non-burdensome mechanism**, ensuring effective resolution of grievances without creating unnecessary administrative complexity.

The GRM applies to all activities undertaken within the Readiness project and may address, inter alia, concerns related to:

- stakeholder consultation and engagement processes;
- transparency and fairness of procedures related to the establishment of the Climate Investment Platform;
- access to information on project objectives, activities, and outputs;
- potential conflicts of interest, procedural irregularities, or ethical concerns;
- conduct of project staff, consultants, or contracted service providers.

As the Readiness project does not involve physical investments, construction activities, or direct environmental or social impacts, the GRM does not cover grievances related to physical environmental damage or community-level impacts.

Institutional responsibility for GRM implementation

The **Project Implementation Unit (PIU)** established under the proposed Designated Agency is responsible for the operation and administration of the GRM.

Roles and responsibilities are defined as follows:

- **Project Manager / Platform Coordinator**
 - oversees the functioning of the GRM;
 - ensures registration, coordination, and timely handling of grievances;
 - coordinates responses and corrective actions, where applicable.
- **Designated Agency management**
 - may be involved in the review of grievances of an institutional, fiduciary, or ethical nature, as required.
- **National Designated Authority (NDA)**
 - exercises an oversight role;
 - may be informed or consulted in cases with strategic or systemic relevance.

This arrangement ensures functional independence of grievance handling from day-to-day implementation, while maintaining appropriate institutional oversight.

Channels for submission of grievances

To ensure accessibility and inclusiveness, grievances may be submitted through multiple channels, including:

- a dedicated email address managed by PIU(to be specified);
- the national **E-Otynish** electronic обращения system;
- an online submission form via the project or Platform website once operational;
- written correspondence via official correspondence address of the proposed Designated Agency;

verbal grievances submitted during stakeholder consultations or project events will be documented by the PIU and entered into the grievance register. Information on the GRM, including available channels and procedures, will be disseminated during stakeholder engagement activities and made publicly available.

Grievance handling procedure

The GRM follows a clear and transparent procedure comprising the following steps:

1. Registration

- All grievances are logged by the PIU in a grievance register, recording the date, subject, and channel of submission.

2. Preliminary review

- The grievance is assessed for relevance to the Readiness project and assigned to the appropriate responsible party.

3. Review and response

- The grievance is reviewed within a reasonable timeframe, and a reasoned response is provided to the complainant, where applicable.

4. Closure

- A grievance is considered closed once a response has been provided or appropriate action has been taken, and this is recorded in the GRM register.

Grievances may be submitted **anonymously**, and IGTIC commits to protecting complainants and whistle-blowers from retaliation, in line with internal policies, national legislation, and GCF integrity standards.

Documentation and reporting

Information on grievances received and actions taken will be:

- documented and retained by the PIU;
- reflected, in aggregated form, in periodic project progress reports;
- used to identify systemic issues and improve project processes where necessary.

Aggregated information on the functioning of the GRM, without disclosure of personal data, may be included in reports submitted to the NDA and the Green Climate Fund.

The project-level GRM complements, but does not replace, the **Green Climate Fund Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM)**. Stakeholders will be informed of their right to submit complaints directly to GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism should concerns not be resolved at the project level.

Section 8: Budget

8.1 Budget (100 words)

Refer to the Excel file

☒ Country window: Insert amount requested out of the \$1,038,928

\$1,038,928

 17 Sep 2026 Budget_Kazakhstan_Climate_Investment_Platform_(Readiness).xlsx

Section 9: Other Relevant Information

9.1 Exit and Sustainability Strategy (500 words)

The exit and sustainability strategy for the Readiness programme is designed to ensure that **all institutional, technical, and operational results achieved under the grant remain functional and embedded within national systems beyond the completion of GCF funding**. The strategy is based on the principle that Readiness support serves as a **catalytic and transitional intervention**, enabling the establishment of durable capacities rather than creating parallel or time-bound project structures.

Accordingly, the exit strategy focuses on **institutional anchoring, capacity retention, operational continuity, and scalability**, rather than on continued reliance on grant financing.

Institutional sustainability

- A core element of sustainability is the institutional embedding of the Platform Secretariat and all key Readiness outputs within the national institutional arrangements established under the project. The Project Implementation Unit (temporary Secretariat) established for the Readiness grant will transition into the permanent operational Platform Secretariat established upon completion of the Readiness phase.
- Roles, procedures, and workflows developed during the Readiness phase will be formalised through institutional regulations and operational procedures adopted by the proposed Designated Agency.
- This approach ensures continuity of institutional memory, retention of expertise, and uninterrupted coordination of climate investment activities.

As a result, no new standalone entity is created, and the Platform remains fully aligned with existing national institutional arrangements.

Financial and operational sustainability

Following the completion of the Readiness grant, the continued operation of the Platform will be ensured through a **combination of institutional funding and mobilisation of additional resources**, including:

- allocation of institutional resources by the proposed Designated Agency to support core coordination and maintenance functions;
- integration of Platform-related activities into future national and international climate finance programmes;
- mobilisation of follow-on technical assistance and investment support from international financial institutions, development partners, and climate funds;
- potential cost-sharing arrangements linked to preparation and structuring of investment-ready climate projects.

Importantly, the Platform is designed as a **lightweight, modular, and scalable mechanism**, avoiding high fixed operating costs and enabling gradual expansion in line with available resources.

Financial and operational sustainability

All technical outputs generated under the Readiness programme, including methodologies, guidelines, operational procedures, digital tools, and analytical products, will be:

- formally owned and maintained by the proposed Designated Agency.;
- integrated into its regular operational practices;
- used as reference materials for subsequent climate investment programming.

Capacity-building activities conducted during the Readiness phase are explicitly designed to ensure **knowledge transfer to national specialists**, reducing dependency on external consultants and strengthening long-term domestic capacity.

Policy alignment and national ownership

The sustainability of the Platform is further reinforced through its alignment with national climate and development priorities, as validated by the **National Designated Authority (NDA)**.

- NDA oversight during the Readiness phase ensures that developed systems and tools are consistent with national climate strategies and planning frameworks.
- This alignment creates a strong basis for continued political and institutional support beyond the Readiness period.

The exit from GCF Readiness funding will occur upon:

- completion and validation of all planned outputs;
- submission and acceptance of the Final Completion Report and Final Evaluation;

formal transition from project-based implementation arrangements to the permanent operational Platform Secretariat. At this point, the role of the GCF shifts from Readiness support to potential engagement through **subsequent readiness, preparatory, or investment-stage financing**, building on the institutional and technical foundations established under this project.

The proposed exit and sustainability strategy ensures that the Readiness programme delivers **lasting institutional value**, rather than temporary project outputs. By embedding capacities within IGTIC, aligning with national priorities, retaining trained personnel, and enabling mobilisation of follow-on financing, the Platform will remain operational, relevant, and scalable beyond the completion of GCF Readiness support.

9.2 Readiness Programme Closure

Upon completion of the 12-month implementation period and conclusion of all activities funded by this Readiness grant:

- **Asset Transfer:** All tangible assets (e.g., IT equipment purchased for the Secretariat) and intangible assets (e.g., methodologies, SOPs, training materials, software licenses, website/digital platform codebase and content, knowledge products like the Investment Outlook) developed under the grant will be formally transferred to the proposed Designated Agency, which will host the operational Platform Secretariat, and where relevant, shared with the NDA (Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources). An Asset Transfer Plan will be documented prior to closure, detailing the assets, their location, and confirming IGTC's acceptance and responsibility for their continued maintenance and use.
- **Knowledge Management:** Final versions of all reports, studies, methodologies, and training materials will be archived by IGTC and made accessible (as appropriate) via the Platform website or other national knowledge repositories to ensure their availability for future reference and use.
- **Financial Closure:** Final financial reports and the independent final audit report will be submitted to GCF as per the agreed timelines (Section 7.1, 7.2). Any remaining unspent funds will be returned to GCF according to the grant agreement terms.
- **Transition:** The transition to the long-term sustainability plan (Section 9.1) will commence, leveraging the established structures, capacities, and partnerships developed during the Readiness phase.

The closure process will ensure a smooth handover and maximize the lasting value of the Readiness investment by embedding the developed capacities and tools within the designated national institutions

Section 10: Annexes

Annexes

Not provided