



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

GCF REGIONAL DIALOGUE

with THE PACIFIC & ASIAN SIDS

Rarotonga, Cook Islands
6–9 May 2025





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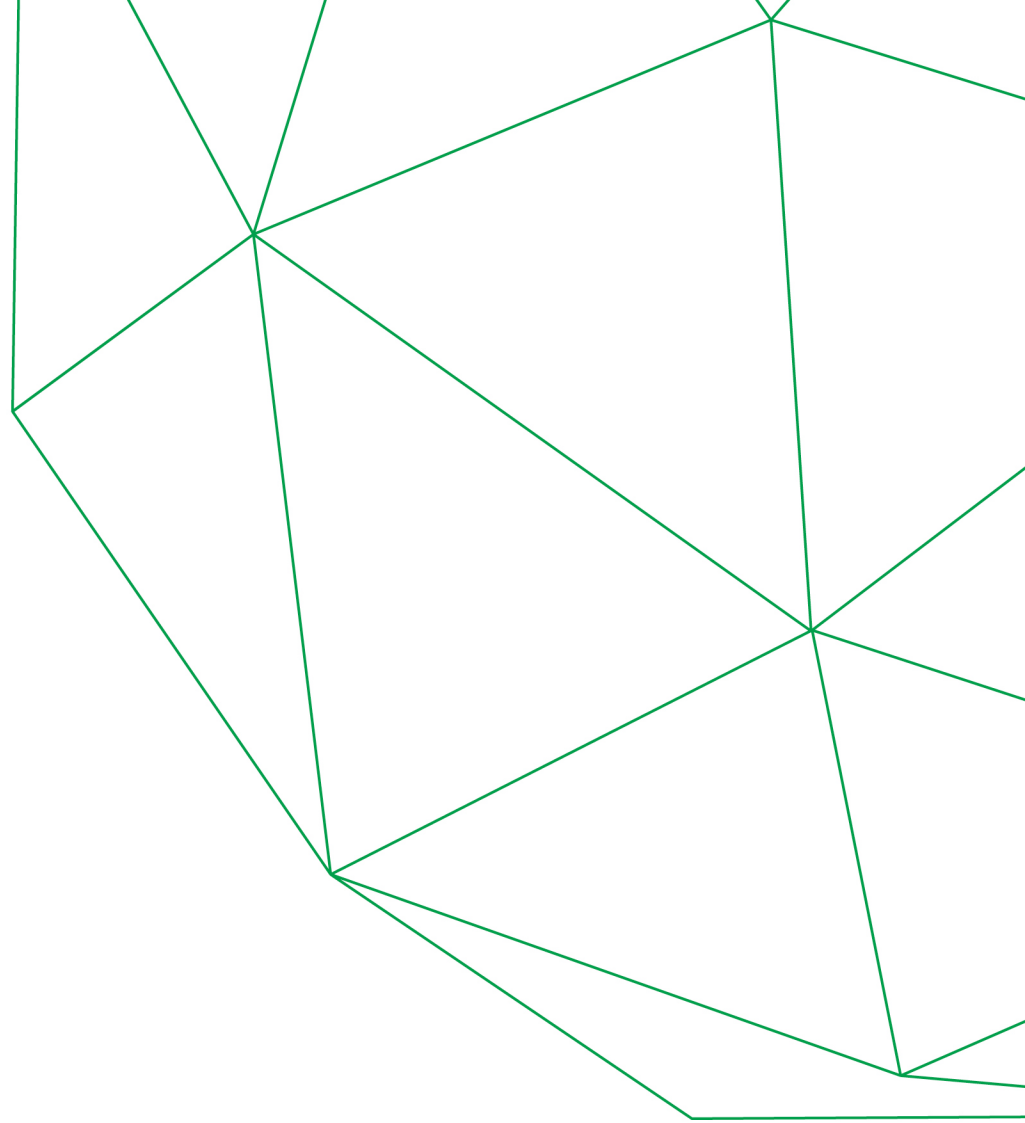
14:00 – 15.00 Clinic 1: Country Platforms

Moderator/Presenter: Eldana Djumalieva, Readiness Strategy Lead, Department of Investment Services

The Green Climate Fund's evolving approach to Country Platforms (CPs)—as a tool for country-led planning, coordination, and access to climate finance. The session will feature lessons learned from national experiences and practical implementation insights.

Note taker: So Ozaki

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Country platforms | BACKGROUND and DEFINITION

Country platforms can be defined as “voluntary country-level mechanisms, set out by governments and designed to foster collaboration among development partners, based on a shared strategic vision and priorities”¹



Making the Global Financial System Work for All, 2018 [\(see link\)](#)

- 2018 report of the G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance chaired by **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**
- **Introduced the concept** of a country platform to help “mobilise all development partners to unlock investments”

Country Platforms Development Note, 2025 [\(see link\)](#)

- ODI paper by **J. Tanaka, A. Gilmour, S. Raubenheimer**, for the 2025 Country Platform Exchange workshop and FiCS
- Outlines a 5-step **CP “escalator”**: Initial engagement, Programme readiness, Investment programme, Financing, and Implementation

Designing & Governing Country Platforms, 2024 [\(see link\)](#)

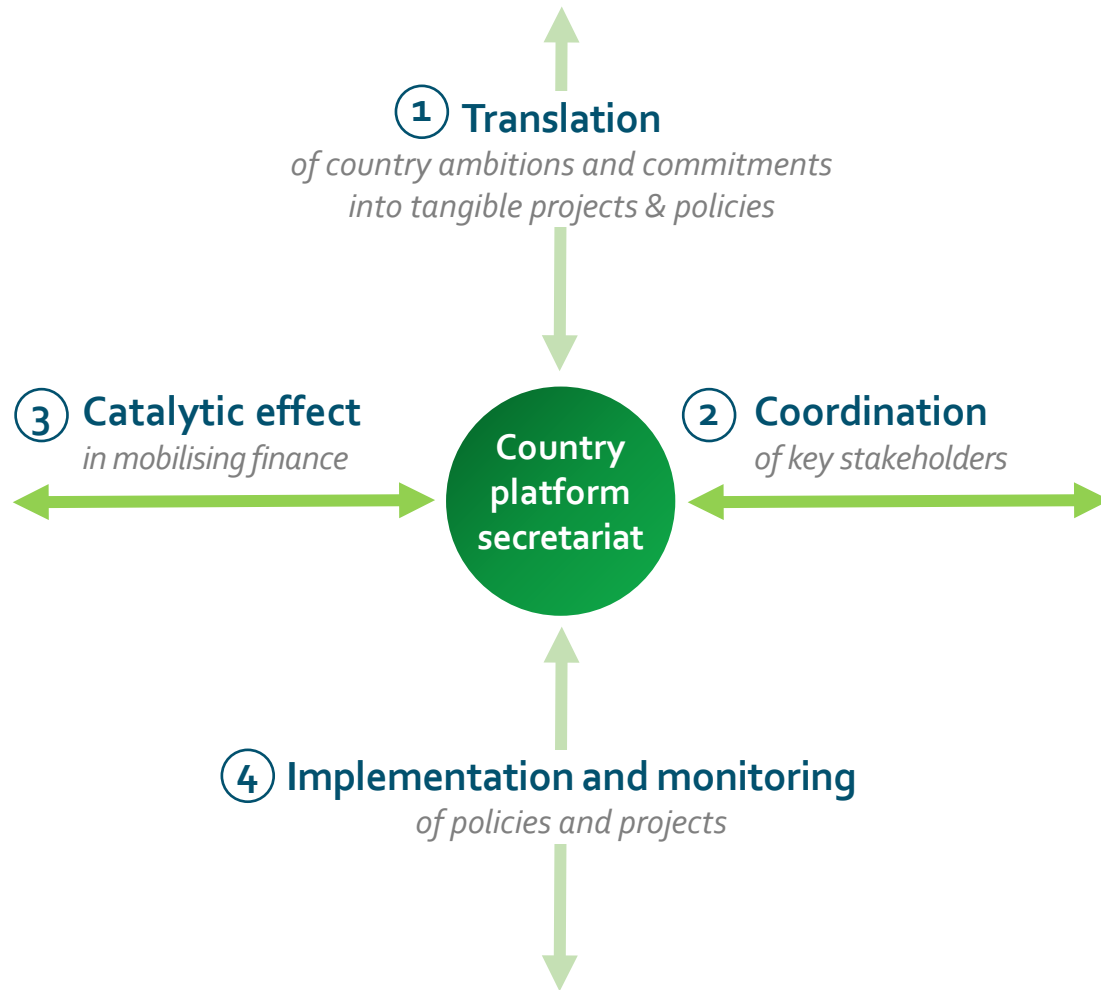
- ODI report prepared by **A. Gilmour, J. Tanaka and S. Colenbrander**
- Focuses on the **role of MDBs** in country platforms design & governance, drawing on guidance from members of the G20 Intl. Financial Architecture Working Group, MDB staff and policy-makers

Are CPs the Key to Delivering Green Growth at Scale? 2025 [\(see link\)](#)

- A “technical perspective” report by **M. Robinson & C. Olver** at WRI
- Discusses 6 ways to **make CPs more effective**, including ensuring country leadership, integrating climate with growth and development, and putting people at the heart of the process

1. G20 Saudi Arabia (2020). “G20 reference framework for effective country platforms.”

Country platforms act as a coordination mechanism...



... which can fulfil four CORE FUNCTIONS

- ① Translate country commitments and ambitions** (e.g., NDC, NAP, LTS) into sectoral priorities, policies, and tangible, climate-resilient investment pipelines
- ② Coordinate stakeholder engagement** across government bodies, multilateral/bilateral agencies, private sector and civil society to secure alignment and effective collaboration
- ③ Catalyse financing at scale** by ensuring sustained investor engagement, structuring investment opportunities, and providing strategic support to tackle barriers to capital deployment
- ④ Implement policies and projects** by developing and preparing the pipelines, aligning projects with financial engineering, providing capacity building, facilitating policy dialogue, removing roadblocks, and monitoring impact



Successful country platforms rely on key PRINCIPLES

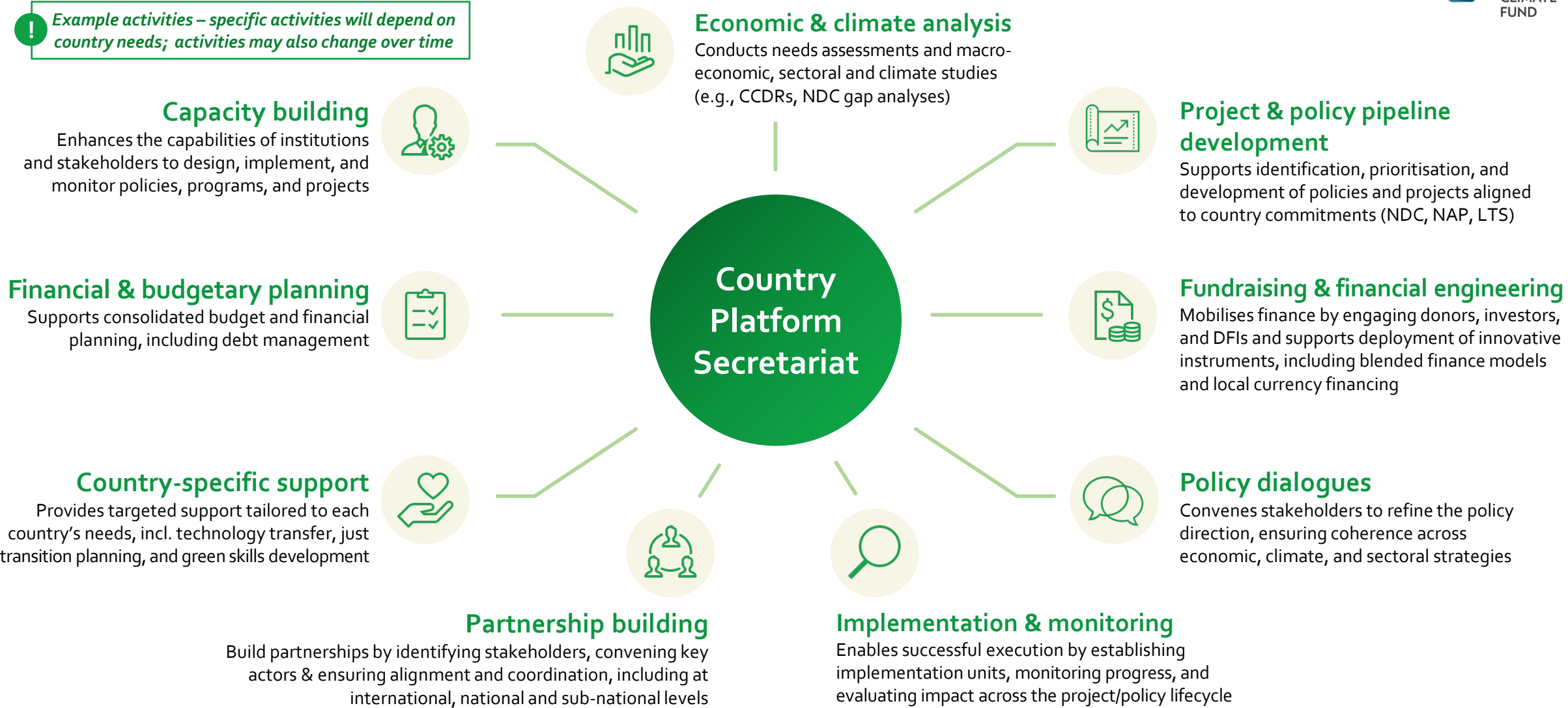
- 1 Alignment to national priorities** | Country platforms should be country-owned and -led. This must include strong alignment with **national commitments and priorities** (e.g., NDCs, NAPs, LTS) and government buy-in
- 2 Inclusivity** | They should engage **diverse stakeholders** (including government, financiers, private sector, multilateral agencies, civil society) and ensure **broad participation** and **equitable representation**
- 3 Access to finance** | Country platforms must have strong **connectivity to diverse financing sources** and ability to mobilise the **right types of finance**—including concessional funding—at **sufficient scale**
- 4 Tailored & flexible approach** | Platforms should be tailored to **unique country contexts** (including to country needs like just transition planning, green skills development, technology transfer) and adaptable **evolving circumstances**
- 5 Strong coordination** | They should include **well-defined governance mechanisms** and be based on **cross-sectoral national coordination platforms** to ensure effective, balanced decision-making
- 6 Monitoring capacity** | Strong **monitoring, evaluation, and learning** capabilities should be integrated to track progress, assess effectiveness, and adjust strategies accordingly

Most platforms to date have been deployed in MICs; further research is needed to identify the best approaches for deploying country platforms in LDCs and SIDS, considering their unique challenges and contexts.



Secretariat at the core, to drive main ACTIVITIES

! Example activities – specific activities will depend on country needs; activities may also change over time



BENEFITS for developing countries

	Stronger country ownership & leadership	Align investments and policy with country ambitions and commitments such as NDC and NAP, and empower governments to lead climate transitions
	Enhanced coordination & efficiency	Streamline funding sources and improve collaboration among government bodies, private sector, and international partners, like MDBs & climate funds, easing the administrative strain on developing countries
	Increased access to finance & mobilisation	Aggregate financing sources and support a catalytic effect by encouraging participation from businesses, banks, and institutional investors, leveraging concessional financing to crowd in private capital.
	Systemic approach	Integrate economic, financial, environmental, social, green skilling, and technological objectives, while addressing country-specific vulnerabilities, including climate adaptation needs, fiscal challenges, job creation, youth employment and supporting vulnerable populations.
	Positive signal to the market	Lower risks for investors, increase investor confidence and encourage long-term investment in climate transitions by demonstrating policy stability, providing a clear investment framework and de-risking projects
	Accelerated climate action	Align financing with prioritised projects, strengthen technical and institutional capacity, and remove roadblocks to implementation
	Greater transparency & accountability	Enhance monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of climate finance flows and help track progress toward climate and development goals

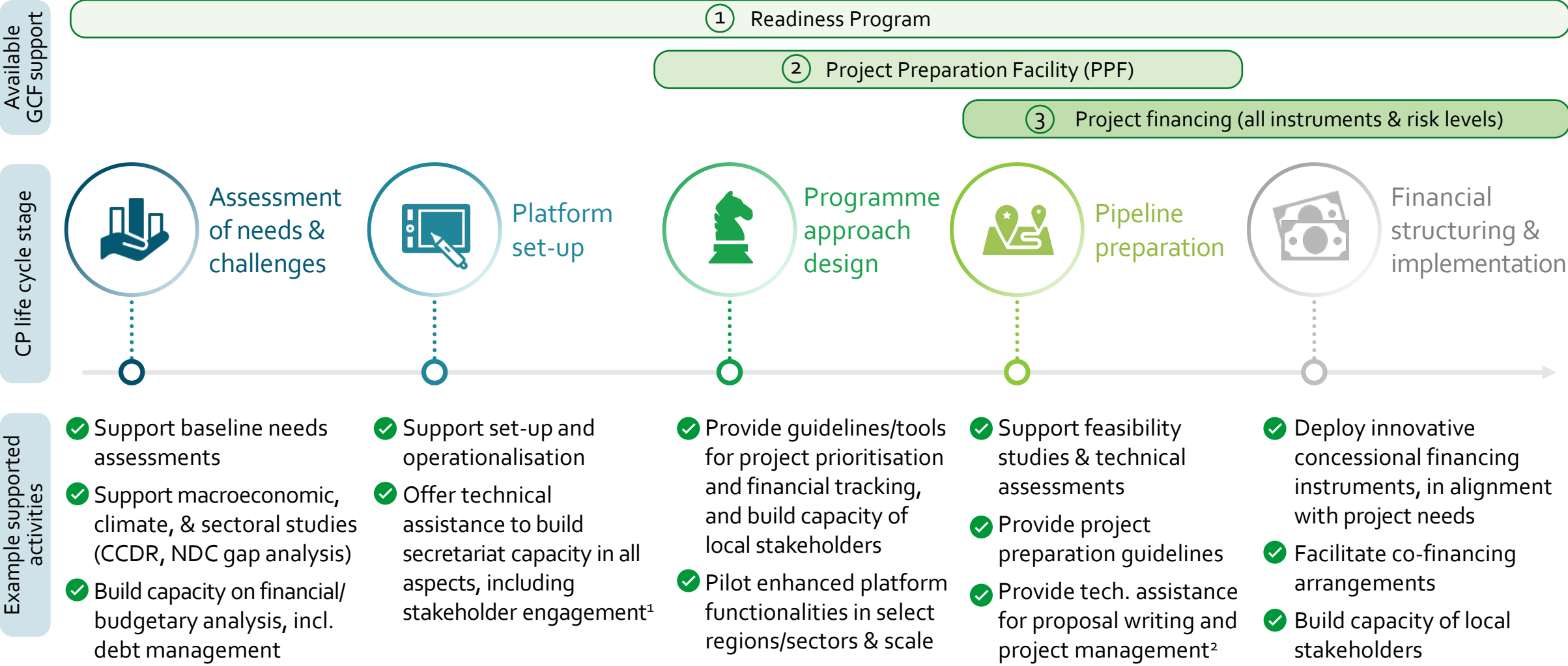
Green Climate Fund as key PARTNER for country platforms



End-to-end GCF support	Commitment to country ownership	Flexibility	Experience setting up successful CPs	"Honest broker" with convening power	Predictability
<p>From Readiness Programme support for country platform design, implementation and capacity building</p> <p>To pipeline preparation via the Project Preparation Facility</p> <p>To project financing with a full suite of investment instruments</p>	<p>UNFCCC mandate to support country-owned and -led strategies, in line with national priorities</p> <p>Assistance tailored to specific country context and needs</p>	<p>Broad geographical scope (incl. LIC, MIC, SIDS)</p> <p>Thematic coverage, both adaptation and mitigation</p> <p>Broad sectoral coverage</p> <p>Full suite of financing and intervention instruments (Readiness, PPF, project finance incl. grant, concessional loans, equity, guarantees)</p>	<p>Track record of supporting successful country platforms (e.g., Brazil's BIP) and ability to share lessons learnt from experience</p>	<p>Ability to effectively convene different stakeholders (public, private; international, regional, national, local)</p> <p>Experience working with diverse implementing partners and 140+ AEs¹</p> <p>Unbiased facilitator for any projects that best meet country needs to achieve NDC, NAP, LTS</p> <p>Balanced governance for project review and approval</p>	<p>Offering a stable partnership over multi-year timeframes</p>

1. Accredited Entities

GCF provides SUPPORT across full platform life cycle



1. Providing templates for stakeholder engagement and supporting the establishment of comms channels for continuous dialogue and knowledge sharing; 2. Readiness

ACCESSING support for country platforms: GCF Readiness



Readiness Financial Window

GCF Readiness Programme has a total grant envelope of over **USD 500 million**.

For each country, the following amounts are available:

- **USD 7 million** if the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) formulation allocation has not been utilised, for integrated use;
- **USD 4 million** if the NAP formulation allocation has been exhausted.

2024-27 Readiness budget will be available until the end of 2027.

See additional Readiness resource here: www.greenclimate.fund/readiness/country-window.

For enquires on the Readiness Programme, contact: readiness@gcfund.org.

Steps to access GCF support for country platforms

1 Request Readiness support under the Country Window

- NDAs/focal points, in their coordination capacity, submit a request to the GCF Secretariat using a standardized [template](#).

2 Plan strategically, over medium-term

- Countries and GCF engage in strategic planning re. the scope of Readiness support, integrating country platforms as part of one of the two programmes or within a single 4-year programme.

3 Countries choose from two access modalities and implementation begins:

OPTION 1: DIRECT ACCESS

- The country designates an agency within the government that will i) represent the government under the grant agreement with GCF and ii) receive the readiness funding directly from GCF.
- The agency submits a Direct Access Proposal, and the Grant Agreement is signed.
- The agency has the flexibility to implement activities i) using its internal systems and staff, or ii) by contracting external service providers independently of the GCF, or iii) by working with holders of the GCF Readiness Framework Agreements

OPTION 2: USE OF PRE-QUALIFIED DELIVERY PARTNERS

- Countries develop TOR, based on the strategic planning exercise, with support from the GCF.
- The GCF Secretariat conducts a mini-tender among Pre-Qualified Delivery Partners, where countries form part of the selection panel
- Implementation can begin immediately.

ELIGIBLE and non-eligible costs for GCF Readiness support



Category	Eligible costs	Non-eligible costs
Human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees for consultants and experts directly supporting country platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaries or compensation of government officials, ministerial staff, civil servants, or personnel whose salaries are covered by other funding sources
Technical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development or enhancement of strategies, policies, procedures, and institutional frameworks directly supporting country platform establishment and operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related costs that do not have a direct and demonstrable link to NDCs, NAPs, LTS, and Country Platforms' objectives
Organisational resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement activities Knowledge management, communications, translations Participation in GCF events (e.g. training, capacity-building) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other set-up and operational expenses without a direct connection to NDCs, NAPs, LTS, and Country Platforms objectives
Office expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office expenses may be considered during the initial setup of a CP secretariat subject to GCF pre-approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine operational expenses, post the initial set-up of the Country Platforms, such as rent, utilities, and office supplies
IT and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of project management systems, software, and IT equipment required to establish and operate the CP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs of IT equipment
Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase or leasing of vehicles
Workshops & training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation of meetings, training sessions, workshops, and consultations Processes to enhance stakeholder participation Note: Travel costs must be discussed and approved by GCF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (See "Travel" for eligible travel-related expenses)

Case study | Brazil Climate & Ecological Transformation Investment Platform (BIP)

Context & overview

Context: Brazil is one of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters. It has made progress towards its net-zero by 2050 goal, but mobilising finance remains a barrier.

Platform description: BIP connects projects and financiers and aims to address challenges such as limited governance and institutional capacities, fragmented project pipelines, low diversification, and insufficient private sector engagement.

Platform objective: "To support the advancement of Brazil's ambitious climate goals, increasing transition investment from all sources"

Key sector(s): Nature-based Solutions & Bioeconomy, Industry & Mobility, Energy

GCF role and impact

- GCF Readiness funding is helping establish a fully operational BIP Secretariat.
- This support aims to improve governance, stakeholder coordination, and pipeline development to strengthen private sector engagement and finance mobilisation
- Ultimately, it will help deliver on Brazil's net-zero transition

Governance & partners

Secretariat



Steering Committee

Ministério de
Minas e Energia



MINISTÉRIO DO
MEIO AMBIENTE E
MUDANÇA DO CLIMA



MINISTÉRIO DO
DESENVOLVIMENTO,
INDÚSTRIA, COMÉRCIO
E SERVIÇOS



Select partners



MDBs and
civil society

Case study | South Africa's Water Reuse Programme

Context & overview

Context: South Africa faces severe water shortages, with a 17% water deficit projected by 2030. The National Adaptation Plan prioritises water reuse to ease pressure on freshwater

Platform description: The National Water Reuse Programme was launched to enable collaboration between government, municipalities, and investors. Housed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, GCF's Accredited Entity, it facilitates a programmatic approach through project identification and prioritisation, project preparation support, funding facilitation and implementation monitoring.

Key sector(s): Water

GCF role and impact

- GCF Project Preparation Facility is supporting project preparation and structuring to ensure a strong project pipeline.
- Project financing is being provided through a blend of pooled programmatic capital, private capital and credit enhancement instruments to enable project execution and mobilise further funding.

Governance & partners

Secretariat



Select partners

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Drakenstein Local Municipality, Mhlathuze Municipality, Sol Plaatje Local Municipality

Clinic: Country Platforms



Panel members:

- Ms Florence Iautu, Strategic Manager, NAB Secretariat, Ministry of Climate Change, Vanuatu
- Ms Tessa Vaetoru, Development Programme Manager, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Cook Islands
- Mr Hemant Mandal, Director, DAPAC, GCF

Guiding Questions:

- What institutional models are emerging in the Pacific for effective country coordination?
- What challenges and opportunities do countries face in operationalising CPs?
- How can GCF add value, help set up or enhance and close gaps in the design and use of CPs under the Readiness Programme?



Thank you

Vanuatu's Experiences

- OVERVIEW OF VANUATU'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE
- GREEN CLIMATE FUND **GCF**

By: Florence Kuali-IAUTU,
GCF Operational Focal Point & Manager, NAB Secretariat, Ministry of Climate
Change
GCF National Designated Authority (NDA)



Saint Kitts and Nevis | 17–20 March 2025



Vanuatu's Coordination:



National Advisory Board to CCDRR (NAB) as the Country Platform

- The NAB is now established under the Meteorology, Geo-hazards and Climate Change Act No.25 of 2016
- Its primary purpose is to **act as *the* advisory body and policy making body** for all climate change and disaster risk reduction programs, **projects**, initiatives and activities
- Its aim is to **integrate the governance of CC&DRR** in an integrated and **holistic** way to **reduce duplication**
- Membership covers – 12 Gov Ministries, VANGO, VBRC and VCAN

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GCF NDA in Vanuatu

- As the **Head of Agency** for the Ministry of Climate Change, the **Director-General is the NDA / Focal Point** to the Fund.
- This is **strategic**, as the DG is also the **Chair of the NAB**, the **national body responsible for endorsing climate finance proposals**.

Implementation of the NAB Mandate:



(Project Endorsement Process)

- a) Pave ways for better coordination with wider stakeholders
- b) Confirms/endorsed Vanuatu Projects with AEs
- c) Created good working relationship and project understanding with AEs, Delivery Partners, EEs, Government implementing sectors and GCF Sec.
- d) Helped implement Vanuatu's GCF Country Program in a well coordinated manner.
- e) Helped relevant government sectors to share resources and
- f) Avoid duplications/efforts in all climate change program in country



Challenges and Opportunities:



To implementing the GCF Country Program:

Challenges	Opportunities
Limited human resources (not enough technical staff + frequent turnover)	Use of new GCF multi-year Readiness grants to hire and keep qualified staff on longer contracts
Developing CNs within CP into full FPs (may take years and significant resourcing)	Use of GCF Project Preparation Facility and regional AEs (SPC, SPREP) to reduce transaction time
Stakeholder “meeting fatigue” (multiple consultations around GCF submissions stretch local stakeholders).	Use of digital platforms (e.g., Vanuatu NAB Portal) to support consultations and collect feedback transparently

The Vanuatu Experience with GCF Readiness Support:



1. Currently we have 11 Readiness (Institutional strengthening and capacity)
2. In 2016, the Vanuatu Ministry of Climate Change requested Readiness Support to support the NDA from the Green Climate Fund (2017 – 2018), with GLZ as delivery partner, to support:
 - a. The strengthening of the National Designated Authority of the GCF (Project Profile Form review – GCF requirements).
 - b. The development of a strategic engagement framework with the fund, called **Country Programme**.

“This is one way GCF Readiness has added value to our national platform to support the access to Climate Financing”

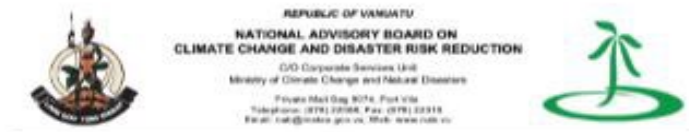
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NAB 'GCF PROJECT PROFILE FORM' TEMPLATE



(PART OF NAB PROJECT PROFILE FORM)



GCF PROJECT PROFILE FORM

Project Title: (Enter Your Project Title)	
GCF Funding: <input type="checkbox"/> Readiness <input type="checkbox"/> Project Preparatory Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Pipeline Project	
Implementing Organization(s): (List the Implementing Organization(s) ...)	Project Contact Details: (Enter your Project Contact Details ...)
Organizational Expertise Justification: (What's your organization's expertise in relation to this project? Justify your implementation experience)	
Duration: (Enter here ...) From Start Date To End Date	Total Funding: (Enter here ...)
Location and Site(s): (Enter Project Sites ...)	Funding Source(s): (Enter here ...)
Lead Government Agencies: (Enter here ...)	Scope: <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial <input type="checkbox"/> Community
Other Government & Partner Agencies: (Enter here ...)	Project Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> Community Awareness <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Response <input type="checkbox"/> Field Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Education Program <input type="checkbox"/> Funding - Small Grants <input type="checkbox"/> Informal Training Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot / Trial / Demonstration Project <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Governance <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Formulation and Integration <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Support <input type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Sector(s): (Water, Agriculture, etc ...)	
Theme(s): <input type="checkbox"/> CCA <input type="checkbox"/> DRR / DRM <input type="checkbox"/> CCM	
Modality: (eg. via Gov't system ...)	
Supporting Letter(s) from Government and any other Civil Society/Community partners attached. If Yes, specify which Agency: (Enter here ...)	

Page: 1 of 3

- NAB SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDS STARTING HERE

- **ALIGNED TO GCF CONCEPT NOTE CRITERIA.**

- **INCLUDES CRITERIA SPECIFIC TO VANUATU:
ALIGNMENT TO THE NSDP
ALIGNMENT TO THE CCDRR POLICY
ALIGNMENT TO THE GCF COUNTRY PROGRAMME**

Therefore, getting NAB Endorsement indicates you have a good concept note for GCF...

THANK YOU TUMAS



COUNTRY PLATFORMS

By Tessa Vaetoru

Accredited Entity Manager

Cook Islands Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

OUR LOCALLY LED

Journey to climate action with GCF

