



GCF Regional Dialogue with Eastern Europe and Central Asia Agenda

18-22 March 2024

SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA

8:00-9:00	Registration & Networking
9:00-9:30	<p>Session 1.1: Plenary Limak Hotel, Jordan Mijalkov 31, Skopje 1000, N. Macedonia Limra Hall (6F)</p> <p>OPENING SESSION Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darren Karjama, Partnerships and Outreach Specialist, Division of External Affairs, GCF <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks - H.E. Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in Charge for Economic Affairs, Coordination of Economic Sectors and Investments • Opening remarks - Nonhlanhla Zindela, Deputy Director, Division of Country Programming, GCF
9:30-10:15	<p>Session 1.2: Plenary IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2027 The Updated Strategic Plan or USP-2 sets out GCF's major programming directions for GCF-2, capturing the ambition to deliver both strengthened climate results and greater access for developing countries.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alisher Mamadzhanov, Multilateral Governance Manager, Office of Governance Affairs, GCF <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Strategic Plan - Darren Karjama, Partnerships and Outreach Specialist, Division of External Affairs, GCF <p>Q&A</p>
10:15-10:30	Group Photo
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break and Networking
11:00-11:30	<p>Session 1.3: Plenary REGIONAL STATE OF PLAY The session will provide an overview of GCF's portfolio in the region: funded projects, Readiness grants and key stakeholders engaged with the GCF.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Zedginidze, Head of Knowledge Management, Office of Executive Director, GCF <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of GCF's engagement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, portfolio overview - Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Division of Country Programming, GCF

11:30-13:00

Session 1.4: Plenary

UPDATED READINESS STRATEGY AND OPERATIONAL MODALITIES

This session will present key findings and recommendations from IEU's RPSP evaluation, followed by an overview of the updated Readiness Strategy, alignment of objectives against USP- and operational modalities.

Moderator

- Darren Karjama, Partnerships and Outreach Specialist, Division of External Affairs, GCF

Presentations

- RPSP 2023 Evaluation – Genta Konci, Evaluation Specialist, Independent Evaluation Unit
- Updated Readiness Strategy – Eldana Djumalieva, Coordinator for Support Programmes, Division of Country Programming, GCF

Q&A

13:00-14:00

Lunch and Networking

14:30-15:30

Session 1.5: Plenary

ENHANCING COUNTRY OWNERSHIP AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS

This session focuses on the challenges and strategies associated with promoting country ownership and ensuring inter-agency/inter-ministerial coordination. GCF will demonstrate measures such as no objection procedure and country programmes, to guide countries in enhancing their ownership of climate initiatives and panel speaks will discuss their challenges and solutions to coordination issues encountered while preparing or implementing GCF-funded projects/programmes.

Moderator

- Darren Karjama, Partnerships and Outreach Specialist, Division of External Affairs, GCF

Presentation

- Latest GCF guidance related to country ownership – Nonhlanhla Zindela, Deputy Director, Division of Country Programming, GCF

Panel discussion

- Sandra Andovska, NDA, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of North Macedonia
- Turakul Murodov, Head of Project Implementation Group and NDA Secretariat, Committee of Environmental Protection, Tajikistan
- Choikhand Janchivlamdan, Director Climate Change Research and Cooperation Center, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia
- Didar Karimov, Deputy CEO, International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center, Kazakhstan

Q&A

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break and Networking

16:00-16:45

Session 1.6: Plenary

TAKEAWAYS FROM COP28 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO COP29

The session will discuss key highlights from COP 28 and provide brief information what to look forward to at COP 29.

Moderator

- Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF

Speakers

- COP28: Looking back: highlights and key decisions – Alisher Mamadzhanov, Multilateral Governance Manager, Office of Governance Affairs, GCF
- COP29: Looking forward – Representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology, Azerbaijan

Q&A

16:45-17:00

Session 1.7: Plenary

END OF DAY 1 – SUMMARY

- Temurbek Zokirov, Regional Analyst EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF

9:00-9:15	<p>Session 2.1: Plenary OVERVIEW OF DAY 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temurbek Zokirov, Regional Analyst EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF
9:15-10:30	<p>Session 2.2: Plenary COUNTRY PROGRAMMING</p> <p>This session will focus on recent updates and directions, the role that country programmes play for the success of USP-2 and building on best practice and lessons learned to recommend future programming approaches.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eldana Djumalieva, Coordinator for Support Programmes, Division of Country Programming GCF <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Programming guidance and directions – Nonhlanhla Zindela, Deputy Director and Head of Programming, Division of Country Programming, GCF <p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alisher Mamadzhonov, Multilateral Governance Manager a.i. Office of Governance Affairs • Rajeev Mahajan, Climate Investment Manager, Division of Private Sector Facility, GCF • Nino Tkhilava, Head of Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia • Sofjan Jaupaj, Director-General for Economic Affairs and Support Services, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania (tbc) <p>Q&A</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>Coffee Break and Networking</p>
11:00-11:45	<p>Session 2.3: Plenary ACCREDITATION</p> <p>This session will provide an update on institutional accreditation, GCF Board guidance on accreditation, recent development related to accreditation, as well as the Project-Specific Assessment Approach (PSAA) to accreditation.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salamat Erejepov, Regional Officer EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional accreditation - Board guidance, alignment with country priorities, recent developments - Solongo Khurelbaatar, Accreditation Specialist, Division of Country Programming, GCF • Project-specific accreditation, PSA - Wainella Isaacs, Programming and Operations Office, Office of the Executive Director, GCF <p>Q&A</p>

11:45-13:00

Session 2.4: Plenary

READINESS IMPLEMENTATION: PUTTING LEARNING AT THE CENTRE

This learning session will focus on the delivery of Readiness portfolio of projects, discuss challenges and explore recommendations and opportunities from the implementation perspective.

Moderators

- Susanna Matevosyan, Portfolio Management Officer (Readiness), Division of Portfolio Management, GCF
- Jeremy Schlickerieder, Natural Resources Officer – Climate Change, FAO Regional Office Europe and Central Asia

Speaker

- Session objectives and learning component from readiness implementation - Susanna Matevosyan, Portfolio Management Officer (Readiness), GCF

Panel discussion

- Turakul Murodov, Head of Project Implementation Group and NDA Secretariat, Committee of Environmental Protection, Tajikistan
- Igor Slavkoski, International Climate Finance Specialist, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- Daniel Josifovski, Project Advisor for Climate Change, GIZ N. Macedonia
- Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, CAREC

Q&A

13:00-14:00

Lunch and Networking

14:00-15:30

Session 2.5: Plenary and Parallel Sessions

DEVELOPING GCF-ALIGNED AND HIGH-QUALITY PROJECTS

CLIMATE IMPACT POTENTIAL, INNOVATION AND ADDITIONALITY, SCALABILITY

This session will present significance and guidance for demonstrating climate impact potential, innovation and additionality and scalability in projects and programmes. It will also describe capacity building activities, using tools, open-source information platforms and other materials (ie Innovation and Additionality Tool, Investment Scorecard) being developed to assist Accredited Entities.

Moderator

- Lee Cando, Programme and Technical Advisor EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF

Presentation

- Climate Impact Potential – Kevin Horsburgh, Climate Science Lead, Office of the Executive Director, GCF

Q&A

Introduction to parallel sessions

Session 2.5.1: Plenary

Limra hall (6F)

INNOVATION AND ADDITIONALITY

Facilitators

- Nazeem Wasti, Project Preparation Facility Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF

Session 2.5.2: Breakout Room

Sky room (6F)

SCALABILITY

Facilitators

- Martin Bjerkmø, Project Officer (SAP), Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF

15:30-16:00	Coffee Break and Networking
16:00-17:00	<p>Session 2.6: Plenary</p> <p>DEVELOPING GCF-ALIGNED AND HIGH-QUALITY PROJECTS FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>This session will introduce GCF's portfolio of financial instruments.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wainella Isaacs, Programming and Operations Office, Office of the Executive Director, GCF <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rajeev Mahajan, Climate Investment Manager, Division of Private Sector Facility, GCF <p>Q&A</p>
17:00-18:00	<p>Session 2.7: Plenary</p> <p>DEVELOPING GCF-ALIGNED AND HIGH-QUALITY PROJECTS SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES OF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND</p> <p>Sustainability policies provide frameworks to ensure i) the effective management of environmental and social risks and impacts, and ii) improved outcomes, including social inclusion. At the Green Climate Fund, the overarching Environmental and Social Policy encompasses four aspects: Environmental and Social Safeguards, the Revised Policy on the Prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Harassment and Abuse, the Updated Gender Policy and the Indigenous Peoples Policy. The session will provide an introduction and opportunity to collectively discuss how to articulate the consideration of environmental and social issues when developing and implementing GCF financed activities.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wainella Isaacs, Programming and Operations Office, Office of the Executive Director, GCF <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Rubis, Indigenous Peoples and Social Safeguards Specialist, Office of Sustainability and Inclusion, GCF <p>Q&A</p>
19:00-21:00	<p>Reception for all participants</p> <p>Clover Restaurant (5F)</p>

<p>9:00-9:15 15 min</p>	<p>Session 3.1: Plenary OVERVIEW OF DAY 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temurbek Zokirov, Regional Analyst EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF 	
<p>9:15-10:30</p>	<p>Session 3.2.1: Plenary TECHNOLOGY SESSION: LINKAGES BETWEEN UNFCCC MECHANISMS, GCF AND NATIONAL STRATEGIES</p> <p>The session aims to improve collaboration and coordination between climate finance and climate technology efforts at the national level under the UNFCCC framework. It focuses on enhancing the interaction among National Designated Entities (NDEs), NDAs, and major GCF stakeholders in the region. The session will specifically emphasize the role of GCF readiness support in developing Technology Needs Assessments and how it corresponds with the Climate Technology Centre and Network Technical Assistance intended for the region.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alisher Mamadzhanov, Multilateral Governance Manager, Office of Governance Affairs, GCF <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the GCF's mandate in relation to technology development and transfer as derived from pertinent COP/Board decisions, encompassing the GCF's backing for TNA – GCF representative • CTCN modalities of operation and importance strong linkages between NDE and NDA – Nadege Trocellier, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN Secretariat <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azamat Temirkulov, Director of Climate Finance Center, Ministry of Natural Resource, Ecology and Technical Supervision, Kyrgyzstan (tbc) • Ketevan Vardosanidze, CTCN National Designated Entity, Georgia • Nadege Trocellier, Climate Technology Specialist, Climate CTCN Secretariat • Sara Traerup, Head of Section Technology – Transitions and System Innovation, UNEP CCC <p>Wrap-up – Nadege Trocellier, Climate Technology Specialist, Climate CTCN Secretariat</p>	<p>Session 3.2.2: Breakout Room ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT-FUNDED PROJECTS (45 min)</p> <p>This session aims to emphasize the importance and rationale of adaptive management of projects and programmes with DAEs. It will showcase results and impact achieved, guide direct access entities on process and considerations, and inform Direct Access Entities (DAEs) on the importance of country ownership. It will also emphasize the importance of advising and engaging early as soon as the application of adaptive management is identified.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Cando, Programme and Technical Advisor for EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio and Adaptive Management - Hidde Bunk, Restructuring and Cancellation Specialist, Division of Portfolio Management, GCF • Case studies on adaptive management in the region - Elodie Loppe, Principal Manager, Green Climate Fund Partnership, EBRD <p>Panel discussion with presenters</p> <p>Q&A</p>

10:30-11:00	Coffee Break and Networking
11:00-13:00	<p>Session 3.3: Plenary</p> <p>PRIVATE SECTOR FACILITY</p> <p>The session will provide an overview of the private sector strategy and will illustrate how the PSF is deploying capital for climate impact through various instruments. The discussion that will follow will focus on specific needs of private sector players in the EECA region. Given the current funding gap in climate finance, particularly in climate adaptation, there is demand for bespoke financing approaches that encourage private sector investments.</p> <p>The panel will explore strategies to engage diverse investors in fundraising. The goal is to accelerate fundraising for climate-focused projects by leveraging innovative blended finance modalities.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eldana Djumalieva, Coordinator for Support Programmes, Division of Country Programming, GCF <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Sector – Strategy & Modalities – Rajeev Mahajan, Climate Investment Manager – Infrastructure, Private Sector Facility, GCF <p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conrad Albrecht, Managing Director - Head of the Directorate of Sustainability, Eurasian Development Bank Anuki Batiashvili, Adviser to CEO, JSC "Georgian Energy Development Fund" Randolph Stanley Koppa, Chairman, Trade and Development Bank, Mongolia Sumeet Manchanda, Associate Director – Climate Strategy and Delivery, EBRD Tuul Galzagd, Director of Eco Banking Division, XacBank, Mongolia Rajeev Mahajan, Climate Investment Manager, Division of Private Sector Facility
13:00-14:00	Lunch and Networking
14:00-15:30	<p>Session 3.4: Plenary</p> <p>ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT (READINESS): CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF READINESS GRANTS IN THE EECA REGION</p> <p>This session will focus on demystifying requirements of adaptive management for readiness, discuss do's and don'ts, and present case studies of how adaptive management was successfully applied in the region.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lee Cando, Programme and Regional Advisor EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of EECA Readiness portfolio/grants performance – Susanna Matevosyan, Portfolio Management Officer (Readiness), Division of Portfolio Management <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adam Abdul Jabiru, Senior Officer, Project Management Support, UNOPS Rachel Silbert, Climate Finance Specialist, FAO Aneta Kankaras, Head of Office for Sustainable Development in the Secretariat General, Montenegro <p>Q&A</p>

15:30-16:00	Coffee Break and Networking
16:00-18:00	<p>Session 3.5: Plenary</p> <p>INNOVATIVE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IN KEY SECTORS - ENERGY EFFICIENCY, LAND-USE & FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE, WATER & FOOD SECURITY</p> <p>This session will offer an overview of GCF's guidance on innovative project development and design, specifically on sectors relevant to the region: energy efficiency, land-use and forestry, agriculture, water and food security. It will also inform participants of methodologies and guidelines for effective programming.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nazeem Wasti, Project Preparation Facility Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency, Cities and & Infrastructure - Marcus Mayr, Senior Climate Change Urban Sector Specialist, GCF • Agriculture, Land Use, Water & Food Security – Kunduz Masykanova, Senior Agriculture and Food Security Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF • Recent transactions by our partners from EIB and EBRD (tbc) <p>Q&A</p>
	END of Day 3

9:00-9:15	<p>Session 4.1: Plenary OVERVIEW OF DAY 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temurbek Zokirov, Regional Analyst EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF
9:15-10:30	<p>Session 4.2: Plenary EVALUATION</p> <p>This session will introduce the GCF Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU), its function and approach. The IEU will also inform participants of its Evaluation Needs Capacity Assessment of DAEs and the performance measurement for readiness will also be discussed.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Zedginidze, Head of Knowledge Management, Office of the Executive Director, GCF <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCF IEU – Genta Konci, Evaluation Specialist, Independent Evaluation Unit <p>Q&A</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>Coffee Break and Networking</p>
11:00-13:00	<p>Session 4.3: Plenary GCF CLINIC FOR NDAs</p> <p>This exercise will allow NDAs to have one-on-one engagement with GCF Secretariat on issues such as but not limited to mitigation, adaptation, climate science or climate impact potential, portfolio oversight, readiness and accreditation, evaluation and private sector engagement.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF</p>
13:00-14:00	<p>Lunch and Networking</p>
14:00-15:30	<p>Session 4.4: Plenary KNOWLEDGE CAFE</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Zedginidze, Head of Knowledge Management, Office of Executive Director, GCF
15:30-16:00	<p>Coffee Break and Networking</p>
16:00-18:00	<p>Session 4.5: Plenary ACHIEVING SCALE-UP FOR TRANSFORMATION – EXPERIENCES FROM THE SIMPLIFIED APPROVAL PROCESS AND PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITY</p> <p>This session will discuss in detail GCF access modalities Simplified Approval Process and the Project Preparation Facility, including guidance to NDAs, AEs, and project developers with a view towards creating pathways for achieving scale-up of successful innovations. It will also introduce Enhanced Direct Access, as well as present the SAP CRIEWS framework and PPF as mechanisms for unlocking finance and host a panel discussion with NDAs, AEs, DAEs, and GCF specialists on designing projects to address challenges to scale-up and utilizing available GCF technical and financial resources.</p> <p>Moderators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Bjerkmø, Project Officer (SAP), Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF • Nazeem Wasti, Project Preparation Facility Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF

Presentations

- Enhanced Direct Access - Martin Bjerkmø, Project Officer (SAP), Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF
- Fostering Scale-up via Simplified Approval – Martin Bjerkmø, Project Officer (SAP), Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF
- Unlocking finance via Project Preparation Facility support – Nazeem Wasti, Project Preparation Facility Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF

Panel Discussion

- Tuul Galzard, Director of Ecobanking, XacBank Mongolia (tbc)
- Representative from ARIS Community Development and Investment Agency, Kyrgyzstan (tbc)
- Shattyk Tastemirova, Head of Adaptation to Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan (tbc)
- Sumeet Manchanda, Associate Director Climate Strategy and Delivery, EBRD (tbc)
- Marcus Mayr, Urban Sector Senior Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation
- Nazeem Wasti, Project Preparation Facility Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation

19:00-21:30

Dinner for all participants

Kamnik Winery (departure from Hotel Limak to the winery at 19:00).

9:00-9:15	<p>Session 5.1: Plenary OVERVIEW OF DAY 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temurbek Zokirov, Regional Analyst EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF
9:15-10:30	<p>Session 5.2.1: Plenary INDEPENDENT REDRESS MECHANISM</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of how the IRM strengthens the capacity of GCF Accredited Entities to address project-related complaints and grievances - through workshops, trainings and one-on-one support.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Zedginidze, Head of Knowledge Management, Office of the Executive Director, GCF <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paco Gimenez-Salinas, Compliance and Dispute Resolution Specialist, Independent Redress Mechanism Unit <p>INTEGRITY IN CLIMATE ACTION</p> <p>This session will introduce participants to the GCF Independent Integrity Unit, its role and mandate in GCF-funded activities.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcus Mayr, Climate Change Urban Sector Senior Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayartsetseg Jigmiddash, Outreach and Engagement Manager, Independent Integrity Unit <p>Q&A</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>Coffee Break and Networking</p>
11:00-12:00	<p>Session 5.6: Plenary CLOSING SESSION</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key take aways – Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager EECA, Division of Country Programming, GCF • Closing remarks – Nonhlanhla Zindela, Deputy Director and Head of Programming, Division of Country Programming, GCF
13:00-14:00	<p>Lunch & Networking</p>