

Enhancing Direct Access (EDA) – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can submit a proposal for the country pilot?

Direct access entities nominated by countries can submit proposals to the Fund, which include public sector institutions (e.g. development bank, national fund, etc.) or private sector entities (e.g. commercial bank, investment fund, etc.) and non-governmental organizations operating at the regional, national or subnational level.

However, entities are requested to submit first a concept note¹ to get feedback and further guidance before working on a full proposal. In addition, applicants will need to be accredited before being able to access the Fund's resources.

2. How can an entity be nominated by a country to submit a proposal?

The selection and nomination of an entity should be done through a consultative process by the National Designated Authority (NDA) or focal point.

3. Does an applying entity need to be accredited by the GCF before submission of the pilot proposal to the Secretariat?

Nominated entities must be accredited by the Fund prior to the submission of their pilot proposal to the Board. As such, nominated entities can submit a concept note for feedback but proposals will not be processed for Board consideration until the entity is accredited.

4. What type of financial instruments are available?

The entity can deploy resources through grants, loans, equity or guarantees, provided it is accredited for the relevant specialized fiduciary standard (i.e. grant allocation or on-lending/blending) and demonstrates experience in managing the proposed financial instruments.

5. How much funding is available for EDA?

At its 10th Board meeting, the Fund agreed to initially provide up to USD 200 million for at least 10 pilots, including at least four to be implemented in small island developing States, the least developed countries and African States.

¹ http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/300732/GCF_Concept_Note_Template.docx

For additional background consult: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/ventures/funding/fine-print>



6. Who makes a funding decision on the activities under the country pilot?

The objective of Enhancing Direct Access is to devolve decision-making to the accredited entity while ensuring strong country ownership and multi-stakeholder engagement. To this end, the entity needs to have a decision-making body that should include civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, and should be sensitive to gender considerations.

7. What is the role of NDA or focal point in EDA?

The NDA or focal point will have a strong role in the pilot, in consultation with relevant national stakeholders, by:

- Communicating the country's priorities and strategic frameworks to guide entities as they are preparing pilot proposals;
- Raising awareness in their countries and inviting and selecting subnational, national and regional entities, from the public and private sectors, to propose pilot proposals for consideration by the Fund;
- Nominating the selected entities for accreditation by the Fund; and
- Participating in the appraisal of the pilot proposals and subsequently in the monitoring and evaluation of the country pilot in accordance with the Fund's relevant guidelines.

8. How can countries make sure that EDA activities are implemented in a transparent and inclusive manner?

Countries participating in the EDA pilot are required to exercise oversight on the activities to ensure transparency. For this purpose, it is recommended that countries identify an existing institution or country coordination mechanism that will fulfill this role. This oversight function should include the NDA or focal point and representatives of relevant stakeholders, such as government, civil society organizations, women's organizations, the private sector and academia. Oversight and steering activities may include:

- A provision of regular strategic guidance regarding the country pilot(s) to the accredited entities;
- Review of reporting by the accredited entity;
- Periodic field visits; and
- Regular communication with relevant stakeholders and the Fund.

9. Does the Fund offer a guideline for multi-stakeholder engagement, which is required throughout the elaboration and implementation of the country pilot?

Yes. Countries are expected to consider the criteria included in the Fund's initial best-practice options² for country coordination and multi-stakeholder engagement.

² <http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/104167/2.5 - Best Practices for Country Coordination and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement.pdf>



10. Is readiness and preparatory support available for the country pilot?

Yes. Interested countries can include a request for readiness support in their pilot proposals, particularly to provide support in multi-stakeholder engagement and the strengthening of oversight mechanisms to enhance accountability and transparency.

11. What are the criteria and process for the selection of the pilot proposal?

The proposals will be selected on the basis of the Fund's initial [proposal approval process](#), [investment framework](#) and [results management framework](#) and will be approved by the Board.

12. What should a pilot proposal contain?

Please use the [concept note](#) or [funding proposal](#) template for submission. In addition, kindly ensure that the pilot proposals include the following information:

- Background and contact information (including the name of institution or organization proposing the activities, contact information of key person(s), etc.);
- A description of the consultation and selection process facilitated by the NDA or focal point of the nominated direct access accredited entity;
- A description of the proposed scope of activities, including objectives, type, sectors, size and geographic locations related to the pilot. The objectives and goals should be aligned with the Fund's results management framework;
- A description of the approval process and selection criteria for the activities, which should be consistent with the Fund's initial investment framework and proposal approval process³;
- A composition of the decision-making body that will be housed and managed by the entity. The decision-making body should include civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, and should be sensitive to gender considerations;
- A description of how the entity intends to meet the disclosure requirements in the implementation of the pilot;
- A composition of the oversight function, which may include representatives from organizations such as those indicated in paragraph 15, page 3 of the EDA Request for Proposals;
- A description of the multi-stakeholder engagement process the entity plans to set-up;
- A timeframe of implementation, including start date and duration;
- The funding amount to be requested, including the financial instrument (e.g. grant, loan, equity, guarantee);
- Risk assessment and management, including assumptions, factors, ratings and mitigation measures; and

³ Document GCF/B.07/06.



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- Monitoring and evaluation, including logical frameworks, methods, criteria, information to be reported, frequency, responsibilities, means of verification and evaluation plans.

In addition, entities are advised to include in their pilot proposals information on the pipeline of sub-projects they have identified and a detailed description of a few examples of such sub-projects (e.g. objectives, financial structure, alignment with GCF investment criteria and results areas, implementation arrangement).

13. Is there a deadline for the pilot proposal submission?

No. The Fund will review and select the pilot proposals on a rolling basis. The Fund anticipates presenting a first batch of proposals to the GCF Board no later than its December 2016 meeting, and a second batch no later than its meeting in June 2017

Applicants are encouraged to submit concept notes by the end of July 2016 to be considered in the first batch and by the end of January 2017 to be considered in the second batch.

14. Who do I contact for more information?

Please direct your questions to the Country Programming Division: countries@gcfund.org.