



Bridging the GAP from Access to Action

Informal summary of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point training on climate finance and gender

UNFCCC Secretariat

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Background and Mandates

At COP 25 Parties adopted the 5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its Gender Action Plan ([Decision 3/CP.25](#)), encouraging Parties to appoint and provide support for national gender and climate change focal points (NGCCFP) for climate negotiations, implementation and monitoring. The COP also requested the secretariat to facilitate support for building and strengthening the skills and capacities of national gender and climate change focal points.

Under the Gender Action Plan, activity A.2 of priority area A (capacity-building, knowledge management and communication), established the provision of capacity-building opportunities, tools and resources. Activity D.2 of priority area D (gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation), aims to raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies, plans, strategies, and action.

In response to these mandates the UNFCCC secretariat, AF, GCF and GEF collaborated to deliver a training to NGCCFPs during COP 28. UNDP and Care for Climate contributed to the training.

This informal summary includes links to presentations and recordings and a summary of the question-and-answer segments.

Agenda and format

The training was tailored for National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFP) and intended to equip them with a solid understanding of the available support for mainstreaming gender into climate policy and action within and beyond the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC.

The main climate funds introduced their policies, approaches and mechanisms that can be leveraged for gender mainstreaming and present entry points for NGCCFPs to engage with their respective institutions, and key stakeholders at the national level to further advance gender equality in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The workshop was held in English, in-person and plenary presentations and live remote participation was possible for NGCCFPs. The recording and presentations are available online [here](#).

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic and Speaker</i>
<i>5 min</i>	<i>Introduction and Welcome</i> Sana Kapadia, Director of Strategy, 2X Global (Moderator)
<i>10 min</i>	<i>Presentation</i> Verania Chao, Global Inclusivity Advisor, Climate Strategies and Policy Team, Climate Hub, United Nations Development Programme
<i>10 min</i>	<i>Presentation</i> Young Hee LEE, Governance Specialist (Legal & Gender Focal Point), Adaptation Fund

5 min	Q&A
10 min	Presentation Tiffany Hodgson, Head of Sustainability and Inclusion, Green Climate Fund
10 min	Presentation Verona Collantes-Lebale, Senior Gender Specialist, Global Environment Facility
5 min	Q&A
50 min	2 min pitch by Ruth Oviedo Hollands, Program Manager NDC Project, Care About Climate Q&A in smaller groups (world café method)
5 min	Close

The workshop was opened by Fleur Newman, UNFCCC Action Empowerment Lead who welcomed NGCCFPs and speakers and introduced the moderator for the training, Sana Kapadia, Director of Strategy at 2X Global.

Following presentations and brief Q&A in plenary, in-person participants were asked to split into four groups. Each group was joined by a presenter¹ who was asked to answer any questions relating to the presentation and topic of the training. Each 10 minutes, presenters rotated to the next group.

During the presentations and Q&A segments, in-person and virtual participants were also given the opportunity to share their questions and comments via an online survey tool. Discussions, including questions and respective answers, in small groups were captured by notetakers.

Summary

Presentations

The Adaptation Fund presented its Gender Policy, outlining project/programme requirements and funding opportunities for gender equality. They showcased the opportunities for Implementing Entities (IE) and other organizations to access finance, and shared other relevant information and resources for the public. Please find the presentation [here](#).

The Global Environmental Facility outlined its current activities and objectives aligned with the 2030 Goals and Commitments. Additionally, it detailed the Gender Equality component within its policy framework, highlighting both national and international good practices. The GEF Gender Partnership initiative was also introduced, alongside opportunities for diverse stakeholder engagement. Please find the presentation [here](#).

The Green Climate Fund shared information on their updated Gender Policy, including the requirements for all funding proposals. They presented their Indigenous Peoples' policy and how it also addresses issues related to Indigenous women. They also showcased additional support for gender at the Fund, such as the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, the coordination at national level, inclusion and stakeholder engagement, and the GCF's Strategy for 2024-2027. Please find the Presentation [here](#).

The United Nations Development Programme delivered a presentation underscoring the integration of gender in climate finance, in the context of National Determined Contributions (NDCs) implementation. Offering a global snapshot within the framework of the Climate

¹ Representatives of UNDP and Care About Climate shared a group.

Promise, it outlined diverse entry points to strengthen gender-responsive climate finance. Additionally, they featured several case studies representing best practices from Lebanon, Belize, Cabo Verde, and Cambodia in integrating gender in climate finance. Please find the presentation [here](#).

NDC Equity Tracker: Care About Climate, briefly presented the mission of the NDC Equity Tracker, giving an overview of their key findings on the NDCs inclusion of Youth and Gender. Please find the presentation [here](#).

Recording: Please find the recording of the training [here](#).

Key information, Questions and Answers

ADAPTATION FUND

What is the Adaptation Fund: It was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol and are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. It serves the Paris Agreement from Jan. 1, 2019.

Support, Eligibility and Access:

The Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator ([AFCIA](#))² aims to foster innovation in climate change adaptation in developing countries. The programme targets a broad range of potential finance recipients, including governments, non-governmental organizations, community groups, entrepreneurs, young innovators and other groups. For more information click [here](#).

Under the [Adaptation Fund's Readiness Programme](#) several small grants are made available to help accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs) provide peer support to countries seeking accreditation with the Fund and to build capacity for undertaking various climate finance readiness activities. These include Readiness Package, Project Formulation Assistance, Technical Assistance for ESP and Gender Policy, and Project Scale-up Grants ([see here](#)).

The [Enhanced Direct Access](#) (EDA) grant's objective is to empower developing country recipients of international climate finance beyond what can be achieved through the Direct Access modality alone, by devolving decision-making in the programming of internationally allocated funds to the national and sub-national levels: i.e., the screening, review and selection of projects would be done at the national and sub-national level with stronger stakeholder engagements in the decision-making on proposed initiatives and their financing. For more information on grants to date click [here](#). EDA specific projects are determined at the country-level through specific requests and proposals made by local beneficiaries at the sub-national level through [accredited NIEs](#).

Capacity building grants: These grants are open to accredited implementing entities. However, access to e-learning materials and other knowledge products in gender mainstreaming in adaptation projects can also be found [here](#).

² The Adaptation Fund launched the programme, whose grants are administered by UNDP and UNEP-CTCN. Based on the success of the first programme of AFCIA, it was expanded to include more MIE aggregators to run this programme such as WFP and UNIDO.

Timeline: projects or funding proposals (except readiness grants- PFG grants and TA grants, see [here](#)) can be submitted throughout the year.

Accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs) are the national institutions accredited by the Adaptation Fund Board to receive direct financial transfers from the Fund to carry out adaptation projects and programmes.³ A list of accredited NIEs can be found [here](#). Information about how to become accredited can be found [here](#).

Ways for local level organizations to access AF project funding

With accreditation: Project and programme proposals must be submitted by a developing country which is a party to the Kyoto Protocol or the Paris Agreement through accredited National, Regional, or Multilateral Implementing Entities of the Adaptation Fund. More information on this process can be found [here](#).

Without (capacity for) accreditation: Organizations may reach out to the respective national implementing entities (see above) of their country: (i) to explore an opportunity to engage in the activities of the project or programme that the NIE is implementing; (ii) to access funding through enhanced direct access project that the NIE is developing to submit it to the Adaptation Fund for funding. Alternatively, they can apply to the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator, which is open to a broad range of recipients.

Resources for NGCCFPs: Publicly available e-learning material and knowledge products on gender can also be found [here](#).

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

What is the Green Climate Fund: It is a global fund dedicated to help fight climate change and mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways.

Support, Eligibility and Access: The GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (the [Readiness Programme](#)) supports country-driven initiatives by developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks towards a transformational long-term climate action agenda. The Readiness Programme provides grants and technical assistance to National Designated Authorities (NDAs) and/or focal points (FPs). Readiness funding can also be deployed to strengthen Direct Access Entities. The objective is to enhance the capacity of national institutions to efficiently engage with GCF. As such it can be used for smaller readiness projects, such as: capacity building, contracting gender experts, etc. Alternative funding modalities offered by the GCF include: [Simplified Approval Process](#), [Project preparation support](#), [Project-specific Assessment Approach](#).

The process is country-driven and the GCF considers nationally identified priorities and priority topic(s). A country's government and National Designated Authorities (NDAs) or focal points set national priorities, analyse financial needs and gaps, and identify Accredited Entities (AEs) or partners to design and implement funding proposals and projects. At this stage NDAs and AEs engage various stakeholders when developing their respective country programmes to ensure that utmost environmental and social safeguards are in force. NGCCFPs could get in

³ Adaptation Fund has three types of implementing entities: (1) multilateral implementing entities (see the list [here](#)); (2) regional implementing entities (see [here](#)); and (3) national implementing entities.

touch with NDAs to coordinate on this process. Detailed information about the GCF Project Activity Cycle, can be found [here](#).

National Designated Authorities (NDAs) are government institutions that serve as the interface between each country and the Fund. Find a list of NDAs [here](#).

Accredited entities (AEs) design and implement funding proposals and projects. More information on accreditation (criteria) can be found [here](#).

How can civil society be engaged? Countries can utilize their allocated readiness funds for stakeholder engagement and ensuring considerations related to gender, e.g. by conducting outreach initiatives, such as soliciting input from indigenous communities or women's groups. The decision to undertake such consultations is made by the National Designated Authority.

Resources for NGCCFPs: The Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme can be used for improved inclusion, stakeholder engagement and coordination at the national level. The guidebook on how to prepare readiness proposals and how to implement readiness grants can be accessed [here](#).

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

What is the Global Environment Facility: Is a family of funds dedicated to addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. Its grants, blended financing, and policy support help developing countries address their biggest environmental priorities and adhere to international environmental conventions.

Support, Eligibility and Access: Funds are available to developing countries seeking to meet the objectives of international environmental agreements. Support is provided to a wide range of stakeholders to implement projects and programs related to environmental conservation, protection, and renewal. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition are eligible recipients of GEF support. Each country is represented at the GEF Council through its Council members and alternates and manages its GEF portfolio and relationship with the GEF Secretariat through the focal points. To see the list of Focal Points, please click [here](#). The Council-approved funds are transferred through [18 GEF Agencies](#), who create project proposals and then manage these projects on the ground and in so doing help eligible government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector companies, research institutions, among the broad diversity of potential partners, to execute projects and programs in recipient countries.

The broad range of partners of the GEF, should fulfill in their projects/programmes the following criteria to be eligible for GEF funding:

- **Eligible country:** Countries may be eligible for GEF funding in one of two ways: a) if the country has ratified the [conventions the GEF serves](#) and conforms with the eligibility criteria decided by the Conference of the Parties of each convention; or b) if the country is eligible to receive World Bank (IBRD and/or IDA) financing or if it is an eligible recipient of UNDP technical assistance through its target for resource assignments from the core (specifically TRAC-1 and/or TRAC-2).
- **National priority:** The project must be driven by the country (rather than by an external partner) and be consistent with national priorities that support sustainable development.
- **GEF priorities:** To achieve the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements, it is required that the GEF support country priorities that are ultimately aimed at tackling

the drivers of environmental degradation in an integrated fashion. For this reason, the focal areas (Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, International Waters, and Chemicals and Waste) remain the central organizing feature in the GEF-8 Programming Directions and provide countries with the opportunity to participate in selected "Integrated Programs" which aim to address major drivers of environmental degradation and/or deliver multiple benefits that fall under the GEF's mandate (for more details, see the [GEF-8 Programming Directions](#)).

- **Financing:** The project must seek GEF financing only for the agreed incremental costs on measures to achieve global environmental benefits.
- **Participation:** The project must involve the public in project design and implementation, following the [Policy on Stakeholder Engagement](#) and the respective guidelines.

The [Operational Focal Point](#) (OFP) decides which agency would be best suited to develop and implement the project idea. This is an important decision since the agency will be the partner at all stages of the project or program.

For further information, please click [here](#).

How can civil society be engaged?

The GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), which has been implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1992, recently incorporated the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Conservation International (CI) as additional SGP Implementing Agencies.

The program provides financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to meet the overall objective of "global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions".

In GEF-8, a total of \$155 million of GEF funds, of which \$135 million are Core resources, have been made available to all GEF-eligible countries. These will be used for implementing community-led initiatives to address global environmental issues through a decentralized, country-level delivery mechanism. Country programs are managed by a multi-stakeholder National Steering Committees and supported by SGP Country Program Teams.

CSOs, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other marginalized groups and individuals in recipient countries may access GEF finance for grants of up to \$75,000. In practice, the average grant has been around \$25,000. In addition, SGP provides a maximum of \$150,000 for strategic projects. These larger projects allow for scaling up and replication of successful approaches, covering a large number of communities within critical landscapes or seascapes.

Moreover, CSOs can actively participate in the GEF through the CSO Network. This independent global alliance comprises Civil Society Organizations dedicated to addressing worldwide environmental challenges aligned with the six GEF focal areas. The network serves as a platform for CSOs to contribute input and feedback on GEF policies and programs. Its main goal is to advocate for augmented funding for environmental projects. The GEF CSO Network is open to all CSOs, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and indigenous peoples' organizations, that share an interest in the GEF's mission and activities.

Its objectives are:

1. To enhance the role of civil society in safeguarding the global environment
2. To promote effective engagement of civil society in GEF operations
3. Monitor and build capacity at regional and national level for CSO engagement in GEF activities

More information is available [here](#).