Partners for climate action

Transitioning towards low-emission, climate-resilient food systems is key to improving the livelihoods of rural communities that depend on natural resources for their well-being. Since becoming partners in 2016, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – the world’s largest dedicated fund for climate action – have been scaling up investment in high-impact projects that make the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors more efficient, inclusive, sustainable and resilient to climate change.

Countries urgently need access to climate finance to achieve the adaptation and emissions reduction targets laid out in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This is particularly true for African States, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and FAO stands ready to support its Members’ efforts to raise their climate ambition.

Delivering readiness support

Since becoming a GCF Readiness Delivery Partner in 2016, FAO’s readiness portfolio has grown to include 94 projects for a total value of USD 70.5 million.

Access to readiness support enhances country ownership of climate projects by strengthening institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks in accordance with NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other national climate change strategies.

Supporting results-based payments

With FAO’s assistance, countries can raise their ambitions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. GCF funds for REDD+ activities can be accessed through the Readiness Programme, the Project Preparation Facility, and regular project cycle funding.

How does FAO work with GCF?

As a GCF Accredited Entity, FAO has the capacity and technical know-how to mobilize large flows of climate finance for country-driven, climate change mitigation and adaptation action. The Organization is a GCF grant-implementing entity for small- and medium-sized projects (up to USD 250 million) with low and medium levels of environmental and social risk.

By working alongside National Designated Authorities (NDAs), FAO helps its Members to develop funding proposals based on countries’ needs. Since the start of the FAO-GCF partnership, FAO has raised over USD 1 billion – in GCF grants and through co-financing – for transformative projects in 20 countries across 5 regions.

1 Accredited Entities are responsible for presenting funding applications to GCF, and then overseeing, supervising, managing and monitoring the overall GCF-approved projects and programmes.

2 NDAs are government institutions that serve as the interface between each country and GCF. They provide broad strategic oversight of the GCF’s activities in the country and communicate the country’s priorities for financing low-emission and climate-resilient development.
FAO as an implementing partner

FAO also extends its expertise and know-how by collaborating with other Accredited Entities to deliver results and implement the activities of approved funding proposals. As the implementing partner of seven approved projects, with a combined value of USD 70 million, FAO channels resources into projects and carries out the funded activities under the supervision of the partner Accredited Entity.

The Organization aims to deliver long-lasting impact beyond a project’s lifespan, and leverages its extensive expertise in sustainable resource management, climate change, and food and water security to ensure low-emission, climate-resilient development.

About the Green Climate Fund

GCF was established as the financing mechanism for the UNFCCC in 2010, tasked with supporting developing and transition countries as they scale up their efforts to meet the Paris Agreement target of keeping the global temperature rise well below 2° Celsius.

Readiness programme

- **Total value:** USD 70.5 million
- **Number of projects:** 94
- **NAP project portfolio:** USD 20.7 million is the total value of 16 approved readiness proposals for NAPs and/or adaptation planning processes
- **Rapid readiness grants:** USD 2.3 million is the total value of 7 readiness grants approved for climate-resilient recovery strategies in Afghanistan, Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Niger and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.