



FAO and the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme in brief

FAO as a readiness delivery partner

Access to climate finance enables countries to plan the road ahead in the context of a changing climate. Through its partnership with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – the world's largest dedicated fund for climate action – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supports countries' efforts to access the GCF Readiness Programme, which is aimed at enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

The Readiness Programme fosters country ownership of projects by strengthening institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks in accordance with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and other national climate change strategies.

The Readiness Framework Agreement between FAO and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was signed in November 2016 to help countries access GCF readiness grants, with FAO acting as the Delivery Partner of project activities. Readiness projects help countries to lay the foundations of transformative GCF projects and to develop climate-resilient recovery strategies based on their specific mitigation and adaptation needs.

Through its partnership with GCF, FAO stands ready to assist countries as they strive to raise their ambition on climate action and to meet the Paris Agreement target of keeping the global temperature rise well below 2° Celsius.

How FAO accelerates access to readiness grants

FAO facilitates countries' access to general readiness grants of up to USD 1 million per country per year, as well as grants of up to USD 3 million per country to support adaptation planning and processes.

The Organization plays a pivotal role in supporting countries throughout the readiness process, providing technical support for the development and submission of readiness proposals to the GCF Secretariat. FAO works alongside National Designated Authorities (NDAs) to assess countries' climate change-related adaptation and mitigation needs, identifying specific capacity or technical gaps, and addressing challenges or barriers to accessing or utilizing climate finance.

Once the readiness proposal is completed, the NDA submits the package to the GCF Secretariat in accordance with yearly deadlines. FAO and the NDA provide swift responses to the GCF Secretariat's queries through an iterative process until the proposal is approved.

FAO and the host country then sign the project agreement, paving the way for the disbursement of funds and implementation of project activities.

FAO's readiness portfolio in numbers:

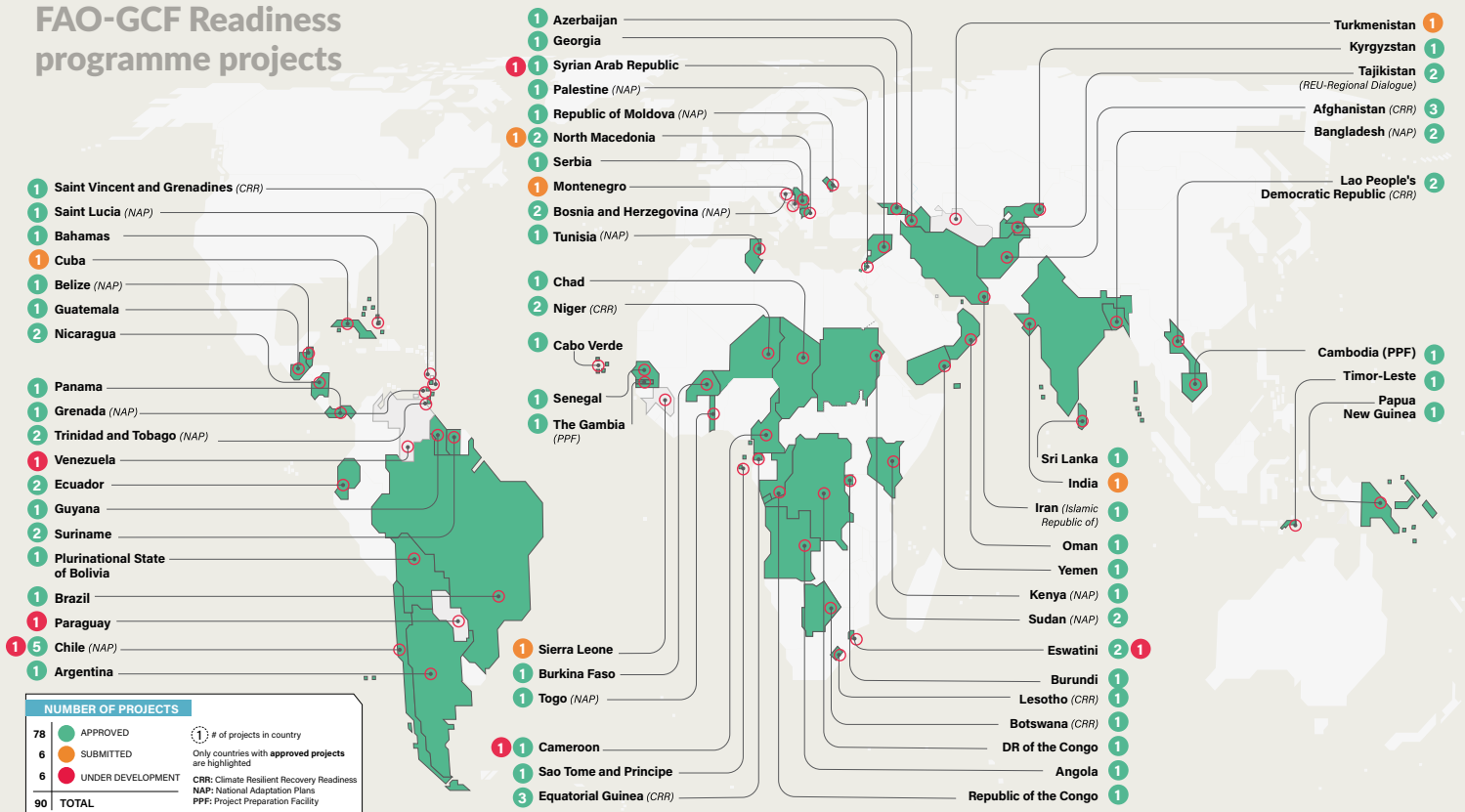
- USD **55.6** million – total value of FAO's readiness portfolio
- **78** projects approved
- USD **17.7** million – total value of 15 approved readiness projects for NAPs and/or adaptation planning processes
- USD **2.3** million in readiness grants approved for climate-resilient recovery strategies in Afghanistan, Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Niger, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Readiness for a green recovery

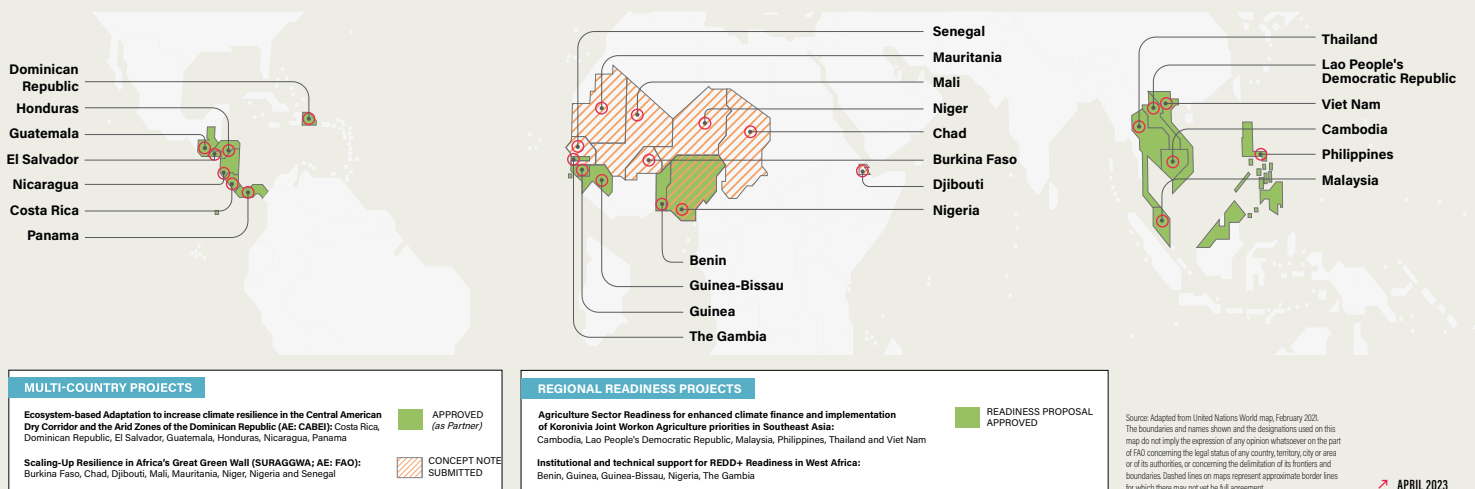
In 2020, FAO moved quickly to help countries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by facilitating access to rapid readiness grants, available for a limited period under the GCF Readiness Programme. Rapid readiness grants are instrumental in helping countries to develop climate-resilient recovery strategies and stimulus packages for a green recovery; similarly, the ensuing strategies are incorporated into NDCs and contribute towards the design of transformative GCF projects that raise countries' climate ambitions.

The Green Climate Fund has approved USD 2.3 million in climate-resilient recovery grants for the following seven countries with FAO as the Delivery Partner: Afghanistan, Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Niger, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These rapid readiness grants (up to USD 300 000 each) help countries to formulate strategies that are aligned with national climate change priorities – as outlined in NDCs, NAPs and other low-carbon, climate-resilient planning frameworks – and promote a climate-resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

FAO-GCF Readiness programme projects



FAO-GCF Multicountry funding proposals and regional readiness grants



Contact: For more information please visit our website at www.fao.org/gcf/en or write to us at fao-gcf-team@fao.org



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