

GCF Project: ‘Support to Republic of Moldova in establishment and strengthening the NDA, development of strategic framework, and preparation of Country Programme.’

Draft: Operational Manual of National Designated Authority of the Republic of Moldova in relation to the Green Climate Fund

Chișinău
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PREFACE

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was created **at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, through Decision 3 / CP.17 of 11 December 2010. This fund was designated as an operational entity of the financial mechanism set out in Article 11 of the Convention. It has also been established that the goal of the Green Climate Fund will focus on an essential and ambitious contribution to achieving the ultimate goal of UNFCCC. In the context of sustainable development, the Fund will promote a paradigm shift towards building low-emission, climate-resilient pathways by supporting developing countries to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of change climate, taking into account the needs of countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. The Green Climate Fund's Development Readiness Programme, jointly with UNDP, UNEP and the World Resource Institute, provides support to countries for increased access to international finance for climate change. The Program supports the National Designated Authorities (NDAs) or the Green Climate Fund nominated focal points for the engagement with the Fund. The main objectives of the Readiness Programme are aligned with the Fund's governance tools and previous decisions of the Conferences of the Parties to UNFCCC.

The financing agreement on the implementation of the Readiness Programme through the project "Support for the Republic of Moldova in Establishing and Strengthening the National Designated Authority, Development of the Strategic Framework and Development of the National Programme of Engagement with the Green Climate Fund" was signed between the Republic of Moldova and the Green Climate Fund on April 28, 2017. Preparation and support will help increase institutional capacity and create the mandate for the National Designated Authority in regards to the relation with the Green Climate Fund. By strengthening the capacities of the National Designated Authority, the Republic of Moldova will be able to directly access the financial means of the Fund, through the accredited national entities or indirectly via the accredited international entities.

This **Operational Manual** describes the procedures guiding the work of the National Designated Authority regarding the rules set by the Fund and the national institutional and legal framework on climate change. It will serve as a support in the process of complying with the statutory requirements and administrative procedures subsequently imposed by the National Designated Authority.

ABBREVIATIONS

AE	Accredited Entity
CN	Concept Note
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPP	Call for Projects' Proposals
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
INDC	Intended National Determined Contribution
IRR	Internal Rate of Return
LECB	Low Emission Capacity Building Programme
LEDs	Low Emissions Development Strategy
CCAS	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARDE	The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MTBF	Medium-Term Budget Framework
NAMA	National Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCCC	National Commission on Climate Change
NDA	National Designated Authority
OM	Operational Manual
PP	Project Proposal
TC	Technical Committees
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

GENERAL CONCEPT

National Designated Authority or focal point: are governmental institutions nominated by the country to serve as an interface and communication platform between the country and the GCF. The NDA carries out a strategic and broad supervision of the GCF's activities in the country, communicating the country's priorities in financing low-carbon and climate resilient development projects. The NDA has a mandate that allows the institution to act on and influence an appropriate combination of planned economic and development policies with leverage on climate change priorities, the energy sector, sustainable development, as well as on natural resources management strategies and plans.

Accredited Entities: These may be private or public, non-governmental, sub-national, national, regional or international institutions that meet the standards and the requirements imposed by the GCF. Accredited entities carry out a series of activities that usually include the preparation of proposals for funding, their implementation, as well as monitoring and reporting to GCF and NDA on implemented in the country projects and programmes.

Country Programme: It is a document that describes the country's strategic vision of the engagement with the Green Climate Fund, including country investment priorities, as well as the conceptual notes portfolio, prioritized by the country project proposals / programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation, to be implemented with GCF support. The Country Programme is a living document and will be updated once a year or as needed.

Direct Access Entities: Are entities accredited by the GCF through direct access (Direct Access Entities/DAEs) to the financial support provided by the Fund. These are national entities that contribute to the strengthening of the country's ownership in the implementation of climate action. Entities accredited through direct access modality or those wishing to be accredited are eligible to receive the support of the Readiness Programme, at the request of the NDA or the focal point established at the country level.

Non-objection letter: It is a document developed and signed by the National Designated Authority, which shows that the project proposals developed by the accredited entities are in line with national development policies and strategies, climate change national strategies and action plans, and with the national investment priorities set out in the Country Program.

Gender policy: The gender mainstreaming approach aims to ensure that the NDA will effectively contribute to ensuring de facto equality between women and men and will, in turn, help to reduce gender disparities due to social, economic, and environment vulnerability exacerbated by the climate change. The gender dimension is to be incorporated in project activities funded by the GCF. All activities, whether implemented by entities, international, regional, national or sub-national institutions, will take into account gender specific issues and needs in relation to climate change and will be aligned with national policy on gender equality and GCF's gender equality principles.

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1. THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

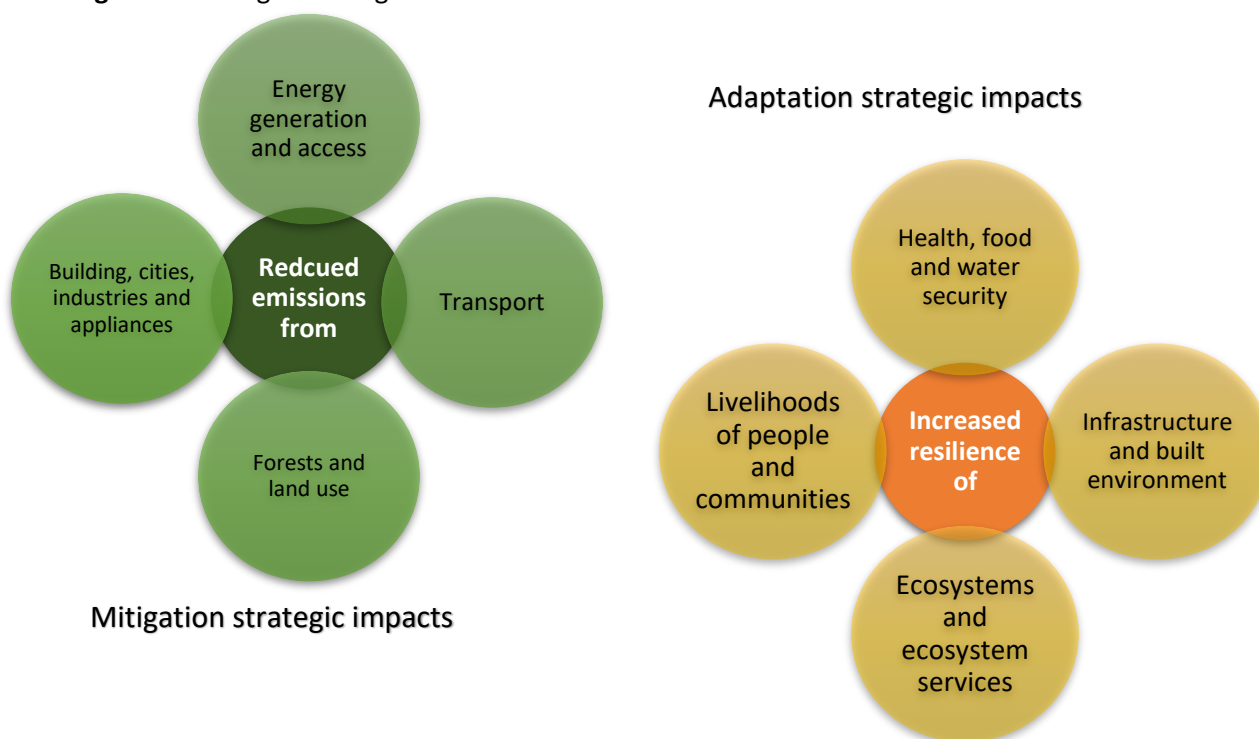
1.1 About the Green Climate Fund.

The Green Climate Fund is an international fund created to financially support the national projects and programs of developing countries, which are not part of Annex 1 (non-Annex1 parties) UNFCCC, on climate change mitigation. Cooperation with the GCF, will increase resilience of the economic sectors, ecosystems and human health in developing countries to the adverse effects of climate change, in particular to the advanced pace of global average temperature rise.

The Fund finances projects and programs developed by the public and private sector that will contribute to the sustainable development of the country on climate change adaptation and mitigation components, aiming a balanced allocation of funds between adaptation and mitigation projects or programs (50:50). Mitigation actions relate to greenhouse gas emissions reduction and increasing stocks of these gases.

The Fund finances projects and programs in accordance with the initial results management framework, which defines eight strategic areas - four mitigation areas and four adaptation areas.

Figure 1. The eight strategic results areas of GCF.



GCF also provides support for the development of capacity building activities of countries cooperating with the Fund. The degree of country readiness is not the only GCF support measure, but it is rather a continuous and interactive process to strengthen a country in its ability to access the financial means of the Fund.

GCF offers its support especially to vulnerable countries, including small states, less developed countries, as well as African countries, for which at least 50% of the total available fund is allocated. This support can be provided to countries through a wide range of accredited authorities, representing relevant experienced partners, as well as through NDA or national designated focal points as delivery partner.

The Fund was created by 196 sovereign countries, that are parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The GCF is governed by a council made up of 24 members of developed and developing countries and which is directly responsible for the decisions taken to the Conference of the Parties.

A secretariat, led by an executive director and a team of professionals, manages the day-to-day operations of the Fund. The Executive Director of the Fund bears responsibility for the decisions taken before its Board of Directors.

At the same time, focusing on the gender equality policy and its action plan, the Fund aims to contribute to reducing gender disparities and to introducing the gender equality dimension in GCF's projects. Specifically, its objectives include: (a) achieving better, more efficient, sustainable and equitable results on climate change; (b) to equally strengthen the resilience of women and men and the capacity to tackle climate change; (c) addressing and mitigating potential risks for women and men within projects; (d) helping to reduce gender disparities due to social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change.

The Fund will play an important role in channeling new financial resources in climate change. It will also promote a change of paradigm, regarding new investments of the partner countries governments, of the developing countries, as well as of the private and non-governmental sector.

1.2 Cooperation of the countries with the Green Climate Fund

Countries cooperating with the GCF are to promote the following actions:

Establishment of the National Designated Authority or a focal point. A designated national authority or focal point is the basic interface (platform) between the country and the Fund. It aims to ensure the activities supported by the Fund, aligned with the strategies and objectives of the national priorities, which contribute to adaptation and mitigation actions in accordance with national needs. For further details regarding the mandate and role of NDA, see the information in the chapter *Mandate, duties and the role of the National Designated Authority*.

Identification and accreditation of entities by GCF. The Fund will channel its financial resources through a public, private and nongovernmental network, through institutions operating at sub-national, national, regional and local level and which comply with the Fund's standards and procedures. These institutions must be aligned with the objectives of the Fund and comply with its fiduciary, environmental, gender and social equality policies, guaranteed through an accreditation process. The proposal for accreditation of the entities is made by the National Designated Authority or the designated focal point. After accreditation, the Accredited Entity will be responsible for the implementation of the projects / programs, including the gender equality policy regarding the project / programme approved by the Fund, as well as for reporting the results.

Development of the Country Program. The country program aims the fortification of the actions towards the development of a continuous process to obtain financing from the GCF. Projects submitted through such a process (pipe-line) have a much greater chance of obtaining funding.

At the same time, more attention will be paid to qualitative and quantitative monitoring indicators sensitive to gender, impact and outcome, by including them in the frameworks for managing results and measuring performance. Gender impact analysis will be ensured at different stages of the process of preparation, evaluation, approval and monitoring of projects by the relevant bodies.

2. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA FOR THE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

2.1 National strategic framework specific to climate change

The Republic of Moldova is considered a developing country. At the same time, it is important for the economic growth process to ensure the implementation of the most advanced low emission and climate resilient policies and technologies. Lately, the country's governance has been able to follow this principle by adopting and implementing a whole set of normative acts aimed at energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy sources, soil conservation, sustainable waste management, etc. The Republic of Moldova participated at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, in September 2015, in Paris, setting ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030, expressed in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

In order to achieve the NDC targets, the Low Emissions Development Strategy by 2030 of the Republic of Moldova (LEDS) and its implementation Action Plan¹ was developed and entered into force on 24th of March, 2017. This document presents an integrated vision on the paradigm shift of the Moldovan economy development in the medium and long term towards a path of green economic development, based on a study of constraints and solutions for low carbon emissions economic development. In this respect, it will strengthen and guide the sectoral development approach that outlines the country's climate change objectives and strategy in the medium term. The approach established in the LEDS is to increase the financial coverage for the promotion of adequate policies to mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions in the national economy sectors, without compromising the economic growth.

The general objective of LEDS corresponds to that set out in the NDC document. According to it, the Republic of Moldova committed to reach by 2030, the unconditional target of 64-67% reduction of GHG emissions compared to the level of the reference year (1990). The reduction of 64% corresponds to a scenario of the energy system development that allows to cover the internal consumption of electricity entirely through its own sources of generation, and the reduction of 67% admits imports of electricity in proportion of up to 30 percent. The commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions could conditionally increase up to 78%, in the case of obtaining low-cost financial resources, technology transfer and multilateral technical cooperation, all of them being appropriate to the global climate change challenges.

The LEDS will enable the Republic of Moldova to adjust its development path towards a low-carbon economy and achieve green sustainable development, based on the socio-economic and development priorities of the country.

In order to achieve the objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the short term, in February 2018, the Government approved "The program for promoting the "green " economy in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2018-2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation"². The implementation of the Program will ensure the development of the necessary capacities of all those involved in the planned activities, through the following specific objectives:

- Ensure, by 2020, the conditions of good governance and strengthen the institutional and management potential in promoting the "green" economy by 30% at national level;

¹ The Official Gazette 2017, no. 85-91. GD No. 1470 of 30.12.2016 regarding the approval of the Republic of Moldova's Low Emissions Development Strategy 2030 and its implementation Action Plan.

² <<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=374523>>

- ensure, by 2020, the promotion of measures to implement the principles of the "green" economy, so that 17% of gross final energy consumption comes from renewable sources and energy efficiency is improved by 8.2%.

The LEDS and the Environmental Strategy for the years 2014-2023 and Action Plan³ for its implementation are the normative acts of the Republic of Moldova that expressly specify the state policy in the area of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to these documents, a number of other normative acts have been approved, which also aim to overcome the climate change challenges, while their basic priority is focused on poverty reduction, economic growth, energy security and food security, etc. These include the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020"⁴, the Energy Strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030⁵, the Law on Energy Efficiency⁶, the Law on Promotion of the Renewable Energy Use⁷, the Law on Thermal Energy and Promotion of Cogeneration⁸, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Agro-industrial Complex of Republic of Moldova (2008-2015)⁹, the National Strategy for Waste Management 2013-2027 and others.

The actions set out in the mentioned documents will be implemented through the respective programs and plans. They include: National program for energy efficiency 2011-2020¹⁰, National action plan on renewable energy for 2013-2020¹¹, the Methodology of determination, approval and application of tariffs for electricity produced from renewable energy sources and biofuel¹², the Program of conservation and enhancement of soil fertility for the period 2011-2020¹³, the State Program of regeneration and afforestation of Forest Land for the period 2003-2020¹⁴ and others.

To reach the targets by 2020 and 2030, respectively, activities have already been initiated and will continue to be focused on:

³ Environmental Strategy for the years 2014-2023 and Action Plan. GD no. 301 of 24.04.2014. The Official Gazette of the RM 2014, no.104-109, art. 328.

⁴ National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020". Law no. 166 of 11.07.2012. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 245-247/791 of 30.11.2012.

⁵ National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020". Law no. 166 of 11.07.2012. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 245-247/791 of 30.11.2012.

⁶ National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020". Law no. 166 of 11.07.2012. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 245-247/791 of 30.11.2012.

⁷ National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020". Law no. 166 of 11.07.2012. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 245-247/791 of 30.11.2012.

⁸ National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020". Law no. 166 of 11.07.2012. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 245-247/791 of 30.11.2012.

⁹ The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Agro-industrial Complex of Republic of Moldova (2008-2015). GD no. 282 of 11.03.2008. 55. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 57-60 of 21.03.2008.

¹⁰ National program for energy efficiency 2011-2020, Government Decision no. 833 of 10.11.2011, The Official Gazette of the RM no. 197-202/914 of 18.11.2011.

¹¹ National action plan on renewable energy for 2013-2020, Government Decision no. 1073 of 27.12.2013, The Official Gazette of the RM no. 4-8/1 of 10.01.2014.

¹² the Methodology of determination, approval and application of tariffs for electricity produced from renewable energy sources and biofuel, ANRE Decision no. 321 of 22.01.2009. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 45-46/172 of 27.02.2009.

¹³ the Program of conservation and enhancement of soil fertility for the period 2011-2020 Government Decision no. 626 of 20.08.2011. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 139-145 of 26.08.2011.

¹⁴ the State Program of regeneration and afforestation of Forest Land for the period 2003-2020. Government Decision no.737 of 17.06.2003. The Official Gazette of the RM no. 132 of 01.07.2003

- prioritizing mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change;
- emphasize and eliminate barriers in the transition to low emission development;
- registration of mitigation actions on a regular basis, in the Register of appropriate mitigation actions at the national level, administered by the UNFCCC Secretariat.

The Low Emission Development Strategy envisages the implementation of 51 GHG reduction measures. In the Fourth National Communication to UNFCCC, the number of measures in question is 75, these being presented in a more detailed form than in LEDS. Not all measures, however, fall within the areas of GCF priority areas. From those corresponding to the priority areas of the GCF only the following are eligible for financing¹⁵:

- measures committed to achieve the conditional objective of the NDC, i.e. the 78% reduction in the level of net GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990;
- measures that are in line with GCF's financing criteria (impact potential, paradigm shift potential, sustainable development potential, beneficiary needs, country's ownership, as well as efficiency and effectiveness).

The Government of the Republic of Moldova is facing the difficult task of making adaptation decisions regarding investments that would maximize the well-being of the citizens under the conditions of budgetary constraints and of the competitive requirements for resources. Internal resources for adaptation actions are allocated through the national budget by the Ministry of Finance and refer to dedicated adaptation actions, along with actions with adaptation co-benefits included in sectoral development planning. A number of public funds, including the National Ecological Fund, the Regional Development Fund and, to a certain extent, the Energy Efficiency Agency and the Social Investment Fund of the Republic of Moldova have supported projects for water resource management, energy efficiency and infrastructure of roads, which have incorporated adaptation co-benefits.

In order to support climate change adaptation initiatives, both domestic and external financial resources will be used. Domestic financing can be provided from the state budget and other financial mechanisms. Special funds (National Ecological Fund, Regional Development Fund, Energy Efficiency Agency, etc.) will be an important tool for directing internal monetary flows into environmental investments and a mean of consolidating external and internal financing. An important role in this process must be played by the private sector and municipalities that have to contribute in financing climate action

External assistance and investments will play an important role in promoting climate change actions in all economic sectors and in catalyzing the specific investments that will be needed to ensure adaptation to the effects of climate change.

It is anticipated that the objectives of the strategy will be achieved to a greater extent as the Republic of Moldova obtains access to the financial mechanisms of the UNFCCC, such as the Adaptation Fund, the Special Fund for Climate Change and the Green Climate Fund, in order to implement some adaptation projects in the most vulnerable sectors of the national economy.

The attraction of financial means and the use of investment diversity to reach the targets stipulated by the primary normative framework can be found in the Republic of Moldova's Strategy for Climate Change

¹⁵ Further Development of the Initial Investment Framework: Sub-Criteria and Methodology. FVC/B.09/07 23 February 2015

Adaptation (CCAS) until 2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation. These documents provide an integrated view of the development opportunities of the Republic of Moldova and the ability to react in a resilient way to the impact of climate change and is supported by an in-depth study of future climate risks and the impact of climate change on vulnerable sectors. The CCAS and its implementation Action Plan serve as an umbrella strategy, and creates an enabling environment for the Central and Local Public Authorities to mainstream climate change adaptation and risk management into existing and future strategies through - a series of national adaptation plans (NAPs) and sectoral adaptation plans (SAPs), supported by a long-term financing strategy, which would include national resources and international support to prevent the adverse effects of climate change and to make the most of the opportunities offered by them.

The sectoral approach of the Republic of Moldova in climate change adaptation is a dominant one at the current stage of country's development, but the cross-sectoral and sub-national approaches are becoming increasingly important. Some sectors are already taking measures to carry out adaptation actions, while others need more support in planning and adapting.

National Adaptation Plan. The development of the first National Adaptation Plan (NAP1), based on existing development planning strategies and processes and in accordance with the UNFCCC Guide¹⁶, was carried out within the Project "Support for the national process of planning the adaptation of the Republic of Moldova to climate change"¹⁷, funded by the Austrian government. The NAP concept for the Republic of Moldova addresses national adaptation planning as a framework supported by periodic implementation tools, called "National Adaptation Plans" (NAPs) and "Sectoral Adaptation Plans" (SAPs). The NAP was developed and established as a process that allows the parties to identify the needs for adaptation in the medium and long term and to develop strategies and programs to meet these needs. As provided by UNFCCC, NAP is a continuous, progressive and iterative process. The NAP concept has established the key principles, the roadmap elements for NAP1, as well as the main components of NAP1.

Institutionalizing and strengthening the CCA coordination mechanism

Within the NAP1, the concept of the Coordination Mechanism for inter-sectorial planning and implementation of climate actions was developed, chaired by the National Commission on Climate Change.

An important component of this mechanism is the Monitoring and Evaluation system / framework. As the process of planning and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation progresses, the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies developed, the objectives and targets set at country and sector level are monitored and evaluated. For the adaptation component, not only the results of the undertaken measures are evaluated, but also the actual state of adaptation at the system level, that must lead to the reduction of the vulnerability and the increase of the systems' resilience and the organisms' resistance.

¹⁶ Guidelines for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), <<https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/guidelines-for-national-adaptation-plans-naps>>

¹⁷ "Supporting Moldova's National Climate Change Adaptation Planning Process" is supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) with funding from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of the Republic of Austria and implemented by Climate Change Office, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, under the guidance of UNDP Moldova.<<http://adapt.clima.md/index.php?l=ro>>

At the end of the planning period, the ministries, other central administrative authorities and local public administration authorities report on the undertaken actions to achieve the NAP and SAP targets and objectives. The reporting is carried out through the information system of monitoring, reporting and verification of climate change activities for both mitigation and adaptation components.

2.2 The role and contribution of the main stakeholders in the development of the Country Program

A wide range of actors in the country can contribute to identifying actions to reduce GHG emissions and adapting to climate change, through their support, including financial, as well as through their direct engagement and participation in the implementation of the formulated actions. These actors are government institutions, local public authorities, civil society, the private sector, accredited entities, etc. The active engagement of these stakeholders in the development of the Country Program for the engagement with GCF can also contribute to the promotion of new and innovative ideas on how the funding can be used, to clarify the possible ways of actions implementation, contributing, at the same time, to enhancing the transparency and legitimacy of the resulting program.

The key role in the development of the Country Programme strategic view is played by the MARDE, with responsibilities for the following areas: (1) agriculture; (2) food production; (3) food safety; (4) regional and rural development; (5) spatial planning; (6) environmental protection and climate change; (7) natural resources.

The basic functions of the Ministry are:

- development of policy documents, draft normative acts in the areas of competence;
- collaboration, in accordance with the national legislation, with foreign institutions in the areas of competence;
- formulating normative acts and implementing international treaties of the Republic of Moldova in the areas of competence, preparing reports on their execution;
- the examination and approval of the draft normative acts developed by other authorities of the public administration and submitted for review;
- the development and presentation of the budget proposals in the areas of competence, the preparation of the annual activity plan, as well as the annual monitoring of the degree of implementation through the preparation and publication of the respective reports;
- organizing the planning, execution, accounting and budget reporting systems within the Ministry and, where appropriate, within the subordinated budgetary authorities / institutions;
- coordination and monitoring of the activity of subordinated administrative authorities and decentralized public services and of the public institutions in which it is the founder;
- other specific functions.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry is responsible for implementing the international environmental treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a Party (including to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, signed by the Republic of Moldova on June 12, 1992, ratified by Parliament on March 16, 1995, the Kyoto Protocol, ratified by the Republic of Moldova on February 13, 2003, official date of the accession is April 22, 2003 and the Paris Agreement ratified by the Republic of Moldova on May 4, 2017).

Ministerial representatives also have the function of the Focal Point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The table below describes the role and contribution of stakeholders in the development of the Country Program in the engagement with GCF.

Table 1: Role and contribution of stakeholders in the development of the Country Program in the engagement with GCF.

Stakeholders	Stakeholders' engagement in the development of the Country Programme	Stakeholders' contribution	Stakeholders' engagement in the implementation of climate action
Governmental Institutions			
Sectoral Ministries	Coordination and promotion; identifying and prioritizing climate investments, leveraging of finances	Approval of national priorities and of the Country Program document Contribution in identifying national priorities for the engagement with GCF - development of concept notes and funding proposals	Supporting the process of: obtaining GCF's support; institutionalization of the implementation of climate actions, their oversight through the Coordination Mechanism and the M&E process; development and approval of the regulatory framework.
Members of the NCCC and of the Coordination Mechanism Technical Committees	Coordination, evaluation, promotion	NDA involvement in the Coordination Mechanism	Technical evaluation of projects; promoting projects for GCF financing; monitoring, reporting, evaluating the results of GCF funded projects
National subordinated institutions, Local Authorities			
Offices and Agencies	Draft Program development Identification of investment priorities	Employing/contracting experts, coordination of the concept notes and project proposal development, organizing public consultation and	Consultations on the related topics

Stakeholders	Stakeholders' engagement in the development of the Country Programme	Stakeholders' contribution	Stakeholders' engagement in the implementation of climate action
		debates, finalizing the program Contribution to prioritization of the climate-related investment areas as part of the CP, developing concept notes for new project proposals	Participation in the Country Programme implementation
Research Institutions	Recommendations and improvement ideas and proposals	Participation in the prioritization of the climate-related investment areas as part of the CP, developing new concept notes for new project proposals	Participation in the Country Programme implementation
Municipalities	Identification of investment priorities; Improvement ideas and proposals	Participation in the prioritization of the climate-related investment areas as part of the CP, developing new concept notes for new project proposals	Allocation of resources as country contribution to GCF projects
Private sector/ Banking Institutions			
Banking institutions	Intentions to be accredited	Expression of interest for GCF accreditation	Co-financing of climate-related projects Accreditation to GCF as DAEs
Civil society and community organizations			

Stakeholders	Stakeholders' engagement in the development of the Country Programme		Stakeholders' contribution	Stakeholders' engagement in the implementation of climate action
Mayors' Convention for Climate and Energy	Participation in public consultations and debates		Identification of project ideas proposals, implementation actions	Promotion of project activities and their implementation at the community level
Development partners / accredited entities				
Financial institutions and implementation units	Financing intentions, leverage of finances	Co-financing of projects/programmes, implementation of projects	Co-financing of projects and implementation of projects/programmes based of NoL from the NDA	

3. MANDATE, DUTIES AND ROLE OF THE NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY

3.1 Mandate of the National Designated Authority

The designation of an NDA is the first step in the country's cooperation with the GCF. The NDA of the Republic of Moldova is the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment.

In accordance with the *Initial Guide on Best Practices for Selecting and Establishing the National Designated Authorities and Focal Points*¹⁸, the mandate of NDA involves actions that can influence economic and development policies appropriate to climate change, sustainable development and environmental resource management.

3.2 Objectives of the National Designated Authority

The main objective of the NDA is the commitment to attract the GCF's financial resources, in order to finance the country programs / projects on climate change, in accordance with the priorities stipulated in the strategies and programs developed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, which will be ensured by:

- promoting at country level the climate change programs / projects according to the priorities established by the Country Program;
- acting as a mediator for stakeholders interested in accessing the financial means of the GCF;
- ensure country's ownership in the identification and implementation of climate-related project/programmes

3.3 Duties of the National Designated Authority

For the engagement with GCF, NDA has the following attributions:

- maintains a permanent communication with GCF secretariat through correspondence based on electronic mail and not only;
- leads the development of the Country Programme for the engagement with GCF and provides the oversight of its implementation;
- facilitates and organizes GCF representatives' country visits and provides written communications, as appropriate;
- keeps an overview of all funding proposals and facilitates the available information on projects and programs in the media;
- enhances the capacities of stakeholders to contribute to the achievement of national mitigation and adaptation strategies and plans;
- ensures an unbiased and transparent procedure in the country, regarding the appraisal of programs / projects concept notes and proposals.

In its activity NDA is guided by the following principles:

- Transparency in decision-making related to the funds received from the GCF;

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<https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/466886/Best Practices Guidelines for NDA FP Selection and Establishment.pdf/ad4834dc-53ff-4799-801e-1e1b9f1b41cf>

- Social inclusion;
- Impartiality and equal opportunities for all applicants;
- Ensuring a non-discriminatory gender policy;
- Confidentiality;
- Collaboration with all stakeholders, including the private sector in order to obtain the necessary support for obtaining GCF financing.

NDA aims to create a responsible, professional team, that will coordinate and manage the communication with the Fund and the management of the operational activities. The team will coordinate the country's efforts for the development of the Country Program focusing on adaptation and mitigation projects at national level.

To ensure consistency and funds complementarity in climate action, along with increased synergy of climate finances to reach country's NDCs targets, the NDA interacts with focal points and designated authorities of other funds, where appropriate.

NDA is obliged to know the activities of other funds in the country. Based on its capabilities, it coordinates the relevant mechanisms of several stakeholders.

3.4 Role of the National Designated Authority

It ensures the strategic country ownership.

The strategic country ownership must ensure the alignment of sustainable development objectives at the national level, including climate strategies and policies, i.e.: SDGs goal, Action Plan for the implementation of the Republic of Moldova's Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation, NAMA projects and National Adaptation Plans.

Country ownership is a fundamental principle of the GCF based on which decisions are made to finance the projects in the prioritized areas of intervention.

The Fund's governance instruments provide for wide promotion and country-driven approach, commitments and effective involvement of relevant institutions, as well as stakeholders in setting out country priorities for climate investments. The operational activity of the GCF is determined by the indirect financial support, but also by the application of the direct access procedures by the Accredited Entity.

The activity of NDA and Accredited Entities should be aligned with national gender equality policies and priorities (for example, the National Strategy for Ensuring Gender Equality for the years 2017-2021 / Climate Change Area) and the gender equality policy of the Fund.

It convenes the public, private and civil society representatives to identify and consult the national priorities to be financed by the Fund.

The stakeholders to be engaged in the consultation process include national-level authorities or entities, such as: civil society, project developers, private sector actors, financial institutions, communities, including climate change vulnerable groups, which will benefit by the project or program financed by GCF. At the same time, the procedure of public consultations and decision-making during

the preparation and implementation of projects and programs, along with their monitoring and evaluation must also include representatives of NGOs, women's groups.

Nominates entities (national, regional, public and private) regarding their request for accreditation with GCF within the framework of "direct access modality " to its financial resources.

NDA is committed to the public, private and non-governmental sectors to designate entities with direct access (DAEs) to GCF. The entities are guided in this regard by the Direct Access Accreditation to GCF Guidebook, which can be found online on the GCF web page¹⁹.

Examines and evaluates project / program proposals.

Through the experts of the technical committees, NDA examines and evaluates the project / programs proposals received from the accredited entities, so that they correspond with the national priorities established in the Country Program. This is the first step to obtain the Letter of Support and the Non-Objection letter from NDA by the accredited entities in order to access the financial resources of GCF.

It implements the Non- Objection procedure for the programs / projects proposals, in accordance with the national priorities on climate change.

By applying the Non-Objection procedure, NDA verifies that the project proposals are aligned with the national policies and strategies on climate change.

The Non-Objection letter is produced and signed by NDA and sent to GCF by the Accredited Entity. If the Non-Objection letter is missing, the GCF notifies the NDA, and if the latter does not react within 30 days, the proposal will be suspended and the accredited entity informed of the taken decision.

Monitors and evaluates the programs / projects, as well as other activities financed by the Fund in accordance with the rules and procedures established and approved by the Board of Directors of the GCF.

The AND is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Country Program and, as part of the Coordination Mechanism on climate change, it has the possibility to apply the M&E system to the adaptation projects and MVR to the mitigation projects. The purpose of monitoring procedure is to monitor national objectives and targets for reducing GHG emissions, as well as those for adaptation to climate change. At the request of the NDA or the NCCC, the AE or the implementation units will carry out a report on the progress of the implementation of the projects in the format of reports, questionnaires, data provided, etc.

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<http://www.FVCreadinessprogramme.org/sites/default/files/Comprehensive%20Guidebook%20for%20NIE%20Accreditation%203.0.pdf>

Figure 3. Key role of the National Designated Authority



3.5 The Members of the National Designated Authority

As mentioned above, GCF NDA in Moldova is the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment. The official representative of the NDA is the State Secretary for Environment of the MARDE, named through a Nomination Letter addressed to GCF.

With the exception of his / her duties, the Secretary of State for the Environment has the following responsibilities within the NDA:

- Manages the NDA activity;
- Convenes the NCCC and apply Climate Change Coordination Mechanism on issues related to NDA and GCF
- Signs on behalf of NDA, the letters of support and non-objection letters;
- Communicates and informs GCF about the results obtained in the implementation of the programs / projects;
- Reports to stakeholders about the activity of the NDA and the engagement with GCF;
- Exercises other duties in accordance with the internal rules of the NDA.

4. THE DECISIONAL CONTEXT OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY

4.1 Applying the Coordination Mechanism in managing the activity of the National Designated Authority

The draft of the Government Decision regarding the establishment of the inter-institutional climate change coordination mechanism is produced in order to establish the legal and institutional framework for carrying out the process of coordination, evaluation, monitoring, reporting and verification of the planning and implementation of the climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, including through GCF projects.

In order to institutionally strengthen the NDA, in the evaluation, monitoring, reporting and verification of GCF projects / programs concept notes and funding proposals, the NDA will be guided by the procedures established by the coordination mechanism.

4.2 The National Commission for Climate Change coordinating the actions of the National Designated Authority

NDA coordination actions are carried out through the Coordination Mechanism chaired by the National Commission for Climate Change (CNCS), with the following composition:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
- Minister of Economy and Infrastructure;
- Minister of Finance;
- Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration;
- Minister of Health, Labor and Social Protection;
- A representative of the local public authorities (appointed by the Congress of local authorities of the Republic of Moldova);
- A representative of the higher education institutions (appointed by the Council of Rectors of the Republic of Moldova);
- A representative of the non-governmental environmental organizations (designated by the National Council for Participation);
- A representative of non-governmental organizations promoting and defending women's rights (designated by the National Council for Participation);
- Two representatives of the private sector (appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova);
- Director of the Energy Institute.

NCCC is an inter-institutional body, without legal personality, which coordinates and promotes the implementation of climate-related activities in the Republic of Moldova under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter - UNFCCC), the national normative and legislative acts transposing the provisions of UNFCCC, as well as the provisions of Chapter XVI "Climatic policies" of the Republic of Moldova-European Union Association Agreement.

The NCCC provides the institutional and coordination framework in reporting, monitoring and verification, as well as facilitating the integration of climate change issues into national and sectoral programs and plans.

The activity of the NCCC is regulated by the Regulation of the National Commission for Climate Change. Thus, the users of this OM will be guided by the provisions described in the document indicated above.

4.3 The duties of the National Commission for Climate Change in support of the National Designated Authority

In its decision-making activity, the NDA relies on the climate change coordination mechanism chaired by the NCCC, which has the following attributions:

- Concludes on the quality of the concept notes or funding proposals of projects received from the accredited entities,
- Recommends NDA to issue letters of support and non-objections letters;
- Concludes on the progress made in the programs / projects' implementation financed by GCF;
- Supports NDA in other measures in relation to country's engagement with GCF.

MARDE attributions:

- Approves the functioning rules of the NDA;
- Approves manuals, operational guides related to NDA activity;
- Executes all NDA responsibilities and activities;

NCCC meetings are convened in accordance with the Regulation of the National Commission for Climate Change. The NDA is entitled to hold the meetings of the NCCC within the limits of its tasks and competences. The invitations to participate in the meeting, as well as the agenda, will be prepared by the NDA in collaboration with NCCC secretariat and will be delivered to their members no later than 15 days before - during the ordinary meetings and at least 5 days before - during the extraordinary meetings.

The meetings of the NCCC are conducted by its President or, in his absence, by the vice-President.

In support to NDA activity, the NCCC President has the following tasks:

- Convene for ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the NCCC at the request of NDA;
- Chairs the NCCC meetings;
- Approves NCCC decisions and minutes.

by The NCCC secretariat provides the following support to the NDA

- Organizes the NCCC meetings;
- Prepares and distributes NDA materials during the NCCC meetings;
- Prepares the minutes of the NCCC meetings;
- Assists NDA in other activities related to the secretariat.

4.4 Technical Committees

The technical committees (TCs) are set up within NCCC and have the purpose of providing technical expertise to this commission. In the light of its attributions, the TC also support the activity of NDA.

According to the Regulation of the National Commission on Climate Change, two technical committees are established, namely:

- TC on climate change adaptation ;
- TC on climate change mitigation.

TC consists of a roster of climate change mitigation and adaptation experts with professional expertise connected to the following areas: agricultural; energy; transport; industry; forestry; health; water resources; development of climate change policies; development of institutional capacities; gender equality; others as needed.

The selection procedure, as well as the hiring of experts, is described in the Regulation of the National Commission on Climate Change.

TCs represent the NDA's advisory support, set up for the purpose of providing technical expertise in reviewing concept notes and project proposals, for the submission to the GCF for obtaining the financing. Based on carried out technical assessments, TC concludes and provide recommendations to NDA on the compliance of concept notes and project proposals to the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation investment priorities. The technical expertise provided by the TC is one of the main criteria for the issuance by NDA of the letters of support for the concept notes and communication of non-objection to funding proposals.

- A map indicating the location of the project / programme;
- Diagram of change theory;
- Economic and financial model with key assumptions and potential scenarios identified;
- Pre-feasibility study;
- Evaluation report of the previous project;
- The results of the examination of the environmental and social risks.

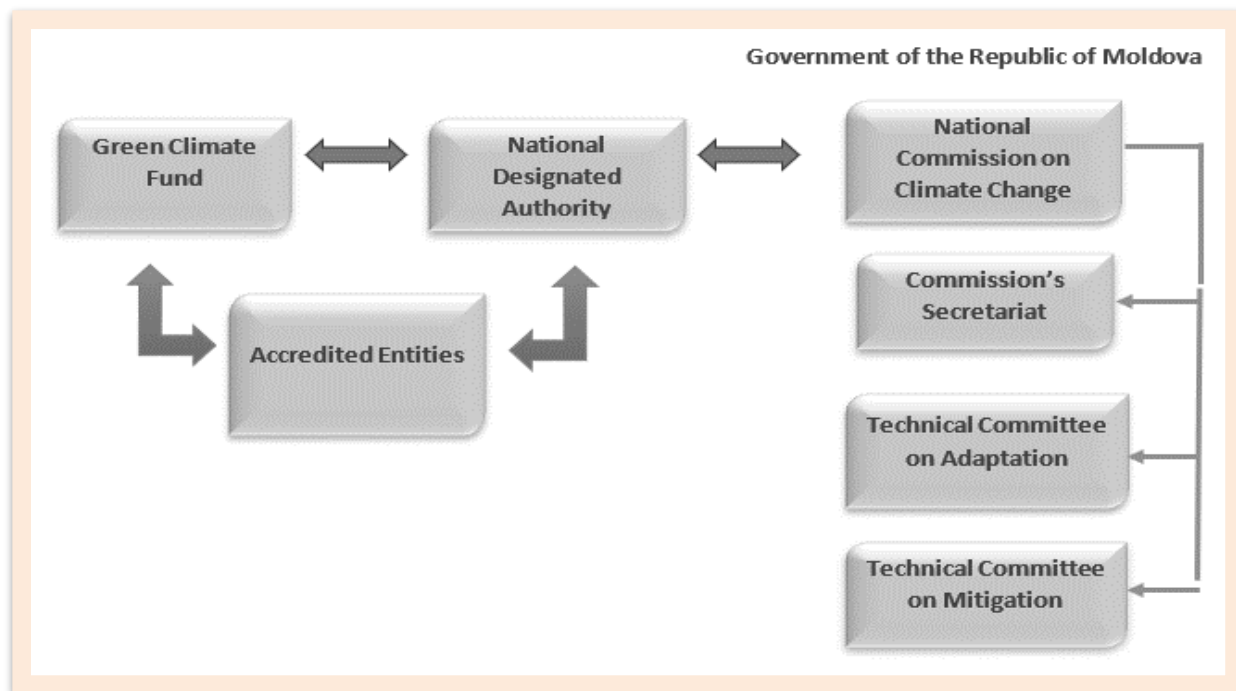
Also, TC expresses its opinion and recommendations with regard to the set of documents to be submitted to the GCF by the accredited entities. The mandatory documents requested by the GCF focus on, but are not limited to:

- Feasibility study;
- Environmental and social safeguard impact assessment;
- Stakeholders' consultation of at national and sub-national levels, including with indigenous people, if applicable;
- Gender assessment and action plan;
- Operations and maintenance plan, if applicable;
- Instructions on credit or grant management;
- Letter of commitment regarding co-financing.

TC meets ad-hoc, at the request of NDA, undertake technical assessment of the programs / projects proposals to be submitted for GCF financing. Following the TC assessments, they present to NCCC evaluation reports with recommendations regarding technical expertise of submitted concept note or project proposal based on which the NDA decides whether or not to issue the endorsement letter for the concept note and communicate no-objection to the project proposals.

The structure and the interaction between the NDA and the entities involved in the activity is reflected in figure 4.

Figure 4. NDA structure and its relations with the involved entities



5. STAGES OF PROGRAM/PROJECT APPROVAL

The programs / projects funded by the GCF represent a series of interventions, meant to contribute to the achievement of the national objectives and targets set in the climate change policy documents of the Republic of Moldova, as well as to ensure a paradigm shift towards low emissions and climate resilient development.

The role of NDA in the programs / projects' approval stages is to facilitate the access of the financial resources of the GCF through national and international AEs. While it is a voluntary step, developing a concept note, is highly recommended as experience has shown that it leads to better proposals. The following steps are recommended to be followed in the submission of a program / project:

5.1 Stage I Early phase

Step 1 - Launch the Call for Project Proposals

The launch of the CPP is made by the GCF in accordance with its terms, policies and selection criteria. GCF publishes calls for proposals for potential beneficiaries. Calls can be continuous processes or with deadlines focused on certain financing topics.

Step 2 – Dissemination by the National Designated Authority of the information on the opportunities to access GCF funds under various programmes and facilities through the funding proposals

The dissemination by the NDA of the information on GCF funding opportunities aims to strengthen efforts and establishing institutional cooperation in order to promote and encourage potential applicants to benefit from the financial resources of the GCF.

This activity describes the actions for conducting public dissemination and awareness campaigns in a manner that would provide a broad coverage of the issues related to accessing the financial resources of the GCF, as well as convincing AEs to make plausible decisions in the short, medium and long term, regarding the expected benefits from the implementation of these projects.

To promote GCF funding opportunities NDA encourages AEs and stakeholders to get engaged in the collaboration with GCF, establishes dialogue with AE and beneficiaries of projects / programs; consolidates and applies various communication channels: advertises in printed media, websites, direct mail, seminars, trainings, sponsorships, TV programs and support schemes.

NDA information and dissemination campaign regarding various GFC funding opportunities, aims also at informing potential proponents on the needs and benefits GCF projects bring with regard to mitigate the impact of climate change and adapt to its effects.

The information campaigns are intended to raise awareness among the sectors of the national economy, as well as the private sector, civil society, the general public, namely: line ministries, central and local public administration authorities, private companies, NGOs, women's associations, etc. The private sector is highly encouraged to participate in achieving the national climate change objectives, by initiating access to the financial resources of the GCF.

Public awareness is an important tool for achieving climate change national objectives. The NDA has to launch the information campaign at an early stage, taking into account social and gender dimensions.

For this purpose, appropriate awareness raising and information materials will be developed to be disseminated with the application of the following instruments: the organization of TV presentations, which will be placed on the Internet pages of ministries, public authorities or on a page specially created for this purpose. NDA will develop a package of informative materials, which will be distributed to government organizations, non-governmental institutions and the private sector regarding access to the financial means of the Fund.

Step 3 - Develop and submit concept notes for project proposals

AEs or other proponents develop the concept notes according to GCF requirements.

The AEs or proponents will advance for review the developed concept note or project proposal to the NDA. The development of the concept notes is prepared on the basis of the GCF Concept Note application template (Annex 7) and the guidelines for its completion in accordance with the GCF recommendations²⁰.

According to the standard template recommended by GCF, the Concept Note (see annex 7) will include the following information that will allow TC experts to assess the eligibility of the proposed project:

- Program / project summary;
- General information about the program / project;
- Information on the total cost of investments and the structure of the budget;
- Other justified documents annexed to the Concept Note.

The CN and the relevant set of documents are submitted to NDA based on the request for reviewing them and issuing of the letter of support/endorsement according to Annex 1.

Step 4 - Organize public consultation of the submitted concept notes

The CN undertakes stakeholder consultation. The stakeholder may be any public or private institution in the country that is directly or indirectly linked to the implementation of a project or program in its area of activity. The AE is directly responsible for organizing these debates.

The consultative process requires the involvement of all relevant actors from the public and private sectors, academia, civil society and other stakeholders. The procedure of public consultations includes also the participation and representation of NGOs /, women's groups and associations. The announcement regarding the organization of public consultations and related materials shall be made public at least 15 working days before the finalization of the draft decision. In this context, the organizers of the public consultations will be guided by the provisions of art. 11, paragraph 2.2 of Law No. 239 of 13.11.2008 on transparency in the decision-making process²¹.

²⁰ https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/239759/GCF_Concept_Note_User_s_Guide.pdf/64866eea-3437-4007-a0e4-01b60e6e463b

²¹ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=329849>

Public consultations will be organized by the AE or potential beneficiaries in close coordination with NDA. The latter will check the documents that will establish the organization and the pursuit of consultations. To this end, the organizers of the consultations will use all means of communication and dissemination of their project idea through publishing the information in the media, on its web page and will collect opinions and comments from the stakeholders. Likewise, in case of necessity, it will organize meetings with the civil society, during which the activities of the project will be discussed. The Country Program will be the basis of the final decisions regarding the promotion of the concept note following the public debates.

As proof of undertaken stakeholders' consultation, the accredited entity and / or the potential beneficiary will present to NDA as part of submitted documents for the request of endorsement letter, the confirmatory information from the institution's website, extracts from newspapers, radio or TV shows, minutes of meetings with stakeholders and civil society.

5.2 Stage II Review of the concept notes

Step 5 – NDA designation of the technical expertise for the CN

The NDA distributes the CN for review to the TC experts. More experts from TC can participate in the evaluation of the CN, thus, they evaluate the proposal against the evaluation criteria in accordance with Annex 2 of this OM.

Step 6 - The evaluation report of the CN by the Technical Committees

The experts of the technical committees produce the evaluation report of the CN, that is the first step in the NDA request to NCCC for providing recommendations, based on what the NDA will issue the letter of support/endorsement. The evaluation report includes general information about the project and how it contributes to the achievement of national climate change targets and objectives. If this is the case, the experts of the technical committees will justify their recommendations to the members of the NCCC

5.3 Stage III. Approval of Concept Notes

Step 7 - Recommendations of the National Commission for Climate Change regarding the approval of the concept notes.

Based on the evaluation report of the experts of the TC, the NCCC provide recommendations on the support or rejection of the concept note submitted by AE. If the CN receives positive recommendations, the NDA initiates the procedure for issuing the letter of support. If the CN does not support the recommendations from the NCCC, it is sent back for improvement. The recommendations regarding the support or improvement of the CN are set in the minutes of the NCCC meeting.

Step 8 - Issue the letter of support/endorsement

The NDA prepares, signs and sends the letter of support to the AE that developed the CN.

Step 9 - Submitting the CN to the Green Climate Fund

The AE or NDA submits to GCF the developed concept note accompanied by the letter of support endorsed by the NDA. The Fund's comments to CN will highlight whether the concept is approved, rejected, or needs improvement. The AE or NDA will comply with GCF decisions and inform proponents about CN's procedural status.

5.4 Stage Iv. Development of Project Proposals

Step 10 – Initiation of the development of project proposals

If the CN is approved by the GCF, AE or NDA initiates the procedure for developing of the project proposal (PP) In this respect, AE is guided by the GCF's recommendations on the PP development according to the standardized template (Annex 8) developed by the Fund²².

If until this step AE has not been identified, then it is obligatory for it to be identified and to follow further on the activity on developing the project proposal together with the concept note applicant/potential beneficiary.

Step 11 - Organizing public consultations

Equally to the CN, the PP is consulted at national level with relevant stakeholders. Stakeholder consultation process of pp will be undertaken in accordance with step 4 of the present guide. The AE will document these public consultations in great detail and will present them during the submission phase of the PP.

Step 12 - Submitting project proposals

The AE develops the PP based on agreed and approved by GCF CN and submits it to NDA for verification and evaluation The PP, along with application set of documents requested by the GCF is submitted to the NDA, accompanied by a request letter for the PP review and the issuance of the non-objection letter from the NDA. The template of the letter of request regarding the PP evaluation is developed and signed by the AE in accordance with Annex 3 to this manual.

5.5 Stage V. Review of Project Proposals

Step 13 - Designation of technical expertise for PP evaluation

The NDA distributes PP to TC experts for technical evaluation that is under the responsibilities of TC expert/s.

During the PP evaluation, the experts will complete the evaluation grid following the main components of the template presented in the Annexes no. 4 and 5 to this OM. PP technical review will be undertaken

²² <https://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/funding-projects/fine-print>

separately for mitigation and adaptation projects. The experts from the technical committees will be guided in their evaluation process by the following primary and general criteria:

The primary criteria for evaluating mitigation projects²³

Criteria	Minimum accepted performance index
Impact potential	Reduce emissions throughout the lifetime of the project with at least 750 kt CO ₂ equivalent
Paradigm shift potential	The potential for growth or replication is at least twice that of the proposed activity in the targeted area; Significant contribution to the creation of an environment or regulatory framework and policies that lead to tangible and measurable climate outcomes.
Sustainable development potential	Significant level of co-benefits provided in at least two of the following four areas: environmental, social, economic or gender equality.
Beneficiary's needs	Clear evidence that the Fund's intervention targets the needs of vulnerable individuals and groups (defined as the most vulnerable 50% of the population in terms of exposure, sensitivity and ability to adapt to climate change); Clear evidence that the Fund's intervention is because of the lack of alternative sources of funding or institutional capacity.
Country's ownership	Demonstration of alignment with the country's climate change strategy or plan; Sharing the investment priorities of the Country Program; Component of the country portfolio. Alignment with national gender equality policies and priorities.
Investment efficiency	Estimated cost per t CO ₂ equivalent (defined as the total investment cost / estimated emission reduction over the lifetime of the project) under \$ 230 per t CO ₂ equivalent; A greater RIR than zero (applies to mitigation proposals or from the private sector); The crowdfunding report of additional funding of at least 2: 1 (applies to mitigation proposals or from the private sector).

²³ Further Development of the Initial Investment Framework: Sub-Criteria and Methodology. Annex III.A: Initial assessment methodology (option A). GCF/B.09/07. 23 February 2015.

The primary criteria for evaluating projects on adaptation

Criteria	Description
Contribution to reducing vulnerability at national level and increasing climate resilience of sustainable development	The extent to which the proposed project / program contributes to a sustainable development more resistant to climate change, reducing vulnerability by enhancing the adaptability and resilience of the population targeted by the proposed activity, focusing in particular on the most vulnerable population groups and applying a gender sensitive approach.
Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries	The total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries as a result of the implementation of the project / program, the extent to which the project / program contributes to reducing the vulnerability and increasing the resilience of the population (applying the gender equality approach).
Contribution to transformational adaptation / paradigm shift	The proposed project / program has the potential to be resized and scaled (scalability and replication) at the region and country level, based on new / innovative technological interventions that will contribute to triggering deep and lasting changes in practice and which are expected to improve the means and the standard of living with a positive impact on the behavior of the population. The project / program will contribute to the regulatory and political framework and will promote good governance in order to systematically respond to climate challenges.
Contribution to improving economic performance and high level of co-benefits (environmental, social, gender)	The extent to which the proposed project / program contributes to poverty reduction and national / local economic growth, as well as the creation of co-benefits that will lead to positive effects on the environment and social status. Examples include the total number of jobs created, the reduction of the government budget deficit, the improvement of access to education, the improvement of cultural regulation or conservation, the improvement of health and food security, the improvement of air quality, the soil, the conservation of biodiversity, the reduction of gender disparities due to social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities, exacerbated by climate change. These co-benefits can also come from the development / modification of the mechanisms (social and political / legislative) that will be necessary for the implementation of the proposed project / program.
Funding needs of vulnerable groups, target population, sectors, development regions and the country	It takes into account the level of economic and social development in association with the level of exposure to climate risks and the degree of vulnerability of the beneficiaries - social groups, identified as being particularly vulnerable or of the target population, disaggregated by gender; of the sectors, of the development regions targeted by the proposed project / program.

Technical and economic feasibility	Economic stability / viability and, as the case may be, long-term financial / project sustainability, application of best practices and / or best technologies (innovation).
Country's ownership	Demonstration of alignment with the country's climate change strategy or plan; Sharing the investment priorities of the Country Program; Component of the country portfolio. Alignment with national gender equality policies and priorities.

The general criteria for evaluating adaptation and mitigation project proposals will be the same for both cases.

Step 14 - The evaluation report of the project proposal

The experts of the technical committees produce a PP evaluation report. The report is a prerequisite for initiating the procedure for communicating of the non-objection to the PP. The evaluation report will include information about the project as well as basic data that led the decision making regarding the approval of the proposal.

5.6 Stage VI Approval of project proposals

Step 15 - Recommendations provided by the National Commission for Climate Change regarding the approval of the project proposals

Based on the technical evaluation report, NCCC concludes on the quality of the PP and provides recommendations to NDA. If the proposal is supported by the NCCC, the NDA initiates the procedure for communicating the non-objection to the PP. If the proposal is not supported by the NCCC and this is mentioned in the provided recommendations, the NDA decides on further action, most probably returns the PP to the AE for further improvement with opportunities for re-submission. NCCC' recommendations regarding the support or the need for further improvement of the project proposal are mentioned in the minutes of the NCCC/AND meeting.

Step 16 - Communication of non-objection and issue of the non-objection letter (NoL)

Communication of the no-objection to the pp is seen as a procedure to ensure a coherence of the project proposal with the national strategies and plans of actions on climate change, as well as with the national priorities on mitigation and adaptation stipulated in the Country Programme. The issuance of the non-objection letter is a mandatory condition of GCF in the approval of the funding proposals and it is the main endorsing document of the NDA that expresses country's acceptance the specific project to be implemented on its territory, along with its ownership and responsibilities for the oversight over

the project and its results. It also expresses a collective and transparent decision taken by the NDA through the use of inter-sectoral Coordination Mechanism that enforces common commitment to support implementation of the specific project.

In order to increase the transparency of the decision, in accordance with the Government Instrument of the Fund²⁴, pt. 46, each proposal will be accompanied by a document that will demonstrate how the promotion and consultation process was carried out at country level. If the document is not provided or the information is not convincing, the GCF is entitled to reject the proposal.

At national level, the NDA shares its non-objection to specific project with general public, shortly after NoL has been issued. In the case of funding proposals for a programme, the non-objection procedure will be applied for all activities and projects, which will be carried out within the respective programme.

NDA communicates to AE the no-objection to the funding proposal, through the No-objection Letter (NoL) which will be signed by the official representative of the NDA. GCF will officially confirm to the NDA the receipt of the non-objection letter as part of the application set to the GCF.

In the case of submissions that are not accompanied by the non-objection letter, the GCF Secretariat will inform the NDA that the funding proposal cannot be processed and return it to the applicant (AE) for coordination with NDA. NDA undertakes to prepare and provide its objections within 30 days of receiving this information. The deadline is set by the guidelines of good practices recommended by the GCF (p. 47, Annex 3 Engaging with the Green Climate Fund)²⁵. After the expiry of the indicated term, if the NoL is not provided to GCF as part of application set, the proposal will be suspended and the Secretariat will notify about this the NDA and the applicant (AE).

The message from the NDA non-objection letter will indicate the following:

- a) The government of the country has no-objection to the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal;
- b) The project or programme, as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with country's national priorities, strategies and plans;
- c) In accordance with the FVC's environmental and social safeguards, the project or programme as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with relevant national laws and regulations.

The non-objection letter will be formulated according to the GCF recommendations from annex 7.

²⁴ https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574763/Governing_Instrument.pdf/caa6ce45-cd54-4ab0-9e37-fb637a9c6235

²⁵ https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574763/Governing_Instrument.pdf/caa6ce45-cd54-4ab0-9e37-fb637a9c6235

5.7 Stage VII Decisions of the Green Climate Fund

Step 17 - Analysis and recommendations of the GCF Secretariat and Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

The technical advisory group, established within the GCF, independently evaluates the technical performance of the project or programme against GCF performance criteria, as defined in the initial investment framework required by the Fund. Following these evaluations, the technical advisory group prepares a technical evaluation report for the Secretariat, which will include recommendations referring to funding the project or program. In turn, the Secretariat advances for examination to the GCF's Board of Directors only the project proposals that received positive recommendations from the TAG and the results of the evaluations and the response to the AE will be made public on the GCF website.

Step 18 - Decision of the GCF's Board of Directors on the approval of the project proposals

The Board of Directors of the Fund will take the decisions on non-conditioned or conditioned approval, or rejection of the funding of the project. GCF Secretariat informs the AE and NDA about the decision taken with regard to GCF funding of the project. (Decision B.04 / 04, B.06 / 09 and B.13 / 24).

Step 19 - Legal arrangements for the proposals approved by the Green Climate Fund Board

Together with the AE, the secretariat initiates a dialogue on the preparation of the legal arrangements for concluding the financing contract. Parties participating as co-financers, as well as the NDA, are informed by the Secretariat of the conclusion of the financing contract and the launch of the project / program implementation procedure.

The Secretariat examines the conditions of the legal arrangements and the proposals from the parties involved in the process, and if these conditions are incompatible with the GCF policies, the Secretariat notifies the Board of Directors, which will subsequently take a decision regarding the reshuffling of the situation created (Decision B.16 / 02). At the end, the executive director of the fund signs the necessary legal agreements between GCF and AE to initiate the implementation of the project / programme.

After approval of the financing and the necessary legal measures, the project or program proceeds to the execution phase, with the allocation of the financial means from the Fund to the AE according to the agreed terms and conditions. Following these steps, the project or program becomes imputable, and the monitoring and evaluation process begins and continues until the project or program is completed.

5.8 Stage VIII Application of the procedures for monitoring and evaluating the projects financed by GCF

In accordance with p. 57 of the Governance Instrument for GCF²⁶, programs and projects, as well as other activities financed by the Fund, are subject to regular monitoring and evaluation procedures.

²⁶ [Governing Instrument for the GCF](https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574763/Governing_Instrument.pdf/caa6ce45-cd54-4ab0-9e37-fb637a9c6235)

https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574763/Governing_Instrument.pdf/caa6ce45-cd54-4ab0-9e37-fb637a9c6235

The monitoring will be based on the performance indicators established by the GCF. During the monitoring process, reports will be prepared by AE according to the requirements established by the GCF. The monitoring reports are completed and submitted to the GCF Secretariat by the AE, based on Decision B.08 / 10, Annex XIII, Chapter II²⁷ and Decision B.10 / inf.10²⁸ of the FVC Council. The entities involved in the implementation of the programs / projects financed by the GCF will be guided in this regard by the procedures described in Section 6.2 of the framework for managing the results of the Fund²⁹, Decision B 07/04.

The table below represents the generalization of the steps described above and will be undertaken by an AE in order to obtain funding from the GCF.

Table 2: Approval stages of GCF funded programs / projects

Stage	Stage Title	Steps	Step's title	Responsible party	Note
I	Generation of Proposals	1	Launch of the Call for Proposals (CPP) or continuous call	GCF	According to CPP requirements
		2	Dissemination of information regarding the launch of the CPP by NDA	NDA Secretariat	Continuous Process
		3	Development and submission of the CN	AE	Continuous Process
		4	Organization of the CN public debates	AE with the participation of NDA	15 days
II	Verification and evaluation of the CN	5	Designation of the technical expertise for the CN	NDA	1 day
		6	CN Evaluation report	TC	10 days
III	CN Approval	7	NCCC decision regarding the approval of the CN	NCCC	1 day
		8	Issuance of the Submission letter	NDA	1 day
		9	Submission of the CN to GCF	AE	According to CPP requirements

²⁷ Decision B.08/10, Annex XIII, Chapter II.

²⁸ Progress report provided in document GCF/B.10/Inf.10.

²⁹ Document GCF/B.07/04.

IV	Development of the Project Proposals (PP)	10	Initiation of the PP development	AE	According to CPP requirements
		11	Organizing PP's public debates	AE with participation of the NDA	15 days
		12	PP submission	AE	N/A
V	Verification and evaluation of the PP	13	Designation of the TC on the PP	NDA	1 day
		14	PP evaluation report	TC	10 days
VI	PP approval	15	NCCC decision regarding the PP approval	NCCC	1 day
		16	Issuance of the non-objection letter	NDA	1 day
VII	GCF's Decisions	17	Analysis and recommendations of the technical advisory group	GCF Technical Group	GCF procedure
		18	Decision of the Administration Council	GCF Council	GCF procedure
		19	Legal provisions	GCF Secretariat	GCF procedure
VIII	Application of the monitoring and evaluation procedure			NDA, AE	Permanently, during the project implementation

6. APPLYING BUDGETARY PLANNING TO ACCESS GCF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

In order to access the financial resources of the GCF, the accredited entities will be subject to the procedures related to the Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF) of the Republic of Moldova. The MTBF is the main document based on which the sectoral budgets are to be elaborated. The purpose of this document is to provide an analysis in accordance with the macroeconomic framework of the country, thus establishing the basis for budget planning for the next 3 years, in accordance with the Government's strategic priorities.

Based on the sectoral spending limits, the public authorities will update the sectoral expenditure strategies, with their subsequent posting on the authorities' web pages. If an AE wants to access the financial resources of the GCF using financial instruments such as loans, grants, equities, concessions, others that directly affect the national public budget, and the Government of Moldova, within the specific project and programmes intervenes as guarantor to GCF, the applicant or the public authority benefiting from the project in question, will initiate the budget planning procedure and include these actions and their affiliated budget in the MTBF.

Following NDA's endorsement of the Concept Note, the applicant or the potential beneficiary of the program / project informs about the Ministry of Finance and requests the initiation of modifications in the MTBF in the compartment of revenues and expenses of the extra budgetary sources to be accessed from the GCF funds. The planning is carried out based on the CN's budget, developed by the AE and the potential beneficiary (Annex 7, points A and C of the OM). The Ministry of Finance informs the Beneficiary and the AE on the results of the application procedure, and solicitants (AE or beneficiary) will comply with MoF requirements.

Based on the response received from the MoF, the AE informs the NDA on the Ministry of Finance official acceptance and, in turn, NDA issues the letter of support for the CN, having a mandatory point the term of validity of the budget planning commitments, which will not exceed the period of 3 years from the date of approval of the Mid-term Budgetary Framework through the Government Decision. At the stage of submission of the project proposal to the GCF, AE together with the potential beneficiary, coordinates with MoF the planning in the MTBF of the funding to be accessed within the GCF project.

If the AE requests financing from the GCF in the form of loans, grant or other financial instruments that do not affect the national public budget and the financial risks are taken over by the AE, there is no need to carry out a budget planning procedure as described above.

7. ACTIVITIES AND MINIMUM MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION IN THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY WITH THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

As GCF NDA, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment develops and promotes a transparent, consolidated and efficient internal / external communication that aims to correctly inform all the participants in the decision-making process regarding the actions taken and carried out, within country's engagement with GCF.

7.1 Internal Information and communication

Internal communication refers to the exchange of messages that takes place inside NDA both vertically and horizontally. The communication within NDA / MARDE is formal, the messages are transmitted on preset channels / means of communication. The scheme of organizing the communication within the NDA / MARDE corresponds to the ministry's organizational chart and respects the internal institutional hierarchy.

The formal channels of communication are deliberately created by establishing responsibilities, according to the hierarchical structure of the ministry. These allow the transfer of information between levels (vertically) and directions (horizontally).

The orders, tasks and decisions of the ministry management are distributed to the employees through a resolution placed on the first page of the official documents. The tasks and information are distributed both through the secretariat section and directly to the heads of subdivisions, subsequently to the executors.

The exchange of information regarding different aspects of the professional activity takes place, usually, weekly during the planning sessions, quarterly through informative notes and reports disseminated through intranet.

Within a maximum of 3 working days, the decisions taken by all collective decision-making bodies and advisory bodies (commissions, committees, councils, working groups) are made public. The decisions are made known to those concerned by e-mail and in traditional form if the document contains concrete tasks.

Effective internal communication simplifies the accomplishment of professional activities. It also promotes socialization and facilitates the performance of tasks, decision making, problem solving, as well as providing employees with important information about their role, the institution in which they work, the external environment or information about interpersonal relationships with colleagues.

All these Verbal, written and electronic forms of communication allows NDA to attract the attention of the members of the coordination mechanism, to warn of the existence of problems within the organization, to stimulate creativity and to increase the cooperation inside, to record certain

organizational or legal facts, to inform in a way official and to briefly give the discussions and decisions of a meetings. They can also include solutions, spread information quickly, enable remote collaboration and ensure quick access to information.

The following official channels of internal communication are used within the NDA / MARDE:

- electronic (e-mail, intranet, fax, telephone, video conferences, specialized communication systems "Sigedia", etc.);
- printed (reports, brochures, manuals, specialty magazines, information panels, informative notes, letters, surveys, questionnaires, applications, etc.);
- face-to-face (live, speeches, meetings, focus groups, meetings, seminars, round tables, business lunches and social events or meetings).

The date and time of the meetings and planned events is set with a minimum of 5 days before they are held, and the information is disseminated to all the employees involved in organizing and conducting them.

The leaders of the subdivisions organize, as the case may be, brief meetings with discussion groups, to inform and obtain opinions on identified topics. Collaborators communicate in a clear and concise manner and build collegial relationships through verbal and non-verbal, non-sexist and non-discriminatory empathy.

7.2 External information and communication

In public relations, the NDA communicates with various audiences, thus, external communication is addressed to the public from outside the NDA (accredited entities, NGOs, central public authorities, local public authorities, women's associations, mass media, etc.).

The external communication has the purpose to inform the target groups about the rights and obligations in relation to NDA / MARDE, to inform the general public about the activity carried out, the policies developed and promoted, as well as to consult the public opinion regarding the actions taken and the obtained results.

NDA / MARDE facilitates and participates in the organization of working meetings with accredited entities, interested governmental institutions, central public institutions, in order to ensure the effective achievement of the set objectives, as well as informs the central and local public institutions about the common activities carried out and the arisen arguments.

NDA will permanently maintain contact with the press institutions and promote an active communication policy with the public and the media in order to communicate the true / necessary information and the press releases and to ensure a synergy in achieving the national priorities.

7.3 Minimum mandatory communication activities

- Preparation of announcements, notices, press releases with reference to the organized meetings, the initiated activities, the beginning and the completion of the programs / projects financed by GCF;
- Publication on the NDA web site and on other specialized platforms including on the social networks of all the announcements, notices, press releases, informative notes, reports referring to the NDA progress in the engagement with the GCF;
- The distribution in the media of announcements, notices, press releases referring to the organized meetings, the initiated activities, the beginning and at the end of the programs / projects financed by GCF, ensuring a gender sensitivity.

7.4 Information and graphic elements required for a press release / statement

These represent:

- The compulsory set of graphic symbols composed of relevant logos and the logo of the Government of the Republic of Moldova;
- The date, top right;
- The title, at the top, in the middle, and in the body of the announcement or press release:
 1. the name of the organizer;
 2. what is the general purpose / objective;
 3. what are the decisions, the expected results;
- The total value of the project financed by GCF, as well as the value of the co-financing;
- Start date and end date of the project;
- The beneficiary's contact details at the bottom of the document (website, email, telephone, fax, address, etc., whether he wants to be contacted).

The NDA message communicates the official position of the institution that must be known to all members, in order to better understand their involvement and the connections they have available.

Also, the messages are issued so that each one can know their individual role, their rights, but also their responsibilities within the current events (local, regional, national and international), as well as to know how to get involved in the course of these events.

8. GENDER EQUALITY POLICY WITHIN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND PROJECTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

In the context of sustainable development, GCF confirmed the commitment to consistently apply gender responsive implementation arrangements and frameworks to its projects.

GCF's policy on Gender Equality is expressed through the following key messages:

- Gender equality is essential for GCF. GCF has adopted the Policy on Gender Equality, has included it in its mandate to change the paradigm shift towards low emissions and resilient climate change pathways in order to maximize the co-benefits of climate action and development.
- By adopting a gender-responsive approach, GCF will effectively contribute to gender equality, and achieve better and more sustainable outcomes in climate change.
- Gender Equality Policy helps to ensure that women and men will equally benefit from GCF interventions and funding³⁰.
- The Gender Equality Policy further acknowledges that climate change initiatives are more sustainable, equitable and effective when gender equality and women's empowerment considerations are integrated into the design and implementation of projects³¹.

Based on the Gender Equality Policy and the Action Plan, GCF aims to reduce gender disparities and introduce the gender equality dimension in the projects funded by the GCF.

The GCF' Gender Equality Policy has three main objectives:

- (a) Support climate change interventions and innovations through a comprehensive gender-responsive approach, applied both within the institution and by its network of partners, including accredited entities (AEs), national designated authorities (NDAs) and focal points, and delivery partners for activities under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme;
- (b) Promote climate investments that: (i) Advance gender equality through climate change mitigation and adaptation actions; (ii) Minimize social and gender-related and climate-related risks, while also endeavoring to promote respect for and observance of human rights of all people, including women and men from vulnerable or marginalized communities in all climate change actions; and (c) Reduce the gender gap resulting from climate change exacerbated social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities and their exclusions through strategic climate investments that mainstream gender equality issues.

The positions mentioned above require the specification of key notions in the area, as follows: gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, gender budgeting, gender equality, gender sensitive indicators, gender roles, gender stereotypes.

³⁰ FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1 Gender Action Plan

<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/cop23/eng/11a01.pdf#page=15>

³¹ [https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/1087995/GCF_B.20_07_-_](https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/1087995/GCF_B.20_07_-_Updated_Gender_Policy_and_Action_Plan_2018_2020.pdf/9bd48527-6e35-a72a-2f52-fd401d16d358)

[_Updated_Gender_Policy_and_Action_Plan_2018_2020.pdf/9bd48527-6e35-a72a-2f52-fd401d16d358](https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/1087995/GCF_B.20_07_-_Updated_Gender_Policy_and_Action_Plan_2018_2020.pdf/9bd48527-6e35-a72a-2f52-fd401d16d358)

Gender mainstreaming is central to the GCF's objectives and guiding principles, including through engaging women and men of all ages as stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of strategies and activities to be financed. It is strategy/mechanism to introduction of the relevant needs, interests and priorities of women and men, in the context of climate change, in all policies and activities of institutions / entities benefiting from GCF projects, taking into consideration the projects' impact.

In accordance with the GCF Gender Policy and Action Plan, the core elements of gender mainstreaming required in GCF project design include:

- Country ownership in terms of alignment with national policies and priorities;
- A mandatory initial socioeconomic and gender assessment, to proactively build in a gender-sensitive approach to project planning design and implementation arrangements;
- Gender equitable stakeholder consultations based on the gender parameters in the policy;
- Determination of how the project/programme can respond to the needs of women and men in view of the specific climate change issue;
- Identification of drivers of change and gender dynamics required to achieve the project/programme adaptation or mitigation goals; and
- Identification and design of specific gender elements to be included in project/ programme activities³².

Gender analysis is a diagnostic tool of the differences between men and women in terms of specific activities, conditions, needs, access to control over their resources, as well as their access to development benefits and of decisions- making. Gender analysis of climate change actions aims to mainstream the two areas (gender and climate change) and can provide explanations regarding the impact of climate change and gender inequality, which are mutually conditioned.

Gender budgeting is the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the budgeting process. This means mainstreaming the gender perspective into all levels of the budgeting and restructuring process of income and expenditure, in order to promote gender equality. Gender budgeting examines how budget allocations affect the social and economic opportunities of men and women. Reallocations in revenue and expenditure and restructuring of the budget process may be needed to promote gender equality.

Gender equality refers to the exercise of equal rights and responsibilities by men and women, as well as by boys and girls in all spheres of life, with an emphasis on equal opportunities for men and women to benefit fully from policies and services in various sectors.

Gender sensitive indicators - indicators capturing the gender changes that have occurred within the programme in the community and society during a time period that provides direct evidence of the

³² [https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/194568/Guidelines -
GCF Toolkit Mainstreaming Gender.pdf/860d1d03-877d-4c64-9a49-c0160c794ca7](https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/194568/Guidelines_-_GCF_Toolkit_Mainstreaming_Gender.pdf/860d1d03-877d-4c64-9a49-c0160c794ca7)

status of women or men in relation to an approved normative standard or a clearly defined reference group. They provide information on how policies / programmes can be developed so as to reduce inequalities between men and women and promote de facto gender equality.

Gender roles are behaviours learned in a particular society, community or social group, in which people are conditioned to perceive activities, tasks and responsibilities as being associated with men or women. These perceptions are influenced by: age, class, race, ethnicity, culture, religion or other ideologies, as well as the geographical, socio-economic and political environment. Gender roles in a given social context can be flexible or rigid, similar or different, complementary or contradictory.

Gender stereotypes represent beliefs and ideas that, by limiting women and men to traditional roles, strengthen the simplistic, distorted image of women and men and can lead to gender discrimination. Stereotypes condition their decisions, values and behaviour under the adaptation to climate change.

8.1 Key Requirements for Green Climate Fund projects related to gender policy

According to the GCF requirements, after accreditation, the Accredited Entity will be responsible, at project / programme level, for the implementation of the gender equality policy regarding the project / programme approved by the Fund, by identifying and implementing projects in the country, as well as reporting the results. The application of the Fund's guidelines regarding the initial socio-economic and gender evaluations, as well as the environmental and social guarantees of the Fund in relation to the project / programme is mandatory.

In order to facilitate the development and implementation of the projects funded by GCF, we reiterate the priority areas of activity of the Fund, stipulated in Gender Action Plan of GCF for 2018 to 2020³³:

Priority area 1: governance

National designated authorities (NDAs), AE will be responsible for mainstreaming gender into activities and may request preparatory support from GCF to develop and/or strengthen their policies, procedures and competencies under the Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan.

Priority area 2: competencies and capacity development

Improving the understanding and expertise of stakeholders regarding the systematic mainstreaming of gender issues in GCF policies, programmes and projects.

In this context, it is recommended to organize trainings and information sessions for the target groups, actions to raise public awareness regarding gender equality and the implications related to climate

³³ https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/1087995/GCF_B.20_07_-_Updated_Gender_Policy_and_Action_Plan_2018_2020.pdf/9bd48527-6e35-a72a-2f52-fd401d16d358

change. Ensuring the equal active participation of women and men in activities and access to information at national / local level, which reflects various aspects of gender equality.

Priority area 3: resource allocation, accessibility and budgeting

All projects should include initiatives addressing the inequity of climate change impacts and provide gender-responsive solutions to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and country-driven readiness and national-level adaptation programmes.

GCF requirement to AE - to submit funding proposals that contain gender assessments and project-level gender action plans, which include implementation budget.

Priority area 4: operational procedures

GCF requirement to AEs – to have in place gender equality competencies to support the operationalization of the Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan. Thus, AEs should undertake:

- a) A mandatory initial gender assessment and develop a project-level gender action plan, complementary to the environmental and social safeguards (ESS) requirements;
- b) Gender-equitable, inclusive and meaningful stakeholder engagement and consultations conducted and documented throughout the design and implementation of the project

Include gender equality consideration in the GCF Operational Manual: 1. Guidance for NDAs/focal points, AEs on the mandatory socioeconomic and gender assessment and action plan at the start of each project.

100% of all approved funding proposals should contain a gender assessment and a project-level gender action plan, made for public viewing on the GCF website.

NDAs/focal points and entities may request support under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme to enhance their capacity to implement the Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan.

The project developers should select and apply a range of gender indicators to measure progress, outcomes and impacts. Application of gender equality guidelines in project preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Priority area 5: knowledge generation and communications

Based on the GCF request, NDAs/focal points, AEs, will learn and apply the Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan to all actions. Thus, NDAs/focal points and their countries, AEs, will seek to identify good practices and the contextual knowledge already available on gender and climate mitigation and adaptation programmes and projects implemented by other partners, to contribute to knowledge exchange activities on gender and climate change finance, supported by GCF.

At the same time, gender sensitive communication within the projects must be ensured. Gender-responsive communications and dissemination strategy will be developed. Gender-responsive communication materials should be developed and disseminated to internal and external stakeholders. Gender-responsive public

outreach activities will be undertaken at the national and grassroots level. Multimedia campaign on gender equality and climate change should be launched at the country level.

The balanced representation of women and men in all the products of the projects, the presentation of women not only as victims but also as agents of change.

Gender sensitive communication and climate change

- Ensuring balanced representation of women and men in various situations of climate change
- Use of non-stereotyped images
- Use of non-sexist images
- Highlighting the needs and opportunities of different socially vulnerable groups (engendering social inclusion) / affected health because of climate change
- Careful use / Avoidance of exclusive forms (only him)
- Creating a gender balance (use of feminine / masculine nouns).

Special factors:

Women and men have different experiences, perceive and identify differently the risks related to health, activity and life in the context of climate change. Capacities to reduce vulnerabilities and risks are determined by several factors: poverty, social class, education, age, ethnicity and gender relations. As climate change has a stronger impact on marginalized groups, women and girls are most at risk, with higher rates of morbidity, mortality and economic impact, due to reduced risk-resistance capacities.

Respectively, the gender aspects of climate change must be taken into account in the projects' implementation.

At the same time, the activity of the accredited entities, as well as the project proposals, must be aligned with the national policies and priorities regarding gender equality and GCF's gender equality policy. The following documents on gender equality of the Republic of Moldova, representing the basic instruments will be taken into consideration:

- Law no. 5-XVI on ensuring equal opportunities between women and men (2006)
- The Strategy for ensuring equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for 2017-2021 and the Action Plan on its implementation. Area of intervention: Climate change
- Law no. 121 of May 25, 2012 on ensuring equality
- Law no. 71 of 14.04.2016 for amending and complementing some legislative acts.

The connection with the Sustainable Development Goals is ensured as well, (gender equality being approached as a red thread within all the objectives relevant to the GCF's area of activity).

National Designated Authority

In the context of the GCF's gender equality policy, the National **Designated Authority (NDA)**, will ensure **the use of gender mainstreaming** in all procedures and documents related to the Fund's projects. The integrative approach of gender equality in the NDA activity represents the systematic inclusion of the relevant needs,

interests and priorities of women and men, in the context of climate change, in all the policies and activities of the institutions in the area.

The key points to be provided by NDA:

- National Designated Authority (NDA) should take into account a balanced representation of women and men within its structure.
- At the same time, it is important to strengthen the capacities of the NDA members, mainstreaming the gender dimension in the training programs.
- NDA will oversee the accreditation process and thereafter of the AE, in order to ensure that the entities will comply with the Fund's gender equality policy, applying the Fund's guidelines on initial socio-economic and gender evaluations, as well as the environmental and social guarantees of the Fund in relation to the project / the programme.
- Taking into account the NDA activity of monitoring / supervising the GCF projects, it has the responsibility to ensure the promotion of gender equality. Thus, NDA will work the sectoral or local level gender focal points of the projects. When evaluating the projects regarding the appreciation of the relevance of the gender equality approach in the GCF projects, the evaluation commission will request the expertise of the specialist in gender issues. In this regard, it is necessary to create the Gender Coordinating Council (in accordance with Law No. 5 of 2006 on ensuring equal opportunities between women and men), but also to train members.
- In order to ensure the monitoring of gender equality implementation in the context of climate change at country level, NDA will cooperate with the Governmental Commission for equality between women and men (in the process of reforming).
- Greater attention will be given to qualitative and quantitative monitoring indicators sensitive to gender, impact and outcome, by including them in the results management and performance measurement frameworks (GCF / B.08 / 07).
- The activity of the NDA and of the accredited entities must be aligned with the national policies and priorities regarding gender equality and the gender equality policy of the Fund, along with the alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals (gender equality is a red thread within all objectives, not only with the SDG 5).

8.2 Mainstreaming gender equality into the project management and implementation cycle

In accordance with GFC's Gender Equality policy and action plan, the following basic elements are important in the gender equality mainstreaming in the GFC projects³⁴:

- The responsibility of the country regarding alignment with national policies and priorities;
- Initial mandatory socio-economic and gender assessment, in order to proactively develop a gender sensitive approach in the development of the projects and the modalities of their implementation;
- Fair consultations of stakeholders, based on gender indicators in the policy;
- Determining how the project / programme can respond to the needs of women and men in the context of specific issues related to climate change;
- Identification of the determinants of change and of dynamics of gender equality in order to achieve the adaptation / mitigation objectives of the project / programme; and
- Identification and development of certain gender elements to be included in the activities of the project / programme.

In line with GCF³⁵ recommendations, gender mainstreaming in GCF projects can be summarized in a three-way approach of the gender sensitive project cycle:

- **Gender analysis:** understanding the social, economic and political factors underlying the gender inequality exacerbated by climate change, and the potential of women and men contributions to societal challenges in order to strengthen their approach and resilience to climate change;
- **Gender-sensitive actions:** methods and tools to promote gender equality and reduce gender disparities in climate-related actions; and
- **Gender-sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** measuring the results and impact of project activities on the resilience of women and men to climate change through gender-sensitive M&E.

The table below contains a list of guidance / verification questions and actions to ensure gender mainstreaming in the project cycle.⁵

³⁴ Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects. A practical manual to support the integration of gender equality in climate change interventions and climate finance (2017). First Edition. Green Climate Fund and UN women. Incheon

³⁵ Ibidem, p. 21

Table 3: List of questions to ensure gender mainstreaming in the programme / project cycle

Project Cycle	Questions	Actions
Project development phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was an analysis of gender performed as part of social evaluation and were relevant aspects of gender equality identified in the assessment? • Is the relevant data disaggregated by sex? • Are the benefits /the anticipated impacts for women, men, girls and boys appropriately highlighted in the project proposal? • Will the expected results of the project contribute to greater equality between women and men? • Will the expected results of the project contribute to empowering women? • Are specific measures to promote the active participation of women and men in decision-making processes included? 	
Project implementation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are gender sensitive actions taken into account when promoting the project and in communication strategies? • Has been a budget allocated to ensure implementation of gender-specific components (infrastructure and non-infrastructure components)? • Was the gender dimension of the project mainstreamed in the NDA Operational Manual? • Did the project lead to gender awareness of programmes for government, non-governmental and community organizations 	

	<p>and raised awareness of gender equality priorities, strategies and possible partnership in the area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the project carried out by including planning and mobilization exercises to ensure community participation in the implementation of gender sensitive programme? 	
Monitoring and Evaluation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been gender-specific targets for women and men set in terms of benefits and participation? • Is data collection disaggregated by sex requested at project monitoring and evaluation? • Were basic data collected to allow measuring the results / benefits of the project for women versus men? • Have the Enforcement Agency and other institutions entitled to implement the project, the ability to monitor / evaluate gender-based components? • Do the Progress Reports, Implementation / Assistance Reports, Information Management Systems, Final Reports present results with respect to gender equality and lessons learned? 	

In order to ensure the gender dimension mainstreaming in the country projects, the integrative methodology of gender equality is used through the Project Management Cycle³⁶.

³⁶ Adapted from: Project Cycle Management Handbook EUROPEAN COMMISSION EuropeAid Co-operation Office General Affairs, March, 2002; UNDP Guide "How to conduct Gender Analysis: A Guidance Note for UNDP Staff"; UNDP Gender Marker Guidance Note

1. Development

Gender analysis is usually performed in the project development phase in order to evaluate the impact that a development project can have on women and men and on gender relations. Respectively, the analysis will examine whether project development takes into account the possible differentiated impact of project activities on women and men of different ages, social status, ethnic groups, etc. The project analysis will also analyse how gender was taken into account during project identification and formulation.

The following of minimum questions will guide the gender analysis of the project:

- Was a relevant gender analysis of the project carried out at the beginning of the project? Have the results been included in the project development?
- Does the project concept and the framework of project actions take into account the gender aspects and the differentiated impact on the different groups of women and men / girls and boys?
- Was a stakeholder dialogue conducted and were the opinions of men and women consulted and included at the project initiation / development phase?
- How is the proposed project in line with the Strategy for ensuring equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2017-2021 and the Action Plan?
- Have been gender sensitive indicators developed and which types of indicators (quantitative and qualitative)?
- Does the proposed outcome framework specify how the dimensions of gender inequality will be addressed? Have specific goals been included to eliminate the gender differences identified? If not, is there an explanation as to why they were not taken into account?
- Have been specific gender-sensitive indicators and output indicators developed? Have the results and aims been planned with consideration of the relevance and benefits for both women and men (as non-homogeneous groups)?
- Who participated in selecting the objectives / results from the variety of needs to be addressed?
- Have been the necessary human resources with gender expertise identified for project implementation?
- Have been specific gender elements included / highlighted in the project budget? Has been an approach that constantly monitors the flow of resources allocation focused on gender issues identified?

2. Implementation

The evaluation of the implementation phase will analyse the existing differences (at the time of the evaluation) in terms of participation, the effect of the project on gender relations and the disparities in benefits and impact on women and men of different ages, social status, ethnicity, etc. The existing disparities will be identified and discussed with the project team, in order to agree on the best possible ways of introducing corrective approaches within an immediate time frame, taking into account the existing context of the project.

Successful examples will also be identified and highlighted to serve as inspiration for project teams.

The following of minimum questions will guide the gender evaluation of the project implementation phase:

- Does the work plan identify gender-specific activities? Through what activities are the women involved in the process of implementation and decision making in the work plan?
- Are gender experts, women's organizations and structures involved in project implementation and how?
- Have been the equal access and participation of women and men defined as key criteria in the project through opportunities, benefits and resources?
- Is there an allocation of resources focused on gender issues in order to achieve gender equality and empower women? What is their share of the entire budget? Is it possible to track the flow of these resources?
- Do women and men benefit in the same way from the project? Are there groups of women / men who are negatively affected by the project?
- Were the gender relations of women / men in the target group influenced as a result of the project? Have been gender differences reduced?
- Is it likely that gender relations will question the working hypotheses and influence the efficiency and sustainability of the project?
- Are there any new gender issues during project implementation? Are there new external factors and actors that affect the gender dimension outside the project? Has the project team analysed whether the newly identified issues have the same impact on women and men?
- How does data collection take place? Is the project implementation team aware and participating in ensuring the achievement of gender objectives?
- Do the beneficiaries (women / men) support the project or want to change it, why and how do they want to make changes? Is this supported by the project manager and the project staff?
- Is the allocated funding specifically used to address gender differences and is the allocated funding is sufficient?
- Does the project clearly show an alignment with the objectives / results of the Strategy for ensuring equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2017-2021 and the Action Plan, the SDGs and the national policies?
- What gender-specific skills / knowledge are needed to implement the project activities?

This is the minimum list of questions that can be adapted according to the context and specificity of the project.

1. Monitoring

This part will focus on the analysis of existing monitoring instruments, on the existence of the information disaggregated by gender, age, ethnic origin, etc. It will also analyse the approaches that the project manager and staff use to eliminate gender disparities and gender inequalities in the implementation of the project, in order to carry out the strategic review (if necessary). In this respect, existing indicators, data collection and analysis are essential for the provision of information, which will

help identify good practices during the implementation of project activities, highlight changes, set priorities, adapt approaches and track progress in achieving gender equality by implementing project activities. To summarize, monitoring should notify about the need to make changes or improve the efficiency of activities (or perhaps the allocation of funds) to ensure that the activities of the project benefit women and men of different ages, social status, ethnic groups, etc.

The analysis will examine the extent to which agreed arrangements for project management, project M&E and the availability of gender data are reliably and timely provided and accessible and for decisions-making.

The following questions (minimum list) will guide gender assessment in the monitoring exercise:

- Who is responsible for monitoring the results, goals and targets regarding the gender / gender dimension?
- Are there gender sensitive indicators included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the respective project?
- How are gender sensitive indicators used to measure the effects of project investments in promoting equal opportunities?
- Number of gender sensitive indicators in the project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan?
- How are gender sensitive indicators collected and if there is a mechanism to track them? Who is responsible for collecting and tracking these indicators?
- Are the outcome indicators and planned goals still relevant to benefits both women and men?
- Do the existing indicators provide sufficient information for decision-making during project implementation?
- Do the results and activities included in the capacity development measures reduce the gender inequalities related to this problem?
- What should be changed, improved, adapted in the implementation of the project to ensure the achievement of the targeted indicators?
- Does the project clearly show an alignment with the results of the Strategy for ensuring equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for 2017-2021 and the Action Plan, with the SDGs and national policies?
- What specific gender-sensitive skills / knowledge for monitoring and evaluation are needed for the project staff? Etc.

8.3 Gender analysis tools

4R Method³⁷

The 4R method provides tools for concrete discussions on how the perspective of equality can be mainstreamed into the particular area or activity, just as norms, in practice, govern our work, limit or strengthen gender equality.

³⁷ Adapted from: <http://www.includegender.org/toolbox/map-and-analyse/4r-method/>

1R and 2R are quantitative methods of analysis and refer to a systematic review of the distribution and use of resources. 3R and 4R are qualitative methods and refer to the norms and values used in the activities of the community / organization / institution and to the intervention modalities for changing them.

1R answers the question: How many women and how many men? - providing information on the proportion of women and men at all levels of the decision-making process and within different operations, i.e. decision makers, staff and users. The questions can be:

- How many women and men are members of the governing bodies / managers of companies, structures operative in the field?
- How many women and men were consulted in the decision-making process?
- How many women and men benefit from assistance / services in the programmes / projects?
- How many women and men are on the programme / project implementation team?
- How many women and men are part of the target group of projects, policies, programmes? Etc.

2R answers the question: How are the resources allocated for women and men? - providing information on the distribution of resources between women and men for different operations (materials, money, time, space, etc.). The questions can be:

- What are the costs of women and men services for health, water and sanitation, energy and so on; but also, the costs of access (e.g. transportation)?
- What are the incomes / benefits of men and women as a result of policies / programmes / projects (including climate change adaptation actions)?
- How much time do women and men spend for accessing / using health, water and sanitation services, energy and so on?
- How far do women and how far do men go to the required services?
- What kind of services do women and men respectively, access more frequently and as a priority?
- How many women and men were provided with the necessary equipment, trained in programmes / projects, etc.

3R answers the question: What are the reasons for the gender division and the existing allocation of resources between men and women? These are qualitative questions that result from studying 1R and 2R. The questions can be:

- What value is attributed to women experiences and knowledge and what value to men within the structures, institutions, councils?
- Do women and men have the same or different ways of accessing information / programmes? If they are different, why?
- What is the influence of gender stereotypes, socio-cultural norms on women / men in the implementation of the policy? And vice versa, how do policies diminish stereotypes about lifestyle? Effects.
- How can work methods be changed so that women and men can participate equally? Etc.

4R answers the question: How do we respond to the identified issues?

- What actions are needed to address identified gender disparities?
- What are the best ways to increase women's involvement in decision making?
- What are the best ways to facilitate access to services for women and men?
- What are the priority issues on which to intervene? Etc.

ANNEX 1 LETTER OF REQUEST FOR CONCEPT NOTE EXAMINATION(MODEL)

LETTER OF REQUEST FOR CONCEPT NOTE EXAMINATION

National Designated Authority

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the Call for Project Proposals no. _____ in the area of climate change launched by the Green Climate Fund, the Accredited Entity _____, with its registered office _____, represented by the Mrs. / Mr. _____, requests the National Designated Authority _____.

At the same time, we request the issuance of the letter of support for this programme / project, based on the following conditions:

- the type of financing _____ (credit, loan, grant, etc.),
- the amount requested by GCF _____,
- the value of own contribution _____,

Looking forward to a positive response from you and we remain available for any clarifications.

Respectfully,

_____(First name, last name)

Signature_____

Date_____



Ministerul Agriculturii,
Dezvoltării Regionale
și Mediului



ANNEX 2 EVALUATION SHEET OF THE CONCEPT NOTE

National Designated Authority

Programme/Project's Title _____

AE or Beneficiary Title _____

Intervention area (Mitigation, Adaptation) _____

Strategic Directions for the Framework-Management of the projects / programmes supported by GCF

Telephone, fax, e-mail _____

AE Address _____

Financing structure

Amount, USD

Share, %

Amount requested from GCF

Personal Contribution

Technical Assistance

Others (please specify)

No.	Evaluation criteria	Yes	No	N/A	Note
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE					
1	Does the document set correspond to GCF requirements?				
2	Are there any letters confirming co-financing?				
3	Was the concept note discussed with NDA and subjected to public debates?				
ELIGIBILITY OF THE PROGRAMME/ PROJECT					
1	Does the program / project correspond to the Country Program?				
2	Is the concept note aligned with national standards?				

3	Does the project / program contribute to the achievement of national climate change adaptation and mitigation targets?				
TECHNICAL AND INVESTMENT COMPLIANCE					
1	Does the project / programme contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases (on mitigation)?				
2	Does the project / programme contribute to resilience (on adaptation)?				
3	Does the baseline described by the applicant match the reality of the project / programme?				
4	Does the project / programme correspond to the investment criteria of the GCF				

It is recommended the support of the CN, elaborated by AE, with the issuance of the letter of support from the NDA of the programme / project _____

Yes

No

Names and signatures of the Technical Committees experts

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Date of report preparation _____

ANNEX 3 LETTER OF REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL EXAMINATION

LETTER OF REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL EXAMINATION

National Designated Authority

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the approval of the Concept Note from the Green Climate Fund, the Accredited Entity with its registered office _____ represented by Mrs/Mr _____ acting as _____, requests the National Designated Authority to examine the Project Proposal, named _____.

At the same time, we request the issuance of the non-objection letter for this programme / project.

Looking forward to a positive response from you and we remain available for any clarifications

Respectfully,

_____(First name, last name)

Signature _____

Date _____

ANNEX 4 EVALUATION SHEET OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL (mitigation)

National Designated Authority

Programme/Project's Title _____

AE or Beneficiary Title _____

Intervention area (Mitigation, Adaptation) _____

Strategic Directions for the Framework-Management of the projects / programmes supported by GCF _____

Total amount of the programme/project _____ USD

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Yes	No	N/A	Note
PRIMARY					
	Impact potential				
	Paradigm shift potential				
	Sustainable development potential				
	Beneficiary's needs				
	Country ownership				
	Efficiency and Effectiveness				
GENERAL					
<i>Lack of objections from the country's Government to the project / programme</i>					
	Are the positive approvals of the project / programme proposal obtained?				
	Are the environmental and social risks identified by the stakeholders and communities with the solutions to overcome them?				
	Is there support from stakeholders to promote the project / programme?				
	Are there similar activities in the area of interest of the project?				
<i>The project / programme included in the financing proposal is in accordance with the national priorities, strategies and plans of the country</i>					

	Does the project / programme correspond to the country's priorities (the legal clauses confirming the alignment of the project to national priorities)?				
	Does the project / programme contribute to achieving the country's strategic objectives?				
	Does the project / programme contribute to social objectives?				
	Does the project / programme contribute to the achievement of gender objectives?				
<i>The compliance of the environmental and social guarantees of the GCF are included in the financing proposal and are in accordance with the relevant national laws and regulations.</i>					
	Is there evidence that the project / programme complies with the relevant national laws and regulations?				
	Does the project / program have a budget contribution (taxes, taxes to be applied within the project)?				
	Is there a developed MRV system to be applied within the project / programme?				
	Is there a transparent and non-discriminatory procedure vis-à-vis the parties to be involved in the project / programme?				

It is recommended to support the PP, elaborated by AE, with the issuance of the non-objection letter from the NDA for the programme / project

YES

NO

Names and signatures of the Technical Committees' experts

1 _____

2 _____



Ministerul Agriculturii,
Dezvoltării Regionale
și Mediului



3 _____

Date of validation _____

ANNEX 5 EVALUATION SHEET OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL (adaptation)

National Designated Authority

Programme/Project's Title _____

AE or Beneficiary Title _____

Intervention area (Mitigation, Adaptation) _____

Strategic Directions for the Framework-Management of the projects / programmes supported by GCF _____

Total amount of the programme/project _____ USD

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Yes	NO	N/A	Note
PRIMARY					
	Contribution to reducing vulnerability at national level and increasing climate resilience of sustainable development				
	Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries				
	Contribution to transformational adaptation / paradigm shift				
	Contribution to improving economic performance and high level of co-benefits (environmental, social, gender)				
	Funding needs of vulnerable groups, target population, sectors, development regions and the country				
	Financial and economic feasibility				
GENERAL					
<i>Lack of objections from the country's Government to the project / programme</i>					
	Are the positive opinions of the project / programme proposal obtained?				

	Are the exposed environmental and social risks identified by the stakeholders and communities with the solutions to overcome them?				
	Is there any support from stakeholders to promote the project / programme?				
	Are there similar activities in the area of interest of the project?				
<i>The project / programme included in the financing proposal is in accordance with the national priorities, strategies and plans of the country</i>					
	Does the project / programme correspond to the country's priorities (the legal clauses confirming the alignment of the project to national priorities)?				
	Does the project / programme contribute to achieving the country's strategic objectives?				
	Does the project / programme contribute to social objectives?				
	Does the project / programme contribute to the achievement of gender objectives?				
<i>The compliance of the environmental and social guarantees of the GCF are included in the financing proposal and are in accordance with the relevant national laws and regulations</i>					
	Is there evidence that the project / programme complies with the relevant national laws and regulations?				
	Does the project / programme contribute to the budget contributions (fees, taxes to be applied within the project)?				
	Is there a developed ME system to be applied within the project / programme?				
	Is there a transparent and non-discriminatory procedure vis-à-vis the parties to be involved in the project / programme?				

It is recommended to support the PP, elaborated by AE, with the issuance of the non-objection letter from the NDA, for the programme / project

YES

NO

Names and signatures of the Technical Committees' experts

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Date of validation _____

ANNEX 6 NON-OBJECTION LETTER TEMPLATE

To: The Green Climate Fund (“FVC”)

[place], [date]

Re: Funding proposal for the FVC by [name Accredited Entity] regarding [name project/programme]

Dear Madam, Sir,

We refer to the project [or programme] [name project [or programme]] in [country] as included in the funding proposal submitted by [name Accredited Entity] to us on [date].

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of [name NDA/focal point], the National Designated Authority/focal point of [country].

Pursuant to FVC decision B.08/10, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

- (a) The government of [country] has no-objection to the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal;
- (b) The project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with [country]’s national priorities, strategies and plans;
- (c) In accordance with the FVC’s environmental and social safeguards, the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with relevant national laws and regulations.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the project [or programme] as included in the funding proposal has been duly followed.

[We also confirm that our no-objection applies to all projects or activities to be implemented within the scope of the programme.]

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the FVC website.

Kind regards,

Name:

Title:

ANNEX 7 CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE

Concept Note

Project/Programme Title: _____

Country(ies): _____

National Designated
Authority(ies) (NDA): _____

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE): _____

Date of first submission/ [YYYY-MM-DD] [V.0]
version number:

Date of current submission/ [YYYY-MM-DD] [V.0]
version number

Notes

- The maximum number of pages should **not exceed 12 pages**, excluding annexes. Proposals exceeding the prescribed length will not be assessed within the indicative service standard time of 30 days.
- As per the Information Disclosure Policy, the concept note, and additional documents provided to the Secretariat can be disclosed unless marked by the Accredited Entity(ies) (or NDAs) as confidential.
- The relevant National Designated Authority(ies) will be informed by the Secretariat of the concept note upon receipt.
- NDA can also submit the concept note directly with or without an identified accredited entity at this stage. In this case, they can leave blank the section related to the accredited entity. The Secretariat will inform the accredited entity(ies) nominated by the NDA, if any.
- Accredited Entities and/or NDAs are encouraged to submit a Concept Note before making a request for project preparation support from the Project Preparation Facility (PPF).
- Further information on GCF concept note preparation can be found on GCF website [Funding Projects Fine Print](#).

A. Project/Programme Summary (max. 1 page)			
A.1. Project or programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Programme	A.2. Public or private sector	<input type="checkbox"/> Public sector <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector
A.3. Is the CN submitted in response to an RFP?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, specify the RFP: _____	A.4. Confidentiality³⁸	<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential <input type="checkbox"/> Not confidential
A.5. Indicate the result areas for the project/programme	<p><u>Mitigation:</u> Reduced emissions from:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation <input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities and industries and appliances <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use <p><u>Adaptation:</u> Increased resilience of:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities <input type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem and ecosystem services		
A.6. Estimated mitigation impact (tCO₂eq over lifespan)		A.7. Estimated adaptation impact (number of direct beneficiaries and % of population)	
A.8. Indicative total project cost (GCF + co-finance)	Amount: USD _____	A.9. Indicative GCF funding requested	Amount: USD _____
A.10. Mark the type of financial instrument requested for the GCF funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursable grant <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantees <input type="checkbox"/> Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Subordinated loan <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Loan <input type="checkbox"/> Other: specify _____		
A.11. Estimated duration of project/ programme:	a) disbursement period: b) repayment period, if applicable:	A.12. Estimated project/ Programme lifespan	This refers to the total period over which the investment is effective.
A.13. Is funding from the Project Preparation Facility requested?³⁹	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other support received <input type="checkbox"/> If so, by who: _____	A.14. ESS category⁴⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> A or I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> B or I-2 <input type="checkbox"/> C or I-3
A.15. Is the CN aligned with your accreditation standard?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	A.16. Has the CN been shared with the NDA?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
A.17. AMA signed (if submitted by AE)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If no, specify the status of AMA negotiations and expected date of signing: _____	A.18. Is the CN included in the Entity Work Programme?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

³⁸ Concept notes (or sections of) not marked as confidential may be published in accordance with the Information Disclosure Policy ([Decision B.12/35](#)) and the Review of the Initial Proposal Approval Process ([Decision B.17/18](#)).

³⁹ See [here](#) for access to project preparation support request template and guidelines

⁴⁰ Refer to the Fund's environmental and social safeguards ([Decision B.07/02](#))

A.19. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach of programme/project (max 100 words)	<p>Brief summary of the problem statement and climate rationale, objective and selected implementation approach, including the executing entity(ies) and other implementing partners.</p>
B. Project/Programme Information (max. 8 pages)	
B.1. Context and baseline (max. 2 pages)	
<p><i>Describe the climate vulnerabilities and impacts, GHG emissions profile, and mitigation and adaptation needs that the prospective intervention is envisaged to address.</i></p> <p><i>Please indicate how the project fits in with the country's national priorities and its full ownership of the concept. Is the project/programme directly contributing to the country's INDC/NDC or national climate strategies or other plans such as NAMAs, NAPs or equivalent? If so, please describe which priorities identified in these documents the proposed project is aiming to address and/or improve.</i></p> <p><i>Describe the main root causes and barriers (social, gender, fiscal, regulatory, technological, financial, ecological, institutional, etc.) that need to be addressed.</i></p> <p><i>Where relevant, and particularly for private sector project/programme, please describe the key characteristics and dynamics of the sector or market in which the project/programme will operate.</i></p>	
B.2. Project/Programme description (max. 3 pages)	
<p><i>Describe the expected set of components/outputs and subcomponents/activities to address the above barriers identified that will lead to the expected outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of rationale, please describe the theory of change and provide information on how it serves to shift the development pathway toward a more low-emissions and/or climate resilient direction, in line with the Fund's goals and objectives.</i></p> <p><i>Describe how activities in the proposal are consistent with national regulatory and legal framework, if applicable.</i></p> <p><i>Describe in what way the Accredited Entity(ies) is well placed to undertake the planned activities and what will be the implementation arrangements with the executing entity(ies) and implementing partners.</i></p> <p><i>Please provide a brief overview of the key financial and operational risks and any mitigation measures identified at this stage.</i></p>	
B.3. Expected project results aligned with the GCF investment criteria (max. 3 pages)	
<p><i>The GCF is directed to make a significant and ambitious contribution to the global efforts towards attaining the goals set by the international community to combat climate change, and promoting the paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways by limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</i></p> <p><i>Provide an estimate of the expected impacts aligned with the GCF investment criteria: impact potential, paradigm shift, sustainable development, needs of recipients, country ownership, and efficiency and effectiveness.</i></p>	
B.4. Engagement among the NDA, AE, and/or other relevant stakeholders in the country (max ½ page)	
<p><i>Please describe how engagement among the NDA, AE and/or other relevant stakeholders in the country has taken place and what further engagement will be undertaken as the concept is developed into a funding proposal.</i></p>	
C. Indicative Financing/Cost Information (max. 3 pages)	

C.1. Financing by components (max ½ page)

Please provide an estimate of the total cost per component/output and disaggregate by source of financing.

Component/Output	Indicative cost (USD)	GCF financing		Co-financing		
		Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions

**Indicative total cost
(USD)**

For private sector proposal, provide an overview (diagram) of the proposed financing structure.

C.2. Justification of GCF funding request (max. 1 page)

Explain why the Project/ Programme requires GCF funding, i.e. explaining why this is not financed by the public and/ or private sector(s) of the country.

Describe alternative funding options for the same activities being proposed in the Concept Note, including an analysis of the barriers for the potential beneficiaries to access to finance and the constraints of public and private sources of funding.

Justify the rationale and level of concessionality of the GCF financial instrument(s) as well as how this will be passed on to the end-users and beneficiaries. Justify why this is the minimum required to make the investment viable and most efficient considering the incremental cost or risk premium of the Project/ Programme (refer to Decisions B.12/17; B.10/03; and B.09/04 for more details). The justification for grants and reimbursable grants is mandatory.

In the case of private sector proposal, concessional terms should be minimized and justified as per the Guiding principles applicable to the private sector operations (Decision B.05/07).

C.3. Sustainability and replicability of the project (exit strategy) (max. 1 page)

Please explain how the project/programme sustainability will be ensured in the long run and how this will be monitored, after the project/programme is implemented with support from the GCF and other sources.

For non-grant instruments, explain how the capital invested will be repaid and over what duration of time.

D. Supporting documents submitted (OPTIONAL)

- ☐ Map indicating the location of the project/programme
- ☐ Diagram of the theory of change
- ☐ Economic and financial model with key assumptions and potential stressed scenarios
- ☐ Pre-feasibility study
- ☐ Evaluation report of previous project
- ☐ Results of environmental and social risk screening

Self-awareness check boxes

Are you aware that the full Funding Proposal and Annexes will require these documents? Yes ☐ No ☐

- Feasibility Study
- Environmental and social impact assessment or environmental and social management framework
- Stakeholder consultations at national and project level implementation including with indigenous people if relevant
- Gender assessment and action plan
- Operations and maintenance plan if relevant
- Loan or grant operation manual as appropriate
- Co-financing commitment letters

Are you aware that a funding proposal from an accredited entity without a signed AMA will be reviewed but not sent to the Board for consideration? Yes ☐ No ☐

ANNEX 8 PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Project Proposal

Project/Programme Title: _____

Country(ies): _____

National Designated
Authority(ies) (NDA): _____

Executing Entities: _____

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE): _____

Date of first submission/
version number: [YYYY-MM-DD] [V.O]

Date of current submission/
version number [YYYY-MM-DD] [V.O]

Contents

Section A	PROJECT / PROGRAMME SUMMARY
Section B	FINANCING / COST INFORMATION
Section C	DETAILED PROJECT / PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION
Section D	RATIONALE FOR GCF INVOLVEMENT
Section E	EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA
Section F	APPRAISAL SUMMARY
Section G	RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT
Section H	RESULTS MONITORING AND REPORTING
Section I	ANNEXES

Note to accredited entities on the use of the funding proposal template

- Sections **A, B, D, E** and **H** of the funding proposal require detailed inputs from the accredited entity. For all other sections, including the Appraisal Summary in section F, accredited entities have discretion in how they wish to present the information. Accredited entities can either directly incorporate information into this proposal, or provide summary information in the proposal with cross-reference to other project documents such as project appraisal document.
- The total number of pages for the funding proposal (excluding annexes) is expected not to exceed 50.

Please submit the completed form to:

fundingproposal@gcfund.org

Please use the following name convention for the file name:

“[FP]-[Agency Short Name]-[Date]-[Serial Number]”

A.1. Brief Project / Programme Information		
A.1.1. Project / programme title		
A.1.2. Project or programme		Choose an item.
A.1.3. Country (ies) / region		
A.1.4. National designated authority (ies)		
A.1.5. Accredited entity		
A.1.5.a. Access modality		<input type="checkbox"/> Direct <input type="checkbox"/> International
A.1.6. Executing entity / beneficiary		Executing Entity: Beneficiary:
A.1.7. Project size category (Total investment, million USD)		<input type="checkbox"/> Micro (≤ 10) <input type="checkbox"/> Small ($10 < x \leq 50$) <input type="checkbox"/> Medium ($50 < x \leq 250$) <input type="checkbox"/> Large (> 250)
A.1.8. Mitigation / adaptation focus		<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigation <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-cutting
A.1.9. Date of submission		
A.1.10. Project contact details	Contact person, position	
	Organization	
	Email address	
	Telephone number	
	Mailing address	

A.1.11. Results areas <i>(mark all that apply)</i>	
<p><u>Reduced emissions from:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation (E.g. on-grid, micro-grid or off-grid solar, wind, geothermal, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport (E.g. high-speed rail, rapid bus system, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities and industries and appliances (E.g. new and retrofitted energy-efficient buildings, energy-efficient equipment for companies and supply chain management, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use (E.g. forest conservation and management, agroforestry, agricultural irrigation, water treatment and management, etc.)</p> <p><u>Increased resilience of:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities (E.g. mitigation of operational risk associated with climate change – diversification of supply sources and supply chain management, relocation of manufacturing facilities and warehouses, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security (E.g. climate-resilient crops, efficient irrigation systems, etc.)</p>	

- ☐ Infrastructure and built environment
(E.g. sea walls, resilient road networks, etc.)
- ☐ Ecosystem and ecosystem services
(E.g. ecosystem conservation and management, ecotourism, etc.)

A.2. Project / Programme Executive Summary (max 300 words)

Please provide a brief description of the proposed project/programme, including the objectives and primary measurable benefits (see [investment criteria in section E](#)). The detailed description can be elaborated in [section C](#).

A.3. Project/Programme Milestone

Expected approval from accredited entity's Board (if applicable)	dd/mm/yyyy
Expected financial close (if applicable)	dd/mm/yyyy
Estimated implementation start and end date	Start: <u>dd/mm/yyyy</u> End: <u>dd/mm/yyyy</u>
Project/programme lifespan	_____ years _____ months

B.1. Description of Financial Elements of the Project / Programme

Please provide:

- an integrated financial model in [Section I \(Annexes\)](#) that includes a projection covering the period from financial closing through final maturity of the proposed GCF financing with detailed assumptions and rationale; and a sensitivity analysis of critical elements of the project/programme
- a description of how the choice of financial instrument(s) will overcome barriers and achieve project objectives, and leverage public and/or private finance

a breakdown of cost estimates for total project costs and GCF financing by sub-component in local and foreign currency and a currency hedging mechanism:

For example, under the component of drilling activity for a geothermal exploration project, sub-components would include civil engineering works, drilling services, drilling equipment and inspection test.

Component	Sub-component (if applicable)	Amount (for entire project)	Currency	Amount (for entire project)	Local currency	GCF funding amount	Currency of disbursement to recipient
Component 1	Sub-component 1.1	.....	Options	.....		.....
	Sub-component 1.2	.....	Options	.....		.....
Component 2	Sub-component 2.1	.....	Options	.....		.....
Total project financing							

* Please expand the table if needed.

- a breakdown of cost/budget by expenditure type (project staff and consultants, travel, goods, works, services, etc.) and disbursement schedule in project/programme confirmation (term sheet) as included in section I, Annexes.

B.2. Project Financing Information

	Financial Instrument	Amount	Currency	Tenor	Pricing											
(a) Total project financing	(a) = (b) + (c)	<u>Options</u>													
(b) GCF financing to recipient	(i) Senior Loans	<u>Options</u>	() years	() %											
	(ii) Subordinated Loans	<u>Options</u>	() years	() %											
	(iii) Equity	<u>Options</u>		() % IRR											
	(iv) Guarantees	<u>Options</u>													
	(v) Reimbursable grants *	<u>Options</u>													
	(vi) Grants *	<u>Options</u>													
<i>* Please provide economic and financial justification in section F.1 for the concessionality that GCF is expected to provide, particularly in the case of grants. Please specify difference in tenor and price between GCF financing and that of accredited entities. Please note that the level of concessionality should correspond to the level of the project/programme's expected performance against the investment criteria indicated in section E.</i>																
	Total requested (i+ii+iii+iv+v+vi)	<u>Options</u>													
(c) Co-financing to recipient	Financial Instrument	Amount	Currency	Name of Institution	Tenor	Pricing	Seniority									
	<u>Options</u>	<u>Options</u>	() years	() %	<u>Options</u>									
	<u>Options</u>	<u>Options</u>	() years	() %	<u>Options</u>									
	<u>Options</u>	<u>Options</u>		() % IRR	<u>Options</u>									
	<u>Options</u>	<u>Options</u>			<u>Options</u>									
Lead financing institution:																
<i>* Please provide a confirmation letter or a letter of commitment in section I issued by the co-financing institution.</i>																
(d) Financial terms between GCF and AE (if applicable)	<i>In cases where the accredited entity (AE) deploys the GCF financing directly to the recipient, (i.e. the GCF financing passes directly from the GCF to the recipient through the AE) or if the AE is the recipient itself, in the proposed financial instrument and terms as described in part (b), this subsection can be skipped.</i>															
	<i>If there is a financial arrangement between the GCF and the AE, which entails a financial instrument and/or financial terms separate from the ones described in part (b), please fill out the table below to specify the proposed instrument and terms between the GCF and the AE.</i>															
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial instrument</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Currency</th> <th>Tenor</th> <th>Pricing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Choose an item.</td> <td>.....</td> <td><u>Options</u></td> <td>() years</td> <td>() %</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Financial instrument	Amount	Currency	Tenor	Pricing	Choose an item.	<u>Options</u>	() years
Financial instrument	Amount	Currency	Tenor	Pricing												
Choose an item.	<u>Options</u>	() years	() %												

Please provide a justification for the difference in the financial instrument and/or terms between what is provided by the AE to the recipient and what is requested from the GCF to the AE.

B.3. Financial Markets Overview (if applicable)

How market price or expected commercial rate return was (non-concessional) determined?

Please provide an overview of the size of total banking assets, debt capital markets and equity capital markets which could be tapped to finance the proposed project/programme.

Please provide an overview of market rates (i.e. 1-year T-Bill, 5-year government bond, 5-year corporate bond (specify credit rating) and 5-year syndicate loan.

Provide examples or information on comparable transactions.

Please fill out applicable sub-sections and provide additional information if necessary, as these requirements may vary depending on the nature of the project / programme.

C.1. Strategic Context

Please describe relevant national, sub-national, regional, global, political, and/or economic factors that help to contextualize the proposal, including existing national and sector policies and strategies.

C.2. Project / Programme Objective against Baseline

Describe the baseline scenario (i.e. emissions baseline, climate vulnerability baseline, key barriers, challenges and/or policies) and the outcomes and the impact that the project/programme will aim to achieve in improving the baseline scenario.

C.3. Project / Programme Description

Describe the main activities and the planned measures of the project/programme according to each of its components.

Provide information on how the activities are linked to objectives, outputs and outcomes that the project/programme intends to achieve. The objectives, outputs and outcomes should be consistent with the information reported in the logic framework in section H.

C.4. Background Information on Project / Programme Sponsor (Executing Entity)

Describe the quality of the management team, overall strategy and financial profile of the Sponsor (Executing Entity) and how it will support the project/programme in terms of equity investment, management, operations, production and marketing.

C.5. Market Overview (if applicable)

Describe the market for the product(s) or services including the historical data and forecasts.

Describe the competitive environment including the list of competitors with market shares and customer base and key differentiating factors (if applicable).

Provide pricing structures, price controls, subsidies available and government involvement (if any).

C.6. Regulation, Taxation and Insurance (if applicable)

Provide details of government licenses or permits required for implementing and operating the project/programme, the issuing authority, and the date of issue or expected date of issue.

Describe applicable taxes and foreign exchange regulations.

Provide details on insurance policies related to project/programme.

C.7. Institutional / Implementation Arrangements

Please describe in detail the governance structure of the project/programme, including but not limited to the organization structure, roles and responsibilities of the project/programme management unit, steering committee, executing entities and so on, as well as the flow of funds structure. Also describe which of these structures are already in place and which are still pending. For the pending ones, please specify the requirements to establish them.

Describe construction and supervision methodology with key contractual agreements.

Describe operational arrangements with key contractual agreements following the completion of construction. If applicable, provide the credit analysis of key counterparties of key contractual agreements and/or structural mitigants to cover the counterparty risks.

C.8. TIMETABLE OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Please provide a project/programme implementation timetable in [section I \(Annexes\)](#). The table below is for illustrative purposes. If the table format below is used, please refer to the activities as numbered in Section H. In the case of outputs, please mark when all the required activities will be completed

TASK	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24
Output 1.																								
Activity 1.1.	x	x																						
Activity 1.2.			x	x	x	x	x																	

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D.1. Value Added for GCF Involvement

Please specify why the GCF involvement is critical for the project/programme, in consideration of other alternatives.

D.2. Exit Strategy

Please explain how the project/programme sustainability will be ensured in the long run, after the project/programme is implemented with support from the GCF and other sources, taking into consideration the long-term financial viability demonstrated in [E.6.3](#). This should include a description of strategies for longer term maintenance of physical assets (if applicable).

In this section, the accredited entity is expected to provide a brief description of the expected performance of the proposed project/programme against each of the Fund's six investment criteria. Activity-specific sub-criteria and indicative assessment factors, which can be found in the Fund's [Investment Framework](#), should be addressed where relevant and applicable. This section should tie into any request for concessionality made in [section B.2](#).

E.1. Impact Potential

Potential of the project/programme to contribute to the achievement of the Fund's objectives and result areas

E.1.1. Mitigation / adaptation impact potential

Specify the mitigation and/or adaptation impact, taking into account the relevant and applicable sub-criteria and assessment factors in the Fund's [investment framework](#).

When applicable, specify the degree to which the project/programme avoids lock-in of long-lived, high emission or climate-vulnerable infrastructure.

E.1.2. Key impact potential indicator

Provide specific numerical values for the indicators below.

GCF core indicators	Expected tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO ₂ eq) to be reduced or avoided (Mitigation only)	Annual	
		Lifetime	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender (reduced vulnerability or increased resilience); Number of beneficiaries relative to total population, disaggregated by gender (adaptation only) 	Total	
		Percentage (%)	
Other relevant indicators	<p><i>Examples include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected increase in the number of households with access to low-emission energy Expected increase in the number of small, medium and large low-emission power suppliers, and installed effective capacity Expected increase in generation and use of climate information in decision-making Expected strengthening of adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks Others 		

Describe the detailed methodology used for calculating the indicators above.

Describe how the project/programme's indicator values compare to the appropriate benchmarks (i.e. the indicator values for a similar project/programme in a comparable context).

E.2. Paradigm Shift Potential

Degree to which the proposed activity can catalyze impact beyond a one-off project/programme investment

E.2.1. Potential for scaling up and replication (Provide a numerical multiple and supporting rationale)

Describe how the proposed project/programme's expected contributions to global low-carbon and/or climate-resilient development pathways could be scaled-up and replicated including a description of the steps necessary to accomplish it.

E.2.2. Potential for knowledge and learning

Describe how the project/programme contributes to the creation or strengthening of knowledge, collective learning processes, or institutions.

E.2.3. Contribution to the creation of an enabling environment

Describe how proposed measures will create conditions that are conducive to effective and sustained participation of private and public sector actors in low-carbon and/or resilient development that go beyond the program.

Describe how the proposal contributes to innovation, market development and transformation. Examples include:

- *Introducing and demonstrating a new market or a new technology in a country or a region*
- *Using innovative funding scheme such as initial public offerings and/or bond markets for projects/programme*

E.2.4. Contribution to regulatory framework and policies

Describe how the project/programme strengthens the national / local regulatory or legal frameworks to systematically drive investment in low-emission technologies or activities, promote development of additional low-emission policies, and/or improve climate-responsive planning and development.

E.3. Sustainable Development Potential

Wider benefits and priorities

E.3.1. Environmental, social and economic co-benefits, including gender-sensitive development impact

E.4. Needs of the Recipient

Vulnerability and financing needs of the beneficiary country and population

E.4.1. Vulnerability of country and beneficiary groups (Adaptation only)

Describe the scale and intensity of vulnerability of the country and beneficiary groups, and elaborate how the project/programme addresses the issue (e.g. the level of exposure to climate risks for beneficiary country and groups, overall income level, etc).

E.4.2. Financial, economic, social and institutional needs

Describe how the project/programme addresses the following needs:

- *Economic and social development level of the country and the affected population*
- *Absence of alternative sources of financing (e.g. fiscal or balance of payment gap that prevents from addressing the needs of the country; and lack of depth and history in the local capital market)*
- *Need for strengthening institutions and implementation capacity.*

E.5. Country Ownership

Beneficiary country (ies) ownership of, and capacity to implement, a funded project or programme

E.5.1. Existence of a national climate strategy and coherence with existing plans and policies, including NAMAs, NAPAs and NAPs

Please describe how the project/programme contributes to country's identified priorities for low-emission and climate-resilient development, and the degree to which the activity is supported by a country's enabling policy and institutional framework, or includes policy or institutional changes.

E.5.2. Capacity of accredited entities and executing entities to deliver

Please describe experience and track record of the accredited entity and executing entities with respect to the activities that they are expected to undertake in the proposed project/programme.

E.5.3. Engagement with NDAs, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders

Please provide a full description of the steps taken to ensure country ownership, including the engagement with NDAs on the funding proposal and the no-objection letter.

Please also specify the multi-stakeholder engagement plan and the consultations that were conducted when this proposal was developed.

E.6. Efficiency and Effectiveness

Economic and, if appropriate, financial soundness of the project/programme

E.6.1. Cost-effectiveness and efficiency

Describe how the financial structure is adequate and reasonable in order to achieve the proposal's objectives, including addressing existing bottlenecks and/or barriers; providing the least concessionality; and without crowding out private and other public investment.

Please describe the efficiency and effectiveness, taking into account the total project financing and the mitigation/adaptation impact that the project/programme aims to achieve, and explain how this compares to an appropriate benchmark. For mitigation, please make a reference to [E.6.5 \(core indicator for the cost per tCO2eq\)](#).

E.6.2. Co-financing, leveraging and mobilized long-term investments (mitigation only)

Please provide the co-financing ratio (total amount of co-financing divided by the Fund's investment in the project/programme) and/or the potential to catalyze indirect/long-term low emission investment.

Please make a reference to [E.6.5 \(core indicator for the expected volume of finance to be leveraged\)](#).

E.6.3. Financial viability

Please specify the expected economic and financial rate of return with and without the Fund's support, based on the analysis conducted in [F.1](#).

Please describe financial viability in the long run beyond the Fund intervention.

Please describe the GCF's financial exit strategy in case of private sector operations (e.g. IPOs, trade sales, etc.).

E.6.4. Application of best practices

Please explain how best available technologies and practices are considered and applied. If applicable, specify the innovations/modifications/adjustments that are made based on industry best practices.

E.6.5. Key efficiency and effectiveness indicators

GCF core indicators	Estimated cost per t CO ₂ eq, defined as total investment cost / expected lifetime emission reductions (mitigation only)	
	(a) Total project financing	US\$ _____
	(b) Requested GCF amount	US\$ _____
	(c) Expected lifetime emission reductions overtime	_____ tCO ₂ eq
	(d) Estimated cost per tCO₂eq (d = a / c)	US\$ _____ / tCO ₂ eq
	(e) Estimated GCF cost per tCO₂eq removed (e = b / c)	US\$ _____ / tCO ₂ eq
	Describe the detailed methodology used for calculating the indicators (d) and (e) above.	
	Please describe how the indicator values compare to the appropriate benchmarks established in a comparable context.	
	Expected volume of finance to be leveraged by the proposed project/programme and as a result of the Fund's financing, disaggregated by public and private sources (mitigation only)	

Describe the detailed methodology used for calculating the indicators above.

Please describe how the indicator values compare to the appropriate benchmarks established in a comparable context.

Other relevant indicators (e.g. estimated cost per co-benefit generated as a result of the project/programme)

** The information can be drawn from the project/programme appraisal document.*

F.1. Economic and Financial Analysis

Please provide the narrative and rationale for the detailed economic and financial analysis (including the financial model, taking into consideration the information provided in [section E.6.3](#)).

BASED ON THE ABOVE ANALYSIS, PLEASE PROVIDE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL JUSTIFICATION (BOTH QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE) FOR THE CONCESSIONALITY THAT GCF PROVIDES, WITH A REFERENCE TO THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE PROPOSED IN SECTION B.2.

F.2. Technical Evaluation

Please provide an assessment from the technical perspective. If a particular technological solution has been chosen, describe why it is the most appropriate for this project/programme.

F.3. Environmental, Social Assessment, including Gender Considerations

Describe the main outcome of the environment and social impact assessment. Specify the Environmental and Social Management Plan, and how the project/programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts at each stage (e.g. preparation, implementation and operation), in accordance with the Fund's Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) standard. Also describe how the gender aspect is considered in accordance with the Fund's Gender Policy and Action Plan.

F.4. Financial Management and Procurement

Describe the project/programme's financial management and procurement, including financial accounting, disbursement methods and auditing.

G.2. Risk Factors and Mitigation Measures

Please describe financial, technical and operational, social and environmental and other risks that might prevent the project/programme objectives from being achieved. Also describe the proposed risk mitigation measures.

Selected Risk Factor 1			
Description	Risk category	Level of impact	Probability of risk occurring
	Select	Select	Select
Mitigation Measure(s)			
Please describe how the identified risk will be mitigated or managed. Do the mitigation measures lower the probability of risk occurring? If so, to what level?			
Selected Risk Factor 2			
Description	Risk category	Level of impact	Probability of risk occurring
	Select	Select	Select
Mitigation Measure(s)			
Please describe how the identified risk will be mitigated or managed. Do the mitigation measures lower the probability of risk occurring? If so, to what level?			
Selected Risk Factor 3			
Description	Risk category	Level of impact	Probability of risk occurring
	Select	Select	Select

Mitigation Measure(s)			
Please describe how the identified risk will be mitigated or managed. Do the mitigation measures lower the probability of risk occurring? If so, to what level?			
Selected Risk Factor 4			
Description	Risk category	Level of impact	Probability of risk occurring
	Select	Select	Select
Mitigation Measure(s)			
Please describe how the identified risk will be mitigated or managed. Do the mitigation measures lower the probability of risk occurring? If so, to what level?			
Selected Risk Factor 5			
Description	Risk category	Level of impact	Probability of risk occurring
	Select	Select	Select
Mitigation Measure(s)			
Please describe how the identified risk will be mitigated or managed. Do the mitigation measures lower the probability of risk occurring? If so, to what level?			
Selected Risk Factor 6			

G.1. Risk Assessment Summary

Please provide a summary of main risk factors. Detailed description of risk factors and mitigation measures can be elaborated in G.2

Description	Risk category	Level of impact	Probability of risk occurring
	Select	Select	Select
Mitigation Measure(s)			
<p><i>Please describe how the identified risk will be mitigated or managed. Do the mitigation measures lower the probability of risk occurring? If so, to what level?</i></p>			
Other Potential Risks in the Horizon			
<p><i>Please describe other potential issues which will be monitored as “emerging risks” during the life of the projects (i.e., issues that have not yet raised to the level of “risk factor” but which will need monitoring). This could include issues related to external stakeholders such as project beneficiaries or the pool of potential contractors.</i></p>			

** Please expand this sub-section when needed to address all potential material and relevant risks*

H.1. Logic Framework.

Please specify the logic framework in accordance with the GCF's [Performance Measurement Framework](#) under the [Results Management Framework](#).

H.1.1. Paradigm Shift Objectives and Impacts at the Fund level⁴¹

Paradigm shift objectives						
<i>Choose appropriate expected result</i>	Please elaborate on the paradigm shift objectives to which the project/programme contributes.					
Expected Result	Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions
				Mid-term (if applicable)	Final	
Fund-level impacts						
<i>Choose appropriate expected results</i>	<i>Please select relevant GCF indicators from the Fund's performance measurement framework. More than one indicator may be selected per expected impact result.</i>					
<i>Choose appropriate expected results</i>						
<i>Choose appropriate expected results</i>						

⁴¹ Information on the Fund's expected results and indicators can be found in its Performance Measurement Frameworks available at the following link (Please note that [some indicators are under refinement](#)):
http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/239759/5.3 - Performance_Measurement_Frameworks_PMF.pdf/60941cef-7c87-475f-809e-4ebf1acbb3f4

H.1.2. Outcomes, Outputs, Activities and Inputs at Project/Programme level

Expected Result	Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions
				Mid-term (if applicable)	Final	
Project/programme outcomes	Outcomes that contribute to Fund-level impacts					
Choose expected outcome	Please select relevant GCF indicators from the Fund's performance measurement framework . More than one indicator may be selected per expected impact result.					
Specify other expected results						
Specify other expected results						
Project/programme outputs	Outputs that contribute to outcomes					
1.						
2.						
3.						
Activities	Description	Inputs		Description		
1.1.		1.1.1.				
1.2.		1.1.2.				
2.1.		1.1.3.				
...		...				

H.2. Arrangements for Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

BESIDES THE ARRANGEMENTS (E.G. SEMI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS) LAID OUT IN AMA, PLEASE PROVIDE PROJECT/PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONAL SETTING AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING AND EVALUATION. PLEASE INDICATE HOW THE INTERIM/MID-TERM AND FINAL EVALUATIONS WILL BE ORGANIZED, INCLUDING THE TIMING.

PLEASE PROVIDE METHODOLOGIES FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING OF THE KEY OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME.

I. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR FUNDING PROPOSAL

- ☐ NDA No-objection Letter
- ☐ Feasibility Study
- ☐ Integrated Financial Model that provides sensitivity analysis of critical elements (xls format, if applicable)
- ☐ Confirmation letter or letter of commitment for co-financing commitment (If applicable)
- ☐ Project/Programme Confirmation/Term Sheet (including cost/budget breakdown, disbursement schedule, etc.) – *see the Accreditation Master Agreement, Annex I*
- ☐ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Environmental and Social Management Plan (If applicable)
- ☐ Appraisal Report or Due Diligence Report with recommendations (If applicable)
- ☐ Evaluation Report of the baseline project (If applicable)
- ☐ Map indicating the location of the project/programme
- ☐ Timetable of project/programme implementation

** Please note that a funding proposal will be considered complete only upon receipt of all the applicable supporting documents.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Country ownership guidelines. GCF/B.14/05/Rev.01. 12 October 2016;
2. Annex III: Initial investment framework: activity-specific sub-criteria and indicative assessment factors. GCF/B.09/23;
3. Annex XII: Initial non-objection procedure. GCF/B.08/45. Page 87;
4. GCF Guidbook. Accessing the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme;
5. GCF. Engaging with the Green Climate Fund. A resource guide for national designated authorities and focal points of recipient countries;
6. GCF. Governing Instrument for the Green Climate Fund, 2011;
7. GCF. Initial draft guidance for the development of Country Programmes;
8. GCF: Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. Version 3.0 | 26 August 2015;
9. Engaging with the Green Climate Fund, November 2015;
10. GCF Handbook, Decisions, Policies and Frameworks, December 2017;
11. GCF Documentation, Concept Note, Tempalte V2.2;
12. Operational Manual of the Energy Efficiency Fond, Version VIII, January 2017;
13. Government Decision no. 1574 of 26.12.2003 on the establishment of the National Commission for the implementation and achievement of the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as of the mechanisms and provisions of the Kyoto Protocol;
14. Government Decision no. 301 of 24.04.2014 regarding the approval of the Environmental Strategy for the years 2014-2023 and of the Action Plan for its implementation;
15. Government Decision no. 1009 of 10.12.2014 regarding the approval of the Republic of Moldova's Strategy for adaptation to climate change until 2020 and of the Action Plan for its implementation;
16. Parliament Decision no. 404-XIII of 16th of March, 1995 on the Framework Convention of the United Nations;
17. Law no. 78 of 04.05.2017 for the ratification of the Paris Agreement;
18. Draft Government Decision on establishing the coordination mechanism of the climate change activities.