



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Government of the Republic of North Macedonia



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

# Open Call for Project Ideas for Green Climate Fund financial support in the Republic of North Macedonia (2025)



The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia represented by the Office of the President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia as a National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund announces Open call for Submitting Project Ideas that address and respond to the challenge of climate change.

The Open Call aims to target Project Ideas with climate mitigation/adaption potential to be considered on a national level for submission to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for financing.

## 1. Basic information on the Green Climate Fund

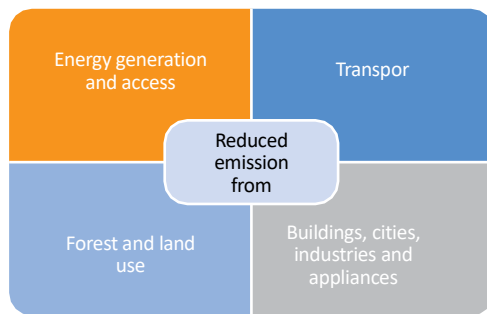
The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is global fund created by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that supports the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change (<https://www.greenclimate.fund/home> ). The main principles of the GCF, as a global fund, is to promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development.

GCF was created by 194 countries that are parties to the UNFCCC in 2010, as part of the Convention's Financial Mechanism. The Fund, guided by the Convention's principles and provisions, aims to equally split its resources between mitigation and adaptation measures.

The GCF finances low-emission (mitigation) and climate-resilient (adaptation) projects and programmes developed by the public and private sectors to contribute to countries' climate change priorities. Cross-cutting projects that deliver co-benefits in terms of both mitigation and adaptation are also eligible for funding by the GCF. Each proposed project or programme will have to demonstrate its climate rationale in terms of mitigation, adaptation or both and should identify to which defined strategic GCF impact areas it contributes (for an individual project or programme, several impact areas may apply).

The GCF identifies eight strategic impact areas where targeted GCF investment would have a greater impact. The so called "results areas" are a reference for engaging with the GCF and in this sense, according to country priorities, the project proposals should follow and align with the GCF strategic impact areas (presented in Figure 1).

#### MITIGATION STRATEGIC IMPACTS



#### ADAPTATION STRATEGIC IMPACTS

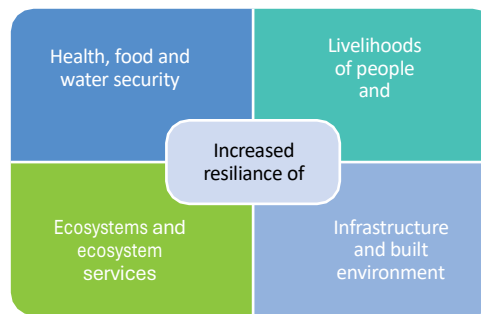


Figure 1 GCF Strategic impact areas

GCF offers grants, concession loans, guarantees and equity for funding projects, which range from micro (USD < 10 million) to large (USD > 250 million) in their size. Additionally, resources in the form of grants are available to support countries to prepare and improve their engagement with the Green Climate Fund, as well as to prepare project proposals.

Country ownership is a core principle of the GCF; in this sense, the Fund promotes the importance of ensuring a country-driven approach, strengthening the effective involvement of relevant institutions and stakeholders at national level.

## 2. Aim of the Open Call for Project Idea

The aim of this call is to encourage and to support all interested stakeholders to develop their project ideas with mitigation/adaptation (or both) potentials, as a first step in the project proposal development process.

## 3. Project idea endorsement

The project ideas submitted to the National Designated Authority (NDA) will be subject to eligibility and prioritization procedure in order to determine the possibility for the project idea to be included in the GCF Country Programme. The project idea needs to be in line with the mitigation and adaptation priority sectors, as described in the National strategic documents, as well as with the GCF strategic impact areas.

## 4. National priority sectors/mitigation and adaptation actions

The project idea should propose actions that belong to at least one priority sector of the national priority sectors with high mitigation/adaptation potential as presented in the following Table 1:

Table 1 National priority sectors with high mitigation/adaptation potential

Priority Sectors with high mitigation potential	Priority Sectors with high adaptation potential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Energy</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Agriculture and Forestry and other land use (AFOLU)</li> <li>- Waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water Resources</li> <li>- Agriculture and Forestry and other land use (AFOLU)</li> <li>- Biodiversity</li> <li>- Human health</li> <li>- Cultural heritage</li> </ul>

## 5. Eligibility Assessment of Project Ideas

Each project idea should fulfill all of these eligibility criteria:

Table 2 Eligibility Criteria for Project Ideas

Eligibility criteria
Are the objectives of this Project Idea aligned with the objectives of the national climate policy and strategies?
Is the Project Idea aligned with the relevant national development indicators, enabling policy and institutional frameworks?
Is the Project Idea in line with at least one of the eight strategic results areas of GCF?
Does the Project Idea address issues relevant to mainstream gender (and other vulnerable groups, if applicable)? Does it describe how resilience/mitigation to climate change equally impacts men and women? Does it ensure that woman will equally benefit from project activities?

Only project ideas that have passed the administrative check and eligibility assessment will be confirmed and further prioritized using the prioritization criteria established, after which the applicant will be notified. More information on the prioritization criteria is available in the Guidelines for applicants and in the national prioritization mechanism available at

[www.greendevelopment.mk](http://www.greendevelopment.mk)

## 6. Strategic Prioritization of Project Ideas

The following criteria will be used during strategic prioritization for all eligible project ideas:

*Table 3 Criteria for strategic prioritization for all eligible project ideas*

Criteria	Description of Criteria
Project approach	Description of problem, statement and climate rationale, project objectives, main activities and expected results. Coherence between problem/barriers and expected results.
Capacity of project implementing entities	Description of relevant management and organizational skills of the implementing entities/ partners for project implementation
Estimated project duration	Defined time schedule of proposed project activities
Status of the project idea	Identification of the level of development of the project idea (early stage, developed concept note/developed full project proposal)
Potential to support national EU accession process	Description of how and to what extent the project objectives and planned activities support the national EU accession path and assist to achieving EU benchmarks
Project objectives in line with the national priority SDGs	Elaboration on how the project objectives fit to the SDGs
Coherence with national climate change strategies	Description of national country ownership or / and capacity to implement a funded project or Programme (policies, climate strategies and institutions)
Impact potential (Preliminary assessment)	Potential of the project to contribute significantly to reducing emissions or increasing resilience (preliminary assessment). Specify the climate mitigation and/or adaptation impact providing the comparable national benchmarks

For detailed information on the prioritization criteria for project ideas, please refer to the Guidelines for applicants available at [www.greendevlopment.mk](http://www.greendevlopment.mk).

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All eligible and prioritized project ideas will be confirmed and included in North Macedonia's GCF Country Programme. Applicants of confirmed Project ideas will be encouraged to contact Accredited Entities for further development of their Project idea into GCF Concept Notes/Full Project proposal in consultation and close cooperation with the NDA.

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## 7. Who can apply?

This call is open for all interested stakeholders. Any legal entity is encouraged to develop a project idea.



## 8. How to apply?

Applicants should complete the Project idea template in English language by using the electronic template accessible at [www.greendevlopment.mk](http://www.greendevlopment.mk). For reference by applicants, the templates are also enclosed in ANNEX 1 to this Call but the project idea may be only submitted electronically through the website by registered users only.

Before starting to develop their project idea, each applicant should register at <http://www.greendevlopment.mk/faoprojects/Account/Login>, in order to access the project idea templates. The Project idea template should be completed with all required information, data and enclosed documents. For detailed guidelines to complete the Project Idea template, please refer to the Guidebook for developing GCF project proposals, available at [www.greendevlopment.mk](http://www.greendevlopment.mk). Any other information about the work of the Green Climate Fund and the country mechanisms for working with the Fund are also available at the NDA website: [www.greendevlopment.mk](http://www.greendevlopment.mk).

Any supporting document that needs to be submitted together with the Project idea template should be uploaded at the final stage of completing the online Application Form.

## 9. Deadline for Submission of Project Ideas

Applicants may submit the fully completed Project Idea Note not later than 3th of November 2025 (16:00 h).

Detailed guidelines on how to complete the Project Idea Template and other information regarding this call for project idea or the work of the Green Climate Fund are available at the NDA website: [www.greendevlopment.mk](http://www.greendevlopment.mk).

**All applicants will be informed if their project idea has been confirmed as eligible and if it becomes part of GCF Country Programme or, if the project idea has been rejected, they will receive comments for improvement.**

The GCF Country Programme will be a publicly available document.

## 10. Indicative Timetable for Assessing Project Ideas

The indicative timeframe for submission and assessment/prioritization of the project ideas is presented in the following flowchart.

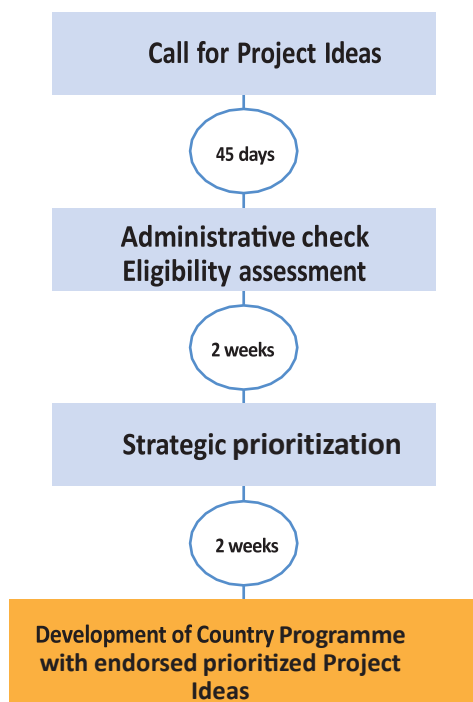


Figure 2 Indicative Timetable for Assessing Project Ideas

## 11. Developing and Submitting a Concept Note/Full Project proposal to the GCF for Financial Support

Applicants should be aware that a partnership with an Accredited Entity (AE) must be established before submitting a Concept Note/Full Project proposal to the NDA; however, in cases where the applicant has not identified a suitable AE to work with, after their project idea has been confirmed to be eligible, the NDA will help project applicants identify the most appropriate AE according to the existing list of GCF accredited entities and their respective capacities; these AEs will develop partnership with the project applicant and the NDA, and will provide guidance on the GCF project cycle in order to develop the project idea into concept note/full project proposal.

The term 'Accredited' means that these entities went through the GCF accreditation process and meet the standards of the Fund (public, private or non-governmental institutions). Full list of accredited entities is available at the GCF webpage (<https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/partners/ae> ).



When the NDA has confirmed the eligibility of a Project Idea, the AE will develop and submit Concept notes/Full Project proposals to the GCF, in collaboration with national institutions/applicants. The AE should coordinate closely with the NDA on their project pipeline, endorsement of funding proposals and project implementation. To draft their Concept notes/Full project proposals, applicants should use the GCF templates ([www.greenclimate.fund](http://www.greenclimate.fund)).

The Concept Note developed by the Accredited Entity and applicants will be submitted to the NDA for technical assessment and should be accompanied by the following supporting documents:

1. Map indicating the location of the project/programme,
2. Diagram to describe the theory of change,
3. Economic and financial model with key assumptions and potential stressed scenarios,
4. Pre-feasibility study,
5. Evaluation report of previous projects (applicable to projects replicating previous investments),
6. Results of environmental and social risk screening analysis

Technical assessment of Concept Note/Full Project proposals will be performed by using the following key criteria:

- Estimated mitigation/adaptation impacts, level of residual risks associated with the project and adequate mitigation measures defined to meet the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) requirements
- Initiate policy changes, new strategic documents to be developed or new regulation, project opportunities for replication in several regions in RNM and degree of share of lessons learned and experiences gained from the project, degree of innovative elements and concept within the project activities
- Expected positive environmental, social and health, and economic co-benefits, including gender-sensitive development impact (e.g., type of improvements in environmental media and sectors, total number of jobs created (direct and in direct) by implementing the project, etc.) Relevance to country needs - % of socio-economic population to benefit from the project, specified actions for strengthening institutional and implementation capacity in RNM
- Coherence and alignment of the project objectives with priorities addressed already in the national climate policy, regulation, legislation and strategies, project alignment with national development agenda, stakeholder engagement.
- Possibilities to combine various sources of funding, level of best practice technologies planned to be applied in the project and main benefits to be achieved.





Further information on these criteria can be found at [www.greendevdevelopment.mk](http://www.greendevdevelopment.mk)

The No-objection procedure check is the final step of quality assurance, in order for the applicant to obtain No-objection letter from the NDA for submission to the GCF. The No-objection procedure is the key tool to ensure full ownership of the country with regards to the proposals, providing a view of the proposed investment's alignment with country priorities.

Quality assurance covers questions and evidence if the proposal received technical clearance, if all comments received during technical assessment have been addressed in the proposal, whether the AE presented the proposal to national authorities, whether the proposal is in the Country Programme, whether consultations with targeted stakeholders have been organized, etc.

If the proposal is endorsed by the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, the NDA will issue the no-objection letter for the proposal accordingly and the Full Project proposal could be submitted to GCF for evaluation in order to receive financial support. Applicants must be aware that Funding Proposals not accompanied by the no-objection letter, duly signed by the NDA of the Republic of North Macedonia, will not be considered by the GCF Secretariat.

## 12. Q&A

In order to respond to any question arising during these phases of project development (project idea/concept note/full project proposal), regarding the preparation and fulfillment of application templates, deadlines, etc, please, refer to the Q&A section on NDA web-site: [www.greendevdevelopment.mk](http://www.greendevdevelopment.mk), or contact the NDA responsible persons. The Q&A section will be updated regularly as applicant questions arrive.



## Annex 1: Project Idea Template Project Idea

### Project Idea Note

This project idea template may be used by Applicants that choose to submit a Project idea note for the consideration by the National Designated Authority, or Applicants interested in responding to a specific call for proposals launched by the NDA.

This Project idea will be reviewed by the NDA by using a set of already established eligibility criteria and only eligible project ideas will be endorsed and included as part of the Country Programme. Applicants will be sent a confirmation letter by the NDA to confirm either the endorsement of the idea, or to inform the applicant on the rejection of the project idea and to provide recommendations for improvement.

Applicants of endorsed Project ideas will be encouraged to further develop the idea into Concept Note according to GCF templates and in close consultation with NDA representatives. At the Concept note stage, an Accredited Entity to support the development and implementation of project proposals should be identified according to the area of activity and accreditation criteria of the particular accredited entity, including project size this entity is accredited to implement, area/sector of expertise and Category of Environmental and Social risk the entity is able to manage.

Applicants should use the electronic version of the Project Idea Note and they could fill it out online (Online application form) by using their own access password. After the registration process, the user will see a panel with a predefined question form (Project Idea Note). Following the submission of the Project Idea Note, the Applicant will receive a confirmation that the Project Idea Note has been successfully submitted.

Detailed guidelines on how to complete this template and other information on the activity of the Green Climate Fund are available at: [www.greendevlopment.mk](http://www.greendevlopment.mk)

PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION	
<b>Project Title:</b>	
<b>Project or Programme</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Project</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Programme</b>
<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	
<b>Geographic Location of Project Activities</b> (please, enclose a map in the Annex):	
<b>Implementation Entity/ies</b> (title, type of organization, address, contact persons)	Title: Type of organization: Address: Contact person:



<p><i>Please, provide in Annex a List of employees dedicated project implementation (disaggregate by sex and education) for each entity</i></p>	<p>Phone/e-mail address:</p>
<p><b>Previous experience in implementing similar projects</b> <i>(similar in terms of complexity, costs and duration)</i></p>	<p><i>Please, list at least two finalized similar projects providing information on project costs, aim of the projects, main beneficiary and main results. You can provide a Reference list as an Annex with more relevant data on previous similar experience</i></p>
<p><b>Project Status:</b></p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full Project proposal</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Concept note</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Project idea note</b> </p>
<p><b>PROJECT CLIMATE FOCUS AND RESULTS AREAS</b></p>	
<p><b>Focus area of the project:</b></p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mitigation</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adaptation</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cross-cutting</b> </p>
<p><b>Green Climate Fund strategic results areas</b>  <i>(Which of the following targeted GCF result areas does the proposed project address?)</i></p> <p><i>Please, mark the most relevant ones</i></p>	<p><b><u>MITIGATION</u></b></p> <p>By reducing greenhouse gas emissions:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Energy access and power generation</b>  <i>(E.g. access to on-grid, micro-grid or off-grid, where power is generated by renewable energy sources, i.e. solar, wind, geothermal waters, etc.)</i> </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Low emission transport</b>  <i>(E.g. high-speed rail, rapid bus system, etc.)</i> </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Buildings, cities, industries and appliances</b>  <i>(E.g. new and retrofitted energy-efficient buildings, energy-efficient equipment for companies and supply chain management, etc.)</i> </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Forestry and land use</b>  <i>(E.g. forest conservation and management, agricultural irrigation, water treatment and management, etc.)</i> </p> <p><b><u>ADAPTATION</u></b> to climate change</p> <p>By increasing resilience in following spheres:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Most vulnerable people and communities</b>  <i>(E.g. mitigation of adverse risks associated with climate change, developing early warning systems, developing insurance service systems, etc.)</i> </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Health and well-being, and food and water security</b> </p>

	<p><i>(E.g. providing clean drinking water to population, implementing water-saving technologies, etc.)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Infrastructure and built environment</b> <i>(E.g. mudflow and avalanche protection infrastructures, air-conditioning systems, resilient road networks, etc.)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ecosystem and ecosystem services</b> <i>(E.g. ecosystem conservation and management, ecotourism, etc.)</i></p>
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION (MAX. 3 PAGES)</b>	
<b>Project goal:</b>	
<b>Project objectives</b>	<i>(if possible, please define specific objectives related to gender and minorities issues and climate change)</i>
<b>Main project beneficiary</b> (direct and indirect) disaggregated by type of vulnerability	
<b>Brief project justification</b> (coherence and alignment with the country's national climate priorities and development strategies as well as national SDGs)	
<b>Briefly describe the Mitigation/ Adaptation problem the proposal intends to address</b>	<i>(please, specify the issues relevant for gender and vulnerable groups)</i>
<b>List proposed project activities to address the above problems and identified barriers leading to the expected results</b>	<i>(Please, mention if the proposed activities/processes or technologies are innovative. Also, explain how women, CSOs, academia, business and other stakeholders will be included during the project activities implementation)</i>
<b>Briefly describe expected outcomes and economic (in EUR), social climate/environmental and gender aspects target results</b>	<i>(i.e. number of new jobs created, tons of reduced emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> eq., estimated adaptation impact – number of direct/indirect beneficiaries as percentage of total population, How will the project address gender and other vulnerable group issues?)</i>



Indicate if there is potential for replicating project activities in other region(s) or neighboring country and describe the use of project results	
Explain why the project requires funding:	<i>(i.e. explain why this is not financed by domestic resources from the public and/or private sector(s))</i>
<b>FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT</b>	
Indicative total project cost (EUR):	
Indicative funding request from GCF (EUR):	
Estimated co-financing (if any) – EUR or % of the total project costs	
Type of financial instrument to be requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Other financing sources that will partially cover total project costs:	
<b>APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>	
Name of the Applicant organization/ Institution:	
Type of organization/institution: <i>(public (governmental), business, CSOs, international organization, academic institution, etc.)</i>	
Address: <i>(street, number, postal code)</i>	
Contact Person:	
Position:	
Contact: <i>(telephone and e-mail):</i>	
Date of submission of the Project idea note for review by the NDA	

PROJECT IDEA NOTE supporting documents:

ANNEX 1

ANNEX 2

ANNEX 3