



# Climate Adaptation Finance:

# DIRECT ACCESS

The Adaptation Fund's robust direct access modality was the first of this kind to be fully operational among climate funds. Through direct access, accredited National Implementing Entities (NIE) are able to directly access financing

*"Direct access provides developing countries with the opportunity to strengthen local capacity and to build on local expertise"*  
—Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible (Costa Rica's NIE)

and manage all aspects of climate adaptation and resilience projects, from design through implementation and monitoring.

## benefits OF DIRECT ACCESS

- Funds projects directly managed by countries
- Elevates issues relating to climate change and adaptation to the national level
- Improves intragovernmental collaboration and amplifies stakeholder voices
- Fosters transparency and competition in project formulation
- Sustains institutional knowledge and enhances internal management



Senegal, CSE



Rwanda, MINIRENA (photo by Mark Sugg)

All developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol are eligible to nominate an entity for accreditation. Once an entity passes the Fund's rigorous accreditation review, it may apply for project funding.

### Accredited implementing entities:

- Are fully responsible for project & programme management, including financial, monitoring and reporting
- Receive funding in performance-based tranches

### The Adaptation Fund's readiness programme is helping implementing entities:

- Efficiently navigate the accreditation process
- Strengthen their capacity to design and implement climate adaptation projects and programmes
- For information, visit [www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness](http://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness)

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South Africa, SANBI

'The projects are localized. It's about making a difference on the ground. They are replicable, scalable and it's also about catalyzing much bigger things. It enables local actors and can be transformational!'  
— South African National Biodiversity Institute

'We found this [new streamlined accreditation] process has opened doors for other smaller NIEs to join the Fund.'  
— Micronesia Conservation Trust

## ACCREDITATION

A panel of independent experts leads every accreditation review.

### Fiduciary Standards:\*

- Financial management and integrity
- Institutional capacity
- Transparency, self-investigative powers, anti-corruption measures

### Environmental & Social Principles:\*

- Marginalized and vulnerable groups
- Protection of natural habitats
- Human rights
- Core labor rights

### Accreditation of Small Entities:

- Alternative streamlined, individualized process for smaller entities established since 2015

### Gender Equality:

- Equal access to project benefits for women and men

\*Includes, but not limited to

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### Keys to Accreditation:

- Frequent interaction between applicant and panel is crucial
- Visits to applicant by reviewers may help overcome documentation gaps

### Institutional strengthening:

- Applicants improve understanding of fiduciary standards
- Applicants identify areas to bolster financial management and accountability
- Applicants shift from following others' rules to having their own rules
- Applicants improve governance by instituting policies against fraud and corruption



Argentina, UCAR

## BY THE NUMBERS

**26**  
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

**42%**

OF NIES ARE IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS) AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

**US\$ 157,808,791**  
COMMITTED TO NIES

**24**  
APPROVED PROJECTS IN 17 COUNTRIES

**751,272**  
PEOPLE EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM NIE PROJECTS

Financing for NIEs includes adaptation and resilience projects ranging from coasts, inland agricultural communities and areas needing improved land and water management or disaster planning across Latin America, Africa and Asia.