



ADAPTATION FUND

# Climate Adaptation Finance:

# DIRECT ACCESS

The Adaptation Fund's pioneering and robust direct access modality was the first of this kind to be fully operational among climate funds. Through direct access, accredited National Implementing

Entities (NIEs) are able to directly access financing and manage all aspects of climate adaptation and resilience projects, from design through implementation and monitoring.

“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)



Cleaning drainage channels to reduce sediment in water flow and restore lowland farmland of Mugogo, Rwanda. Project implemented by the Rwanda Ministry of Environment. (Photo by Adaptation Fund)

## benefits OF DIRECT ACCESS

- Funds projects directly managed and led by countries
- Builds country ownership to address climate change
- Elevates issues relating to climate change and adaptation to the national level
- Improves intragovernmental collaboration and amplifies stakeholder voices
- Fosters transparency, inclusiveness and competition in project formulation
- Sustains institutional knowledge and enhances internal management
- Empowers developing countries to build national adaptive capacities



Community prepares degraded area for mangrove planting in Andhra Pradesh, India. Project implemented by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). (Photo from NABARD)

All developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol or Paris Agreement 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
- Can lead to 'fast-track' accreditation with other funds, and fast-track reaccreditation through reciprocal policies

### 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
- Build capacity and share lessons through workshops, community of practice, webinars, field visits and readiness grants, including south-south cooperation, and technical assistance
- For information, visit [www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness](http://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness)



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'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*

'This programme made measurable impact. It improved local capacity, reduced vulnerabilities, fostered community empowerment, increased awareness of the environment and climate change and built more climate resilient communities.'

— *Planning Institute of Jamaica*

AF-funded project in Chile to help small farmers adapt to dry conditions and manage water. Project implemented by Agencia de Cooperación Internacional de Chile (AGCID-Chille). (Photo by Adaptation Fund)



## 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 Policy:\*

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

### Gender Policy and Action Plan:

- Equal access to project benefits for women and men

### Streamlined Accreditation Process for Small Entities:

- Alternative streamlined, individualized process for smaller entities established since 2015 such as those from small island developing states

\*Includes, but not limited to

## DIRECT ACCESS



### 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
- New grants available for project scale-up, innovation and learning



The Fund's first Direct Access project in Eastern Europe was launched recently in Armenia by the country's Environmental Project Implementation Unit (EPIU). (Photo by Ruzanna Martirosyan)

## BY THE NUMBERS

31 NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

## 48%

OF NIEs ARE IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) OR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

## US\$177,782,920

COMMITTED TO NIEs

## 30

APPROVED PROJECTS IN 22 COUNTRIES

## 2,055,824

PEOPLE EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM NIE PROJECTS

Financing for NIEs includes adaptation and resilience projects tailored to local needs, ranging from sustainably managing coasts, agriculture, forests, food and water security, disaster risks, and urban and rural development across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe.