



ADAPTATION FUND

# Climate Adaptation Finance: **DIRECT ACCESS**

**T**he Adaptation Fund’s pioneering and innovative 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)**

Direct access also often opens doors to additional climate finance opportunities for countries, and has led to greater emphasis placed by countries on adaptation and potential scale up of Fund projects.

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
- Can be ‘fast-track’ accredited 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



Mother and daughter have just harvested their taro for their daily meal. The project in Cook Islands implemented by Ministry of Finance and Economic Management installed culverts around the taro plantations to drain flooding waters that damaged the root crops. (Photo by Mel Tuiravakai)

**“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**



Women planting vegetables in the smart kitchen gardens using low-cost drip irrigation in Kajiado, Kenya. Drip irrigation has demonstrated that it can replace time-consuming tasks of hand irrigation and fertilization, while increasing yield, reducing pest problems, and saving water. The project is implemented by National Environment Management Authority in Keyna. (Photo by Nasaru Women’s Group)

## benefits OF DIRECT ACCESS

- Funds projects directly managed and led by countries and tailored to local adaptation needs
- Builds country ownership to address climate change
- Fosters transparency, inclusiveness and competition in project formulation
- Sustains institutional knowledge and enhances internal management
- Empowers developing countries to build national adaptive capacities
- Leads to other climate finance opportunities



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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
- Entities build capacity to foster environmental and social principles and gender equality in projects
- Applicants shift from developing projects with outside entities to developing them from within country
- Applicants improve governance by instituting policies against fraud and corruption
- In addition to concrete projects, new grants available for scale-up, innovation and learning



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

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 47%

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

# 34

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

# 37

APPROVED PROJECTS IN 23 COUNTRIES

# 28,513,815

PEOPLE EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM NIE PROJECTS

# US\$232,403,970

COMMITTED TO NIEs

## DIRECT ACCESS

