

# Innovation at the Adaptation Fund



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Funding windows through  
the Innovation Facility



# Outline



## **Innovation Facility**

- Background
- Definition of innovation



## **Funding windows**

- Small grants for innovation
- AFCIA programme
- Large innovation projects



## **Awarded Projects**

- Chile
- Armenia



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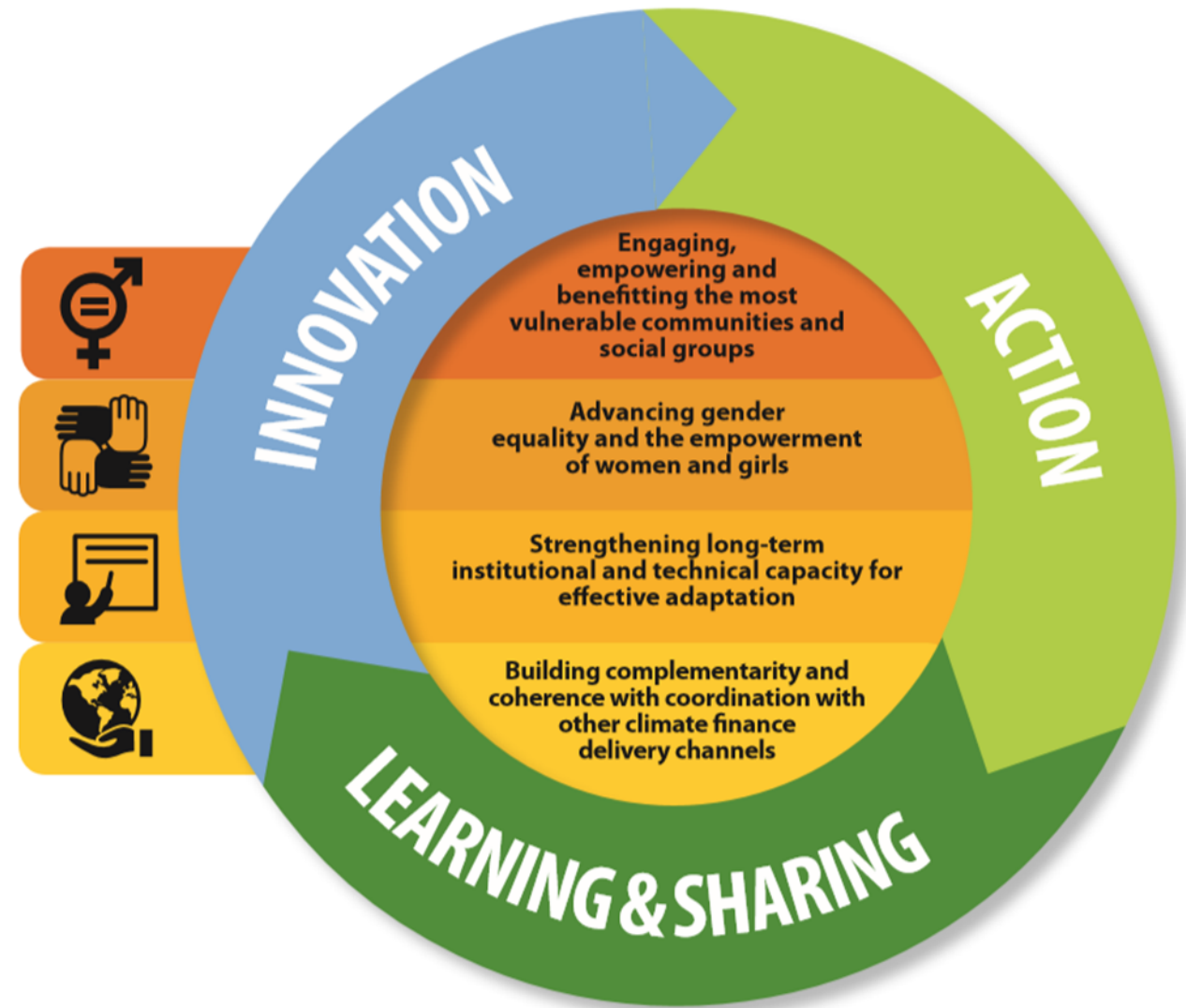


# Innovation as a Strategic Focus for Adaptation

The Adaptation Fund's Medium-Term Strategy established the Innovation Facility

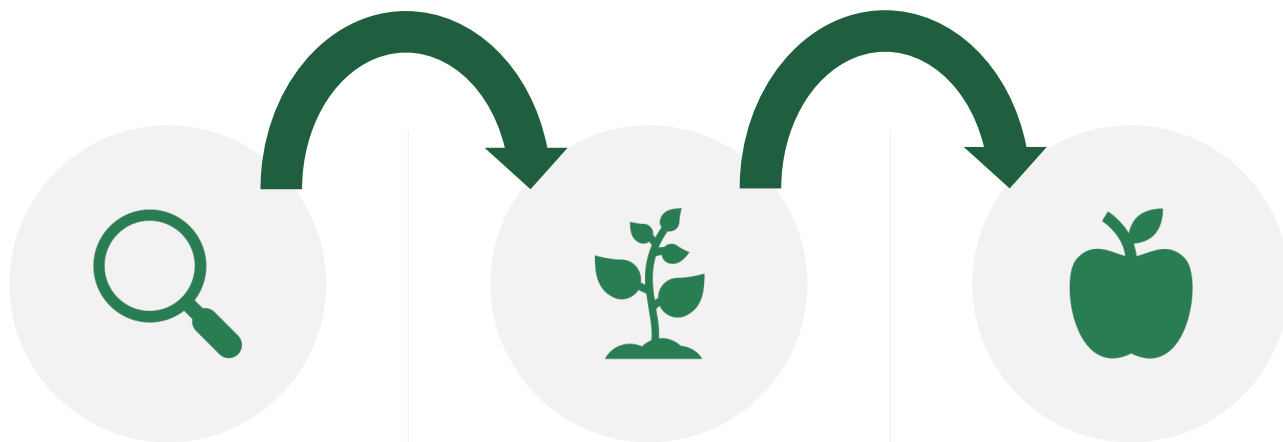
An **Innovation Facility** dedicated to:

- a) Roll out successful innovations;
- b) Scale up viable innovations;
- c) Encourage and accelerate innovations; and
- d) Generate evidence of effective and efficient innovation in adaptation.



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# What is Innovation?



**Understood as the creating, testing, deployment or diffusion of new, adapted or improved adaptation solutions**

**Developed contextually and with the inclusion of the communities most vulnerable to climate change**

**Emphasis on iterative deployment where change, learning, and new information are embraced**



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# Adaptation Fund's Innovation Funding Opportunities

Adaptation Fund's Innovation Facility (USD 52 million allocated)

Small Grant Mechanism  
(grants of up to USD 250,000)

Large Innovation Projects  
(grants of up to USD 5 million)

Direct Access  
NIE Grants  
(USD 2 million  
allocated)

AFCIA Programme  
(USD 10 million allocated +  
an additional USD 10 million  
by the EU) Administered by  
UNDP & UNEP/CTCN

To all Implementing Entities  
accredited with the Fund  
(USD 30 million allocated  
for RFP 1 + USD 60 million  
projected for RFP 2)



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# Adaptation Fund's Innovation Funding Opportunities





# Thematic areas



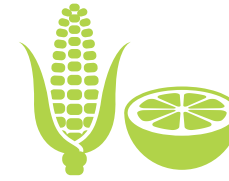
- Disaster Risk Reduction



- Nature-based solutions



- Coastal management



- Agriculture



- Water resources Management



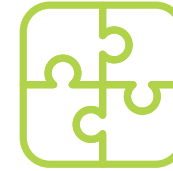
- Forests and Land Use



- Rural development



- Food Security



- Social innovation



- Urban adaptation



- Advancement of gender equality



- Enhancement of cultural heritage



- Focus on communities



- Inclusion of youth



- Innovative adaptation financing



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# Chile: Water management

To improve safe access to water under emergency situations by sourcing the most appropriate and cost-efficient existing solutions under a competitive system.

- Develop urban points for water distribution
- Awareness campaign, sensitizing future users on a more sustainable use of water and a better management under shortages.

## Innovation Features:

- Crowdsourced through an open design contest
- Adaptable and replicable



USD 230,000



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# Why is Innovation Important?- Chile's Case



**Mental & Physical  
Insecurity**

- Crowdsourced Proposal
  - ◆ Awareness
  - ◆ Competitive
- Replicable
  - ◆ CPDA



**Cost-effective &  
Accessible**



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*Project: Improving water access in emergency situations in a vulnerable province of Valparaíso.*

Slide by: Violeta Leiva – ex-Program Manager at AGCID





## Armenia: Youth

To educate new generations of environmentally cultured young change-makers (with particular focus on climate adaptation) in developing countries, through design and introduction of replicable and sustainable digital education solution for high school students.

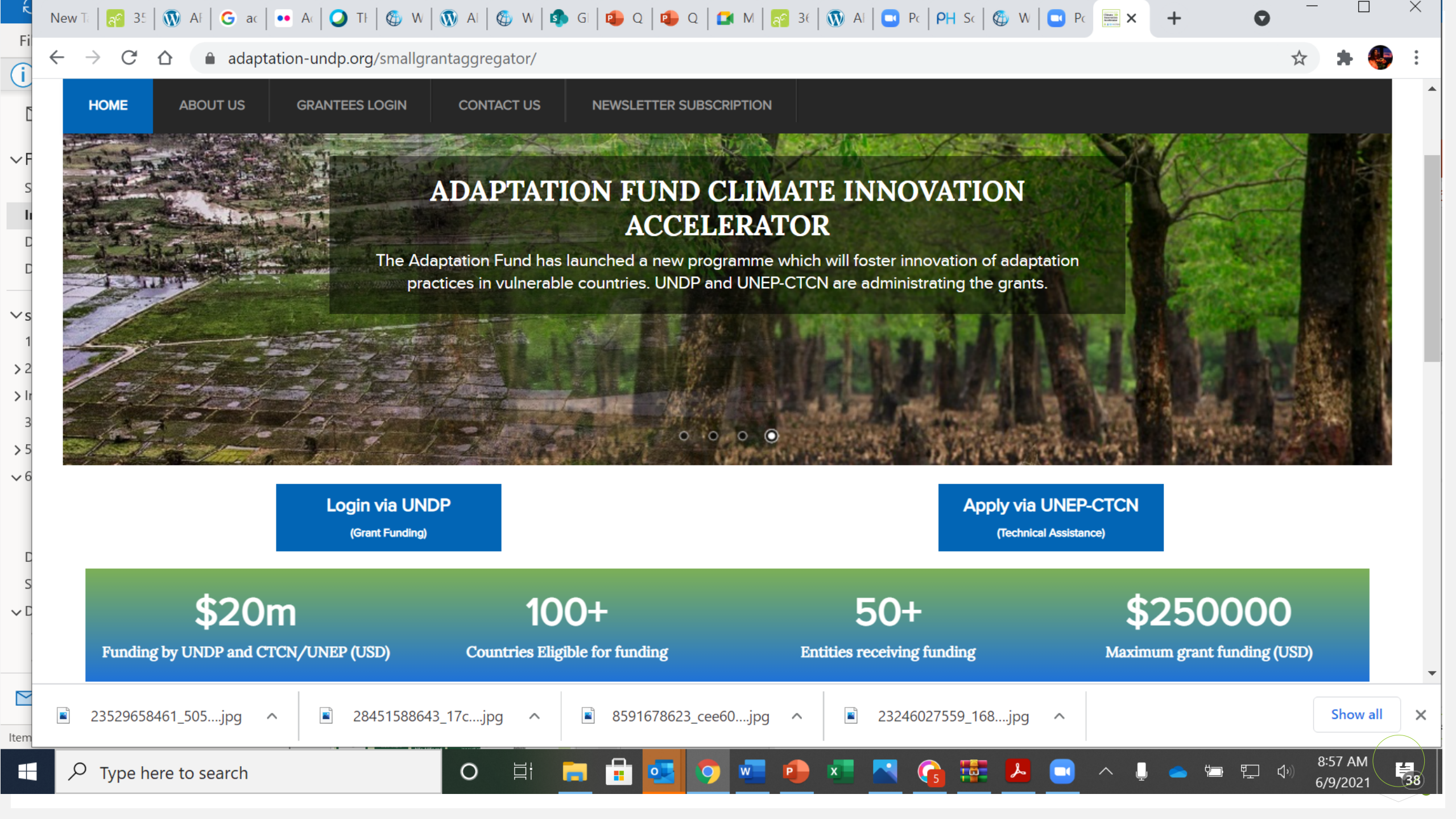
### Innovation Features:

- Gamified digital solution
- Online contest

**USD 231,250**



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# ADAPTATION FUND CLIMATE INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

The Adaptation Fund has launched a new programme which will foster innovation of adaptation practices in vulnerable countries. UNDP and UNEP-CTCN are administrating the grants.



Login via UNDP  
(Grant Funding)

Apply via UNEP-CTCN  
(Technical Assistance)

\$20m	100+	50+	\$250000
Funding by UNDP and CTCN/UNEP (USD)	Countries Eligible for funding	Entities receiving funding	Maximum grant funding (USD)

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# Large Grants for Innovation

The origin of large innovation grants and their main features

- *Objective: Successful innovations rolled out. Innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies that have demonstrated success in one country spread to new countries/regions;*
- *Viable innovations scaled up. Innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies that have demonstrated viability at a small scale piloted at larger scales.*

Main features:

- (a) At least 6 projects of up to US\$ 5 million each to NIEs, RIEs and MIEs
- (b) Setasides: US\$ 30 M 2021; US\$ 60 M 2022 (exp.)
- (c) Submission deadlines, review process, implementation modalities similar to single-country and regional projects and programmes
- (d) PFG: \$30 K for NIEs for single country; RIE and MIE for regional



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# Next steps & opportunities

Under the Innovation Facility

- Free online training for accessing Small Grants for Innovation
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Large Innovation Projects welcomes proposals for consideration at 37<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, October, 2021
- Upcoming policy developments: updates from recent Board meetings



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# Updates from recent Board Meetings

Creation of a **Task Force**  
Composed of Board members representing developing and developed countries. To further define and elaborate on the Fund's vision for innovation, including review criteria, and risk appetite.

Adoption of a **Vision and Mission** for innovation within the Fund as a way towards a more concrete understanding of how the Board pursues innovation through programming.

[AFB/B.36/8](#)

Development and approval of **new criteria** to evaluate large innovation projects within the Fund.

Elements under development:

Result-based  
management



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Helping developing countries build resilience and adapt to climate change



<b>Apply For Funding</b>
Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Projects
Accreditation >
Project Funding >
Innovation Funding >
NIE Small Grants for Innovation
Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)
<b>Large Innovation Projects</b>
Grants to Date
Key Materials

Accreditation	
Project Funding	
Innovation Funding	NIE Small Grants for Innovation
Readiness Grant Funding	Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)
Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Projects	Large Innovation Projects
Operational Policies & Guidelines	Grants to Date
Designated Authorities	Key Materials
Implementing Entities	

## Projects

eligible Parties to submit proposals for large innovation projects. Eligible Parties include national implementing entities (NIEs), Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs), and National Implementing Entities (MIEs). Proposals submitted will be considered

under the Adaptation Fund (AF) Programme on Innovation: Large Innovation Projects, under the Innovation Facility of the Adaptation Fund.

This funding opportunity makes available grants of up to US\$ 5 million to NIEs, RIEs and MIEs starting with the first request for proposals under an indicative set-aside of US\$ 30 million, approved at second session of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board in October 2020.

## Objectives

The Adaptation Fund Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) was approved by the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) in October 2017 and focuses on three main pillars: Action, Innovation, and Learning and Sharing. The MTS implementation plan outlines expected results, outputs, and activities that will be undertaken to put the MTS into action, indicators for measuring performance and a tentative budget and timeline.

The objective of the innovation pillar of the MTS is to support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies. This objective will be supported through the establishment of an **Innovation Facility**, which will include small and large grants. All accredited national, regional or multilateral will be eligible to receive large



# Thank You



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## Innovation Team at the Adaptation Fund

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