

The Green Climate Fund: A CSO guide for engagement and local access



With a specific focus on the Indonesian context



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The Green Climate Fund: A CSO guide for engagement and local access


**WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON THE INDONESIAN
CONTEXT**




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Bappenas	Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional (National Development Planning Board)	NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network	NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	NAPA	National Adaptation Programs of Action
DJPP	Direktorat Jendral Pengendalian Perubahan Iklim (Directorate General of Climate Change)	NDA	National Designated Authority
DNPI	Dewan Nasional Perubahan Iklim (Indonesia National Council of Climate Change)	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ED	Executive Director	RAN-API	Rencana Aksi Nasional Adaptasi Perubahan Iklim (National Adaptation Action Plan)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	REDD	Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment	SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System		
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards		
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent		
GCF	Green Climate Fund		
GI	Governing Instrument		
GMCCA	Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change Adaptation		
IE	Implementing Entity		
IFC	International Finance Corporation		
ITAP	Independent Technical Advisory Panel		
IRM	Independent Redress Mechanism		
LDC	Least Developed Country		
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry		
MoF	Ministry of Finance		




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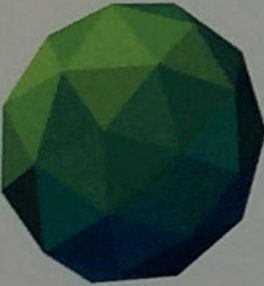
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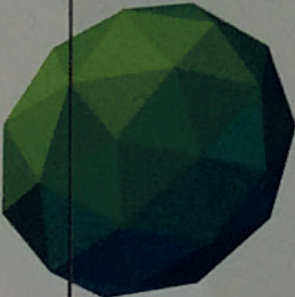
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PREFACE

Women and men, community organisations, NGOs, government institutions and businesses operating at the local level in many developing countries experience the direct impacts of climate change every day. They are also the ones who implement and manage locally driven, innovative measures to respond to changing climate conditions. Their measures, which are based on local realities and on the needs and knowledge of local actors, are often highly effective in contributing to sustainable, low-emission development.

However, thus far these local actors play a very limited role in climate finance decision-making. This is a missed opportunity to say the very least. It also explains why climate funds rarely reach the communities that are most vulnerable to climate change, nor the local actors who implement the most innovative and sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies on the ground. We also see that climate finance decision-making, funding and projects often fail to acknowledge the gender dimension of climate change. Women's voices and leadership is critical to ensure that climate change programmes are designed and implemented in a gender-sensitive and responsive manner.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF), which was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2011, aims to respond to these concerns. It has committed itself to becoming a transformational and paradigm-shifting fund, not only because of its financial size, but especially because it puts forward country ownership, multi-stakeholder participation and gender equality as its core principles. However, to ensure that these commitments are effectively put into practice, broad and persistent civil society engagement with the GCF is a key condition.

That is why we wrote this guide. It is especially targeted at women's rights and environmental CSOs and leaders, as well as small grants funders, which may be learning about the Green Climate Fund for the first time. The guide explains that there are two options available for engaging with the GCF.

Firstly, engaging in GCF decision-making processes, at the national and international level, to help ensure that the funds will be spent in the most effective way possible. Such engagement contributes to the very urgent democratic process in tackling climate change issues in and by both developed and developing countries. Indonesia is used as an illustrative example, and we hope that CSOs and NGOs from other countries will be inspired to develop engagement strategies that best suit their respective national contexts. Secondly, CSOs and NGOs can - and should - seize the opportunity given by the GCF to directly access the funding themselves. This is the path that small grants funder The Samdhana Institute chose to take. In this guide, the organisation openly shares its experiences and lessons learned from its ongoing process of applying for GCF accreditation.

Our hope is that this guide will help women's rights and environmental leaders make informed decisions, whichever path of engagement with the GCF they decide to take. We emphasise that this guide is a working document. It will be updated from time to time in response to the evolving dynamics at the national as well as at the international GCF level.

Aksi!, The Samdhana Institute and Both ENDS

October 2016

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THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

INTRODUCTION TO THE GCF

The Green Climate Fund (hereafter referred to as 'the GCF') is a fund under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The initiative for establishing the GCF goes back to the COP 15 in Denmark in 2009. In the [Copenhagen Accord](#), developed countries agreed to jointly mobilise US\$ 100 billion a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries in overcoming the negative impacts of climate change.

The governance of these funds was designed to ensure equal representation of developing and developed countries. The Green Climate Fund was envisaged as an alternative to the existing climate funds, such as the [Global Environmental Facility \(GEF\)](#), the [Adaptation Fund](#) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs).

The new green fund was going to be a transformational and paradigm-shifting fund towards achieving low-emission and climate-resilient development. It was the first fund to be solely devoted to climate financing in developing countries, focused on mitigation as well as adaptation. In 2010, during the climate summit in Cancun, the GCF was officially founded with the establishment of a Transitional Committee. One year later, the GCF was launched in [Durban](#), where the Governing Instrument was approved. This [governing instrument](#) describes

the principles on which the operating processes of the GCF are based.

The GCF is headquartered in Songdo, South-Korea. Since the first board meeting of the Transitional Committee in 2012, fourteen Board meetings have taken place, including meetings in Barbados, Indonesia and Zambia. The GCF funding is still very much short of the aim of US\$ 100 billion a year. At the time of writing (October 2016), the GCF has mobilised US\$ 10.2 billion. In the run up to the COP 21 in Paris (2015), the first eight projects were approved, totalling a sum of US\$ 182 million; nine more projects were approved in June 2016.

The Green Climate Fund is a fund in development. Many of its policies have not yet been finalised and the Board is still in the process of shaping the GCF's future direction. This means there is an opportunity for NGOs and CSOs to engage closely with the GCF, to monitor whether it lives up to its principles and ambitions, and to influence its operations for the benefit of local communities that are hit hardest by the impacts of climate change.

Defining features of the GCF

- Maximise country ownership
- Balance between adaptation and mitigation
- Balanced governance with equal voice for contributors and recipients
- Diversity of partners
- Diversity of financial instruments
- Largest dedicated climate fund globally

GCF Timeline

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2009 | First proposed at COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark |
| 2010 | Established by the United Nations at COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico |
| 2011 | Governing Instrument adopted at COP 17 in Durban, South Africa |
| 2012 | First Board meeting |
| 2013 | Permanent headquarters established in Songdo, Republic of Korea |
| 2014 | Initial resource mobilisation raises equivalent of over US\$ 10 billion |
| 2015 | First funding decisions taken at Board meeting in Livingstone, Zambia |

BOX 1 / GCF highlights

THE GCF: GOVERNANCE AND ACCESS

The Green Climate Fund is governed by the Board, which is supported by the Secretariat as well as an Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP). At the national level, a National Designated Authority (NDA) or focal point must be established that is responsible for communication with the GCF. A wide variety of organisations (ranging from private sector actors, development agencies and commercial banks and NGOs) at different scales (international, regional, national, local) can access the GCF funds to implement projects and programmes that implement adaptation and mitigation strategies in developing countries.

The GCF Board

The Green Climate Fund is governed by a [Board of 24 members](#), with equal representation of developing and developed countries. To ensure fair representation, members from developing countries must span across Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with at least one member from a Least Developed Country (LDC) and one from a Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Currently, the board members Mr. Zaheer Fakir (South Africa, representing the developing countries) and Mr. Ewen McDonald (Australia, representing the developed countries) fulfil the role of co-chairs. This role rotates every three years.

The Board convenes three or four times a year; at least twice at the GCF headquarters in South-Korea, and once or twice in a different part of the world. Recent board meetings have taken place in Barbados, Zambia and Indonesia. Alongside the board members, the

board room welcomes advisors to board members as well as four Active Observers. These four individuals are self-selected representatives from civil society and the private sector (two from developing and two from developed countries, for further explanation see chapter 3). Board members and active observers can raise their flag when they have inputs or comments to the items on the agenda. During board meetings, the Board decides on a great number of draft policy decisions that are on the agenda during that specific meeting.

The GCF Secretariat

The Secretariat is based in Songdo, South Korea. It is in charge of preparing and implementing the decisions of the Board, and communicating with the various committees and entities in receiving countries. The Secretariat has an Executive Director (Mr. Manzanares is currently serving as the interim Executive Director; Mr. Howard Bamsey was approved as the new Executive Director during Board meeting #14 in October 2016), a Secretary to the Board (Ms. Carolina Fuentes), a country director (Mr. Ousseynou Nakoulima) as well as specialists on specific topics, including accreditation, project proposals, gender, etc. Most employees of the Secretariat reside in Songdo; a significant number of them, however, work part-time in Korea or are contracted as consultants.

The work load and corresponding pressure on the Secretariat has been growing ever since the establishment of the Green Climate Fund. While the Secretariat is still in the process of developing high quality and thorough policies and operational structures, it is simultaneously faced with an increasing demand to deliver

transformational projects. It is no secret that the Secretariat is struggling to hire enough qualified staff, partly due to its location in Songdo.

The pressure that the Secretariat is faced with seems to cause a focus on engagement with international consultants. Meanwhile, the vision and inputs of civil society organisations and local communities tend to be overlooked. This trend is worrying as it defeats some of the key goals of the GCF, that is, an equal voice and diversity of partners. A much closer involvement of local Southern CSOs that can make sure that the voices of people on the ground are being heard, is therefore very urgent.

A much closer involvement of local Southern CSOs that can make sure that the voices of people on the ground are being heard, is urgently needed.

BOX 2

NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY

Countries that are eligible for accessing funds through the Green Climate Fund, need to establish a National Designated Authority (NDA), which serves as the point of communication with the GCF. The NDA is usually established within a Ministry or as a new cooperation unit between several relevant ministries. In the absence of an NDA, a focal point can be appointed which serves as main point of communication with the GCF until the NDA is established. The GCF has a growing network of 120+ country NDAs and focal points. Half of them are already engaged with the GCF to receive financial readiness and preparatory support. The mandate and responsibilities of the NDA cover a range of functions, which require specific capacities to fulfill, as outlined in Box 3.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NDAs:

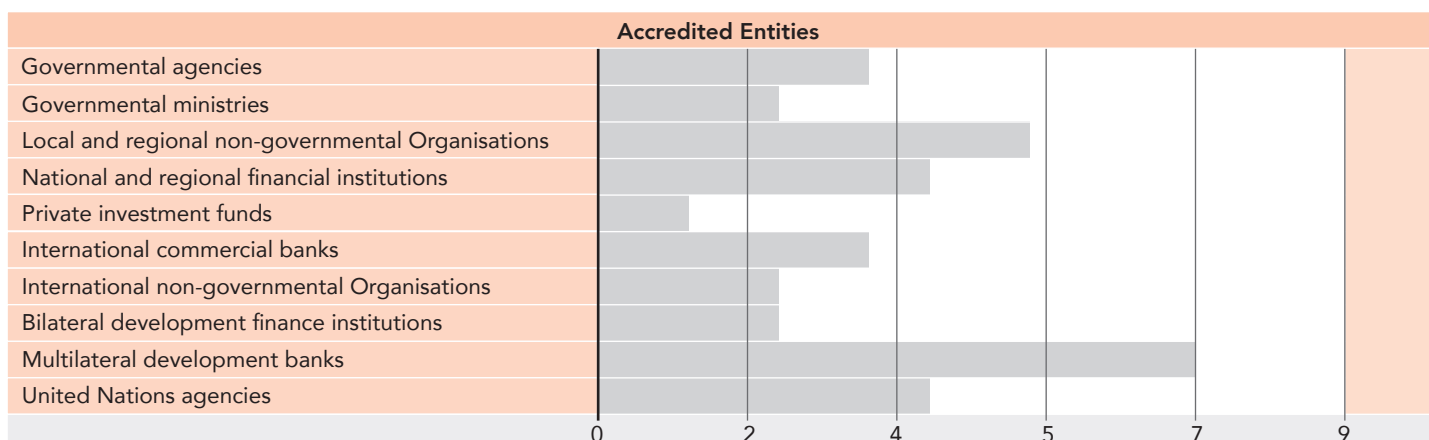
1. Provide broad strategic oversight of the GCF's activities in the country;
2. Convene relevant public, private and civil society stakeholders to identify priority sectors to be financed by the GCF;
3. Communicate nominations / no-objection of entities (sub-national, national or regional, public and private) seeking accreditation to the GCF under the 'direct access' track (see under chapter 3);
4. Implement the no-objection procedure on funding proposals submitted to the GCF in order to ensure consistency of funding proposals with national climate change plans and priorities;
5. Provide leadership on the deployment of readiness and preparatory support funding in the country.

*Box 3: Responsibilities of the NDAs.
Source: GCF Elements, 2015*

The role played by the NDA is of crucial importance. Ideally, the NDA plays a key role in facilitating inclusive national decision-making on the allocation of GCF funds. However, the NDA can also form a stumbling block for local organisations seeking accreditation and CSOs trying to get more engaged within the GCF. With a view to honouring country ownership, the GCF did not set mandatory rules for the operation of the NDA, but only provides best practices guidance. This gives a lot of leeway to NDAs, for instance in relation to multi-stakeholder decision-making. Moreover, since the functioning of an in-country NDA depends on domestic political developments, its stability is not always guaranteed. For example, the Indonesian NDA was dissolved after a presidential change, which created a vacuum for Indonesian organisations seeking accreditation ([also see under chapter 5](#)).

ACCREDITED ENTITIES

Organisations that wish to propose projects for funding by the GCF, have to show their compliance to the standards of the GCF. To become an official GCF Accredited Entity, organisations have to go through an accreditation process. A wide range of organisations is potentially eligible: in type (international, regional, national and subnational), private or public sector, governmental and non-governmental, and in amount of funding and risk type. Accreditation can be achieved through two modalities: [direct and international access](#). Under the 'international access', recipient countries can access the GCF through accredited international entities, including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and regional institutions. Under 'direct access', recipient countries can nominate competent subnational, national and local implementing entities for accreditation to receive funding. This direct access is further explained in chapter 3. By September 2016, 33 organisations had been given the status of GCF Accredited Entity.



Box 4: Accredited Entities as of Board meeting #13 in 2016.

Source: GCF Strategy on Accreditation.

XS	Micro	USD 0 - 10 Million
S	Small	USD 10 - 50 Million
M	Medium	USD 50 - 250 Million
L	Large	USD > 250 Million

Box 5: Size of projects and programmes. Source: GCF Elements, 2015

Given the wide variety of organisations that seek accreditation and funding through the GCF, the GCF developed a “fit-for-purpose” approach. After considering all the mandatory compliances, the Board decides whether or not to accredit an organisation. If the decision is positive, the Board assigns the type of organisation, the risk category (see Box 6 and 7), and the amount towards which the newly accredited organisation can propose projects and programmes. (see box 5)

There are two categories of environmental and social risk of GCF-related activities: For projects and programmes: A, B or C as defined in Box 6.

Type of Risk	Definition
A	Activities with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented.
B	Activities with potential limited adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are few in number, generally site-specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures.
C	Activities with minimal or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts.

Box 6: Source: Guidelines for the Operationalization of the Fit-for-purpose Accreditation Approach, 2016

For financial intermediation: high, medium or low risk as defined in Box 7:

Type of Risk	Definition
High	When an intermediary's proposed programme includes, or is expected to include, substantial financial exposure to activities with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented.
Medium	When an intermediary's proposed programme includes, or is expected to include, substantial financial exposure to activities with potential limited adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts that are few in number, generally site specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures; or includes a very limited number of activities with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented.
Low	When an intermediary's proposed portfolio includes financial exposure to activities that predominantly have minimal or negligible adverse environmental and/or social impacts.

Box 7: Type of financial risk. Source: Guidelines for the Operationalization of the Fit-for-purpose Accreditation Approach, 2016

FURTHER READING:

Green Climate Fund (2015) Elements: Engaging with the Green Climate Fund; A resource guide for national designated authorities and focal points of recipient countries https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/194568/GCF_ELEMENTS_01.pdf/542c1610-81b4-40df-be62-025cef3d26d8

Green Climate Fund (2016) Insight: an Introduction to GCF. https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/194568/GCF_INSIGHT_2016/dc2b945f-d96a-4f6d-9eeb-3960beee919a

IIED (2016) Eight things to know about Green Climate Fund. <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10160IIED.pdf>

WRI (2014) Learning from a "Living Laboratory": 5 Lessons for the Green Climate Fund. <http://www.wri.org/blog/2014/07/learning-%E2%80%9Cliving-laboratory%E2%80%9D-5-lessons-green-climate-fund>

2

THREE KEY ASPECTS OF THE GCF

DIRECT ACCESS & ENHANCED DIRECT ACCESS: THE CURRENT OBSTACLES

Direct access is one of the key aspects of the Green Climate Fund. It means that recipient countries can nominate competent national and subnational organisations (either public, private or non-governmental) that can directly access the GCF without an intermediary. The common access route with most global funds requires that large international institutions and banks serve as an intermediary ('international access'). The Adaptation Fund and Global Environment Facility (GEF) were the first to experiment with the possibility of 'direct access'; the Green Climate Fund intends to be the first global climate fund that makes this mode of direct access a central part of its processes.

The benefits of direct access are:

- Increased country ownership of the funding;
- Increased equity
- Better oversight and increased transparency;
- Improved effectiveness of the funds;
- Increased accountability of the recipient countries.

Direct access will also help to achieve:

- Stronger reliance on and harmonisation with national systems, plans and priorities;
- Reduction of transaction costs;
- Better targeting of local institutions and facilitating their involvement.

Box 8: Benefits of direct access.

Source: Both ENDS e.a. (2013) Reaching Local Actors in Climate Finance; Lessons learned on direct access for the Green Climate Fund.

Direct access

Despite the intention of the GCF to be truly progressive on the issue of access, what we witness in practice is a pronounced misbalance in the accreditation of large international versus national and subnational organisations. Local organisations are particularly underrepresented. Out of the 33 accredited entities so far, only 5 are 'local and regional NGOs'. This misbalance is for a large part due to the complexity of the accreditation process. Depending

on an organisation's size and risk category, the standards to comply with are more or less complex and elaborate. However, the 'smallest' funding category ranges from US\$ 0-10 million. This means that small, local organisations need to comply with the same fiduciary standards and track record as organisations that are used to handle projects of US\$ 10 million or more. This clearly puts local organisations at a competitive disadvantage. Large international organisations (both public and private) have a significant further advantage,

given that those that are already accredited to other relevant funds (e.g. the Adaptation Fund or the GEF) can make use of a fast-track accreditation process. This clearly gives such organisations a head start. Lastly, given that at each Board meeting only a limited number of AEs can be approved, the queue of organisations awaiting Board approval for their accreditation is growing fast.

The vision and governing instrument of the GCF clearly state the GCF's intention to be transformational and to

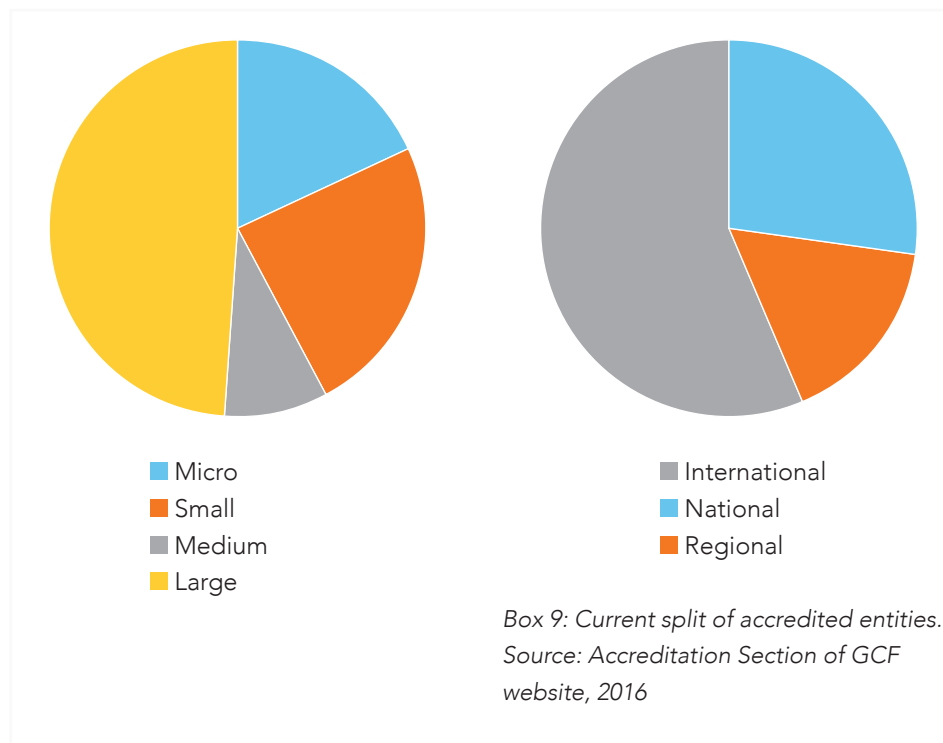
ensure a balance between the larger and smaller entities that gain access to funding. Until now, the attempts of the Board and the Secretariat are mainly focused on the establishment ('readiness') of the NDAs. This is not enough. We believe that if the GCF is really serious about its vision, the national and subnational organisations (including local communities) should be at the core of its policies. The Board has a responsibility to increase the possibilities for local organisations to directly access GCF funds, which includes supporting them to 'jump the queue' of organisations awaiting Board approval for their accreditation.

Enhanced Direct Access

While the current track of direct access is still very much underused, the Board accepted a new modality known as Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) as a [pilot programme](#) at its 13th meeting in June 2016.

The objective of the pilot phase for Enhancing Direct Access is to allow for an effective operationalisation of modalities with the potential to enhance access by sub-national, national and regional public and private entities to the GCF. This will include devolved decision-making to such entities, once accredited, and stronger local multi-stakeholder engagement. The pilot phase will offer the GCF an opportunity to gain experience and additional insights through such an approach.

Box 10: Enhancing Direct Access



Box 9: Current split of accredited entities. Source: Accreditation Section of GCF website, 2016

Enhanced direct access will further delegate oversight, management, implementation, and execution from the international level to the national level, with funding decisions and management of funds taking place at the national level. While direct access allows for country ownership of climate finance, it does not automatically mean that it supports local level climate initiatives or bottom-up planning processes that reflect local knowledge and priorities. Even if organisations manage to get accreditation through direct access, in practice their national governments will have the final word in decisions concerning and communication with the GCF. Given the important contributions that local government, civil society and the private sector make in local level climate activities, there is a need for incentives to encourage national (government) recipients to commit to multi-stakeholder engagement and decision-making. Also, specific measures are needed to ensure that funds will be devolved to sub-national organisations and the most vulnerable populations.

In this regard, the Enhanced Direct Access pilot is a step in the right direction and its effectiveness in practice should be closely monitored.

FURTHER READING:

CDKN (2013) Enhancing direct access to the Green Climate Fund. http://cdkn.org/resource/enhancing-direct-access-to-the-green-climate-fund/?loclang=en_gb

Both ENDS e.a. (2013) Reaching Local Actors in Climate Finance; Lessons learned on direct access for the Green Climate Fund.

Müller, B. (2014) What Is EDA? A Rough Guide to Enhanced Direct Access. <http://www.oxfordclimatepolicy.org/publications/documents/EDAGuidefinal.pdf>

GENDER POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

The Green Climate Fund is committed to ensure that the allocation of resources for adaptation and mitigation activities contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Projects and programmes should ideally address the inequity of climate change impacts on women and men and provide gender-sensitive solutions to climate change mitigation, adaptation or readiness. The GCF will target funds to support women's climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in cases where gender inequality is exacerbated by climate change¹.

In March 2015, the Board approved the [Gender Policy and Action Plan](#). The Gender Policy aims to achieve more sustainable outcomes, gender-equitable benefits, a reduction in the gender gap and mitigation of the impacts of climate change on women's health and mortality. The Gender Policy requires that the projects and programmes proposed for funding by NDAs and focal points are aligned with national policies and priorities on gender as well as with the GCF gender policy. It also requires that women and men are provided with equitable opportunity to take part in stakeholder consultations and decision-making during project and programme preparation, implementation and evaluation. Moreover, NDAs and AEs may request readiness and preparatory support from the GCF related to gender training and capacity building. They may also obtain gender training and capacity building through their partnerships with other organisations (such as bilateral, multilateral and international organisations as well as NGOs).

The [Gender Action Plan 2015-2017](#) provides the operational guidelines for implementation of the Gender Policy. These guidelines apply to all activities of the GCF project/activity cycle and to all external partners (NDAs, focal points and AEs, including private sector actors). Core elements of the guidelines are outlined in Box 11.

¹ GCF, Gender Policy and Action Plan, GCF/B.09/10, 4 March 2015 at http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/24949/GCF_B.09_10_-_Gender_Policy_and_Action_Plan.pdf/fb4d0d6c-3e78-4111-a01a-e5488f9ed167

1. All AEs are required to include a gender perspective in the application of the mandatory environmental and social safeguards (ESS) process. The relevant bodies (NDAs, AEs, the Secretariat) are required to screen projects/programmes for gender sensitivity at the various stages of the project preparation, appraisal, approval, and monitoring process.
2. In addition and complementary to the ESS process above, all AEs are required to undertake a mandatory initial socioeconomic and gender assessment in order to collect baseline data and to: (I) Determine how the project/programme can respond to the needs of women and men in view of the specific climate change issue to be addressed; (II) Identify the drivers of change and the gender dynamics in order to achieve the project/programme adaptation or mitigation goals; (III) Identify and design the specific gender elements to be included in the project/programme activities; (IV) Estimate the implementation budgets; (V) Select output, outcome and impact indicators; and (VI) Design project/programme implementation and monitoring institutional arrangements.
3. All projects/programmes must ensure gender equitable stakeholder consultations following the gender parameters provided in the policy.

Box 11: Core elements of GCF Gender Policy and Action Plan 2015-2017

FURTHER READING:**Heinrich Böll Foundation (2015)**

From Innovative Mandate to Meaningful Implementation: Ensuring Gender-Responsive Green Climate Fund (GCF) Projects and Programs. https://us.boell.org/sites/default/files/gcf-genderintegration-hbs_egm.pdf

The first Executive Director of the GCF was Ms. HÉla Cheikhrouhou. View her remarks "Ensuring a gender sensitive approach in climate finance" given on the occasion of the High Level Event on Empowering Women in Climate Action at United Nations Headquarters on 29 September 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTKHiUVV9Bk>

COUNTRY OWNERSHIP: THE LIMITATIONS IN PRACTICE

The GCF Governing Instrument (GI) establishes that country ownership and a country-driven approach are core principles of the GCF. At the 10th Board meeting in Songdo in July 2015, the Board approved the policy on [Country Ownership](#)².

The GCF's requirement to establish a National Designated Authority (NDA) is meant to strengthen the role of the country, among others in terms of accreditation, project and programme development and the approval process. That the NDA plays a key role is evident from the fact that only funding proposals that have received a no-objection clearance by an NDA or a country's focal point can be submitted. Any project proposal moreover needs

to be in line with the country's national climate change strategies and plans.

One of the responsibilities of the NDA according to the Country Ownership policy, is to stimulate stakeholder engagement. However, CSO observers at the July 2015 Board meeting felt that the discussion on the role of NDAs and stakeholder engagement was insufficient. They have put forward the following concerns and recommendations:

1 Country ownership is fundamental to the integrity of climate response plans submitted to the GCF. Climate programmes and projects should therefore be designed through sovereign and democratic processes that ensure the full participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the people directly impacted by climate change. They should be involved through documented consultation. The programmes should be aligned with nationally determined strategies and reflect local needs and realities.

2 Country ownership is determined not by government bodies alone, but through robust public participation and consent in the formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate responsive activities and financing.

3 Country ownership should not be reduced to a no-objection clearance, but should promote bottom-up approaches that involve impacted communities, CSOs and other stakeholders. In fact, country ownership is now de facto understood as government ownership, with the national government acting as

² More about Board decision on Country Ownership at: http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/24952/GCF_B.10_18_-_Report_of_the_Tenth_Meeting_of_the_Board__6-9_July_2015.pdf/32bc3b3f-6a5f-42a5-8dd1-07e97ce43bd6?version=1.1

sole decision-maker in GCF related matters. Instead, a shift is needed towards a genuine understanding of country ownership that reflects decisions taken based on the interests of all relevant stakeholders, including impacted communities and involved CSOs.

4 The GCF should decide on mandatory guidelines for NDAs to facilitate comprehensive stakeholder consultations throughout the entire cycle of GCF operations, particularly with respect to the involvement of impacted communities within the no-objection procedure.

5 Transparency should be guaranteed about the no-objection procedure and the rationale behind decisions taken, and avoid tacit approval clause. The latter means to avoid a clause that is understood or implied without being stated or written.

3

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GCF

The Green Climate Fund will start disbursing large amounts of climate funding to developing countries and thus play a significant role in the development paths taken in these countries. People and communities in countries that will receive GCF funding, should have the strongest voice in determining the direction of their development, based on their needs and interests.

Now that, since 2015, the GCF has moved from its design phase into its operational phase, the national processes are becoming more and more important. Civil society

organisations in recipient countries must engage in dialogue with their national governments on how and where to allocate the funds. CSOs should also play a central role in monitoring future GCF-funded projects in terms of their effectiveness and possible negative social and environmental impacts on the ground.

What we see so far in many countries, however, is very little civil society engagement with national governments in relation to climate finance and the GCF. This lack of engagement is mirrored at the international level, where there has

been a continuous lack of participation of Southern CSOs in GCF Board meetings. Due to constraints in terms of resources, capacity and language, Southern CSOs have similarly contributed only marginally to discussions among mostly international CSOs preparing intervention points for GCF Board meetings.

In this chapter we look into the possibilities for engagement with decision-makers at both national level (the NDA or focal point) and international level (the GCF Board and Secretariat). To make such engagement effective, CSOs must define the focus of and avenues for intervention by being well-informed about the structure of decision-making and the people involved in that structure, as well as the approaches and means for interventions. Examples from Indonesia are used as illustration for this engagement process.

CSO TRAINING IN INDONESIA:

When it was announced that the GCF Board Meeting would be held for the first time in a developing country– Board Meeting #6 in Bali, Indonesia - it provided an excellent opportunity to convene and prepare Indonesian CSOs for lobby and advocacy with GCF. Aksi! with the support of Both ENDS and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) organised a pilot training project that convened Indonesian CSOs in early 2014. At the national convening they identified the following learning's:

- Many CSOs were not familiar with climate and climate financing issues but were invited for the convening based on their experiences in working at national and local level;
- Each GCF Board meeting discusses various issues in more than 20 documents. It requires a comprehensive knowledge related to finance, governance, environment, social and gender issues; it also requires intervention's skills to push those issues for understanding, acceptance and inclusions as decisions by the GCF Board members;
- Reading and discussing documents in English are particular challenges for Indonesian activists whose first language is not English.

Addressing those challenges would help engagement of Indonesian CSOs to the decision makings in the GCF regime - be it at national and/or international level. These Indonesian CSOs joined the other CSOs Observers from around the world at the Board meeting held in Bali Indonesia in February 2014. There they spoke with various board members and together with eighteen other CSO Observers issued a "Southern CSO Statement on the Green Climate Fund" [statement](#) expressing their opinion on what should happen with the GCF.

Box 12: CSO Training in Indonesia Source: Titi Soentoro, Interim Report of Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice on "Exploring local access to the Green Climate Fund", October 2013.

CSO ENGAGEMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Southern CSOs can engage with the GCF at the international level through various avenues.

Attending a GCF Board meeting

The GCF Board convenes three or four times a year. These Board meetings provide opportunities for Southern CSOs to speak with the Board members individually or as part of activities organised by the co-chairs such as lunch meetings where CSOs are invited to join and give their input. However, the costs of attending one or more Board meetings abroad (two of which are always held at headquarters in Songdo) is prohibitive for many Southern CSOs, especially for small grassroots organisations that work directly with people affected by climate change.

There are two ways to attend a Board meeting: as an accredited observer (after successful application for this), or on the accreditation of an already accredited observer. Currently, 198 CSOs have been accredited as observers to the GCF. The GCF Board is mandated to grant representatives of the CSO observers access to its meetings as Active Observers (as well as two accredited private sector organisations). More information about procedures to become an accredited observer can be found in the [Observer section](#) on the GCF website.

Submitting input to the GCF Secretariat

The GCF Board sometimes invites public input to draft policy papers. CSOs can jointly submit their written input to the Secretariat, or decide to send individual submissions. It is important that CSOs make use of this

opportunity to raise concerns over particular decisions that may cause harm to local communities, or to provide CSO views and knowledge about policies and best practices to be considered by the Board.

Cooperating with the CSO observer community

The GCF's Governing Instrument grants two accredited CSOs the right to participate in its Board meetings as Active Observers, one each from a developed and a developing country. The Active Observers are present in the Board meeting room to submit their interventions according to the agenda items of the meeting. The other CSOs observers follow the GCF Board meeting through a webcast in the overflow room (see photo 1).

(see box 12). During Board meetings, the CSO Active Observers usually are on Skype with their colleagues to quickly discuss and adapt interventions points and/or strategies in response to how the Board meeting discussions are developing.

The Active Observers are identified through a self-selection process. Representation is for a term of two years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The observer currently representing the Southern CSOs is Lidy Nacpil of the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), the Philippines. Liane Schalatek of the Heinrich Böll Foundation North America currently represents the Northern CSOs. In addition, there



Photo 1: GCF observers monitor the Board meeting through a web cast in a separate room (Board meeting #14, Songdo Korea)

It has become common practice to convene a CSO strategy meeting just before a scheduled Board meeting in order to discuss talking points that will be conveyed orally by the Southern and Northern Active Observers. Sometimes, prior to the CSO strategy meeting a South-South CSO strategy meeting is organised, as well as a training on the GCF for local CSOs

are Southern Alternate Active CSO Observers: Andrea Rodriguez from Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA), Bolivia, and Kimaren Ole Riamit from Indigenous Livelihood Enhancement Partners (ILEP), Kenya; and two Northern Alternate Active CSO Observers (Oscar Reyes, Institute for Policy Study, UK, and Lutz Weischer, Germanwatch, Germany). They serve their term from 2016 to

2017. In between board meetings, the CSO observers have regular group calls and interact via a mailing group. To sign on to the mailing group, contact one of the Active CSO Observers. contact one of the Active CSO Observers listed in References at the end of this CSO Guide.

CSO ENGAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

It is not only important that Southern CSOs try to engage with the GCF at the international level, their involvement nationally is equally recommended. Southern CSOs can

stay involved with and advocate for GCF activities in their country in various ways, including:

- **Face-to-face meeting: this can be done any time if there is a need and availability of the person(s) to be met. Mostly, this**

BACKGROUND: INDONESIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

Indonesia was actively involved in the Green Climate Fund under former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (2004 until 2014). Yudhoyono installed various relevant bodies, among others the President's Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight (UKP4), the REDD Management Agency (BP-REDD) and the National Council on Climate Change (DNPI). The latter served as the country's National Designated Authority (NDA) to the GCF.

In August 2012, Mr Bambang Brojonegoro (at the time Head of Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance; later on he became the Minister of Finance (2014-2016) and Minister of National Development Planning of Indonesia (July 2016)) was appointed as one of the 24 GCF Board members. Together with Zou Jiayi (China) and Dipak Dasgupta (India) he represented the Asia-Pacific developing countries until the 4th Board meeting in October 2013. During the 6th Board meeting in Bali in February 2014, Indonesia announced a pledge of US\$ 250,000 to the GCF, a move that hopefully will spark further contributions from other countries. Between 2013 and August 2015, Indonesia was represented by Mr. Irfa Ampri (Head of the Center for Climate Change.

Financing and Multilateral Policy, Fiscal Policy Agency, Ministry of Finance) as an Alternate for the Board of Directors representing the developing countries.

When current President Joko Widodo came in power in October 2014, the above mentioned bodies were dissolved. This meant that Indonesia no longer had an official NDA. Moreover, Widodo merged the two ministries of Forest and Environment into the single Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF). After a year of restructuring, in May 2015, the National Council on Climate Change and BP-REDD+ were also merged into the MoEF. The MoEF has a Unit named the Directorate General of Climate Change (DJPPPI), which specifically handles climate change issues as well as future forest fires.

This restructuring process affected Indonesia's representation at the GCF as well as the the country's national readiness. As per the GCF website on 22 August 2016, Indonesia is not among the list of countries that have an approved readiness proposal nor under signed grant agreement for readiness support from GCF. As of 3 August 2016, Dr. Suahasil Nazara, Chairman of the Fiscal Policy Agency, Ministry of Finance, is listed as the Indonesian NDA to GCF. The NDA Secretariat is led by Syurkani Ishak Kasim, the Director of the Center for Climate Finance and Multilateral Policy, Indonesian Ministry of Finance. Suahasil Nazara replaced Rahmat Witoelar, the Chair of the dissolved DNPI.

At the time of writing (October 2016), four Indonesian entities are in the process of applying for accreditation by the GCF: PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur (PT SMI), Kehati foundation, Kemitraan or Partnership, Succofindo, Danareksa, Lembaga Pembiayaan Dana Bergulir (LPDB), The Samdhana Institute, and the Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF).

Box 13: Background on Indonesia's engagement with the Green Climate Fund.

kind of meeting is in the office of the NDA or of the other related ministries. The issues for the meetings are varied, for example, discussing Indonesia's stance to be represented by its representative at GCF (if there is any) on particular issues before the GCF Board meeting; updates on NDA activities; submission of concerns on particular occurrences or statements made or activities planned and implemented;

- Regular communication via email with the National Designated Authority and related institutions on various issues and activities once a relationship is already established;
- Meetings with parliamentarians are usually to update them with NDA activities and to make them pay attention on certain issues for example on transparency of GCF fund to Indonesia as well as generally from other climate financiers or about climate financing, problems triggered by climate financing, etc.;
- Presentations and workshops which can be in the form of book or report launching, outreach activities by inviting NDA and national representatives or related to GCF;
- Submissions of letter or statement, inquiry, or analysis on particular issues or policy brief usually sent to convey views, opinion or messages.

CSO ENGAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN INDONESIA:

■ Until it was dissolved by the new President in early 2015, the Indonesian Council for Climate Change (DNPI) served as the Indonesian NDA to the GCF. Currently, all climate change related bodies and agencies fall under the new set-up of the Directorate General for Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) (see box 13).

However, the new NDA for the GCF (since August 2016) no longer falls under the MoEF, but now resides under the Ministry of Finance. Initially, three Indonesian government institutions (that is, the Fiscal and Multilateral Policy Directorate, Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas); and DNPI) together handled issues concerning the GCF through inter-ministerial meetings. The tasks had been divided among them as follows: the Indonesian GCF Board member and Alternate Board member came from the Ministry of Finance; DNPI played an advisory role and later served as the NDA; and Bappenas also played an advisory role, particularly to determine which GCF-funded projects will be facilitated and supported in Indonesia.

The government (more specifically Bappenas) had already mainstreamed climate change issues into the Mid-Term National Development Planning as 'Indonesian responses to climate change', commonly known as the 'Yellow Book' (2008). Under the new set-up, the same three ministries still play a major role in determining policies and programmes for the GCF in Indonesia. Hence, Indonesian CSOs monitoring the GCF should engage with and focus its interventions on those three ministries.

■ Ministry for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (MWECP)

Since climate change is mainstreamed into the Mid-Term National Development Planning 2008, the MWECP is also obliged to include climate change issues in its policies and programmes. One of the commitments of this ministry related to climate change was reflected in a workshop on gender at the Indonesian Pavilion during the COP 21 UNFCCC in Paris, organised in cooperation with Indonesian CSOs. CSOs should encourage the MWECP to play an active role in monitoring the application of the GCF's gender-sensitive approach in the work of the Indonesian NDA and its process of decision-making.

■ Indonesian parliamentarians

As part of their engagement strategies, CSOs should aim at influencing parliamentarians, particularly those who supervise the government budget. Insufficient knowledge of parliamentarians on climate finance, including the GCF, remains a big challenge. CSOs should focus their activities on transparency and accountability issues, as well as on the effectiveness of climate finance projects. While the parliamentarians monitor transparency and accountability at government budget level, the effectiveness of climate finance projects and GCF funds is a new issue to be introduced to them.

Box 14: CSO Engagement at the National Level in Indonesia

4

DISCUSSION TOPICS IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

The GCF is still evolving policies and only beginning to implement and accredit organisations and approve funding for projects. As outlined earlier in chapter 2, country ownership is a fundamental principle of the GCF policy framework. Thus, active involvement of CSOs within the various national contexts is critical to holding the GCF and GCF supported projects and programmes accountable. This chapter outlines advice on the types of topics and the types of CSO interventions that can be done at national level as seen through the eyes of Aksi!, an Indonesian CSO that has been engaging on GCF regime since 2012.

TOPICS DISCUSSED IN THIS CHAPTER ARE:

- **Ensure civil society engagement and consultation is functioning at national level;**
- **Ensure that the GCF's gender policy is being interpreted and implemented at national level;**
- **Ensure NDAs are being transparent and disclosing information to civil society organisations;**
- **Ensure public consultation is being carried out; ensure that the NDA facilitates consultation with people affected directly and indirectly by GCF supported projects and programmes;**
- **Ensure implementation of safeguards and grievance mechanisms.**

ENSURE CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION IS FUNCTIONING AT NATIONAL LEVEL

As a United Nations body, the GCF must refer to and comply with the highest standards of human rights and environmental protection at the international level, including prevailing standards in national and domestic laws.

A key role for CSOs is to ensure that programmes and projects supported by GCF do not violate nor contribute to the violation of human rights, not contravene internationally recognised standards on social, labor, and environmental protection, and recognise that human and environmental rights obligations have primacy over financial obligations. Paragraph 71 of GCF Governing Instrument³ states that the GCF Board will develop mechanisms to promote the input and participation of stakeholders, including private-sector actors, civil society organisations, vulnerable groups, women and indigenous peoples, in the design, development and implementation of the strategies and activities to be financed by the GCF.

³ It is a document of the UNFCCC (the UNFCCC approved but this founding document was developed by the transitional committee) that outlines the GCF's objectives and guiding principles, stating that in the context of sustainable development, the objective of the Fund is to promote the paradigm shift towards low-emissions and climate-resilient development pathways. It also outlines the GCF's governance and institutional arrangements, including its relationship to the COP and legal status, as well as the GCF board's rules of procedure, and roles and functions. In addition, the instrument outlines the rules relating to the GCF's: administrative costs; financial inputs; operational modalities; financial instruments; monitoring and evaluation; fiduciary standards; environmental and social safeguards; accountability mechanisms and termination. Read more: https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/56440/Governing_Instrument.pdf/caa6ce45-cd54-4ab0-9e37-fb637a9c6235

As a national designated authority to the GCF, the NDA also has to adhere to those overall principles in implementing GCF supported activities; in particular because most countries have also ratified related UN treaties among others the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), that are significant for climate change interventions.

In practice, it is evolving in many countries that the NDA is established within the Ministry of Finance. However, the Ministry of Finance however is usually not an advocacy target by CSOs and not much aware of issues related to climate and gender justice. They also tend to not be familiar with civil society engagement. Hence, CSOs may find themselves needing to demand further that the good practice to engage with civil society be firmly established within the NDA.

For CSOs it is very important to obtain access to the NDA and other related ministries related to GCF and enter into dialogue.

CSOs interventions should focus on:

1. The need to establish a national mechanism for civil society engagement including active GCF CSO monitors in country. This national mechanism would be a forum for discussions on all related GCF matters in country as well international;
2. Multi- stakeholder engagement and country coordination have to be made obligatory, not just best-practice options;

3. Involvement of stakeholders at every stage of GCF operations within countries, including marginalised population groups, women, indigenous peoples and affected communities. This would be in-line GCF GI provision in paragraph 57 that states “ ... programmes and projects, as well as other activities, funded by the GCF will be regularly monitored for impact, efficiency and effectiveness in line with rules and procedures established by the Board. The use of participatory monitoring involving stakeholders will be encouraged”.

ENSURE THAT GCF’S GENDER POLICY IS BEING INTERPRETED AND IMPLEMENTED AT NATIONAL LEVEL

As outlined in chapter 2, GCF has a Gender Policy in place and has furthered outlined operational guidelines for the implementation of this policy in its [Gender Action Plan 2015-2017](#). Despite gender inequalities that may be in place culturally in various countries, NDAs and accredited organisations implementing projects in country are required to comply with this Gender Policy.

CSOs interventions should focus on:

1. not only adaptation projects should have gender components, but also mitigation projects;
2. ensure that the project proposals in country coming from national and international AEs that require no-objection procedure letter from the NDA, must provide:
 - environmental, gender and social assessments;
 - gender segregated baseline information and data;

- Environmental Impacts and risk Assessments;
 - assessments of direct, indirect, induced, cumulative and long term social, gender, environmental impacts and risks associated with the projects e.g., due to the changing landscape, natural resources and livelihoods;
 - plans developed together with affected communities -women and men- to ensure no harm (i.e., no negative environment, gender and social impacts and risks).
3. integration of gender considerations in the issues of country ownership and CSOs engagement as well as other national procedures and mechanisms related to GCF;
 4. require gender capacity for national and international AEs that will work in country;
 5. establishing a gender specialist under the NDA office.

ENSURE NDAs ARE BEING TRANSPARENT AND DISCLOSING INFORMATION TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

The 12th GCF Board meeting in March 2016 in Songdo approved the ‘Comprehensive information disclosure policy of the GCF’. Through the implementation of the Policy, the GCF recognises the need to ensure public access and stakeholder participation in fulfilling its role. The GCF will ensure the greatest degree of transparency in all its activities through the effective dissemination of information to stakeholders and the public at large. The GCF Information Disclosure Policy that informs how NDAs need to also act is based on 4 principles:

1. *Maximise access to information.* GCF seeks to maximise access to any documents and information that it produces and to information in its possession that is not on the list of exceptions. So long as the GCF is not legally obligated to confidentiality, information on the list of exceptions will be disclosed in accordance with timelines and procedures specified for that purpose;
2. *Limited exceptions.* Any exceptions to disclosure will be predicated upon the possibility, narrowly and clearly defined, that the potential harm to interests, entities or parties arising from the disclosure of information would outweigh the benefits, that the GCF is legally obligated to non-disclosure or has received information from third parties clearly marked as confidential;
3. *Simple and broad access to information.* The GCF will employ all practical means to facilitate access to information, maximize access to such information, and use clear and cost-effective procedures and timelines for processing requests;
4. *Explanations of decisions and right to review.* When denying access to information on request the GCF will provide an explanation for its decision. Requesters who believe they have been denied access to information in violation of this Policy will have the right to have such decision reviewed by the Information Appeals Panel.

The GCF will apply a **presumption in favor of disclosure for all information** and documents relating to the GCF and its funding activities. All documents in the GCF's possession subject to disclosure as per this Policy, will be released on the GCF's website or through other appropriate means, or will be provided upon request, to provide the public with a clear picture of the GCF's work and the way it administers financial resources received from public, private and other sources.

The exceptions to the GCF's presumption in favor of disclosure of information are:

- a. personal information;
- b. legal, disciplinary or investigative matters;
- c. communications involving members and alternate members of the Board and advisers;
- d. safety and security;
- e. Information provided in confidence;
- f. deliberative information;
- g. certain financial information;
- h. board proceedings;
- i. information relating to Committees, Panels and Groups; Accountability Units;
- j. Trust Fund reports; and
- k. accreditation.

ENSURE PUBLIC CONSULTATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT; ENSURE THAT THE NDA FACILITATES CONSULTATION WITH PEOPLE AFFECTED DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY BY GCF SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

The GCF Governing Instrument encourages participation of stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of the strategies and activities to be financed by the GCF. This is reflected among others in GCF Information

Disclosure Policy to make public consultations as a practice by the GCF Board in soliciting public input for certain policies and strategies through the GCF's website.

Structured public consultations need to be conducted to get the views of the stakeholders about the projects proposed for GCF funding.

CSOs interventions should focus on:

1. NDA should facilitate consultation with people affected directly and indirectly by GCF supported projects and programmes through national and international AEs;
2. Consultations should be carried out throughout the financing period; these consultations should cover the concept and design of the projects and programmes, the assumptions, objectives and methodologies, and the impacts and risks (economic, environment, gender and social), as well as monitoring and evaluation reports;
3. Invitations to and information about consultations should be provided as early as possible;
4. Information and all documents for the consultation should be provided to affected communities in languages they understand, and in methods and places that can reach out to all members of the communities particularly invisible groups in the communities such as women, people with disability, single women and women as the head of the family;
5. Consultations with affected communities about proposed projects and programmes should uphold their right to make decisions about matters affecting their lives and livelihoods. This

means that affected people -women and men- have the right to object to the proposed projects and programmes. Affected communities should choose their own representatives but specific measures have to be developed to facilitate the involvement of women (single women, married women, women as heads of the household) and other marginalised groups in the communities and encourage them to attend and make decisions about the proposed project. NDA should only approve and endorse the no-objection if the proposed projects implemented only with the fully documented consent of affected communities;

6. All consultations with affected communities should be conducted in a manner that is transparent, inclusive and responsive. Consultations must be conducted free of coercion and any undue influence;
7. Recognise that adaptation projects may include relocation with the free, prior and informed consent of climate impacted communities, the relocation process (from planning to implementation) has to be developed jointly with the affected communities, with particular attention given to women and other marginalised groups in those communities;
8. Ensure the safety for affected peoples. People have the right to object to a financing proposal affecting them, their livelihoods and environments. People who object to any financing proposal have to be protected from coercion by project proponents and their supporters.

9. Ensure that the project financing does not trigger displacements. If the impact and risk assessments indicate the need for or the possibility of displacement (shelter and/or livelihoods), the proposal has to be rejected and the no-objection letter declined.

ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFEGUARDS AND GRIEVANCE AND REDRESS MECHANISMS

GCF supported activities in country must not have harmful impacts and effects whether social, gender, economic, environmental. This principle must apply to all projects and programmes the GCF finances. The responsibility to ensure this principle is both that of the governments, NDA and other entities including non-state actors submitting the projects and programmes to the GCF for funding.

The 7th GCF Board meeting in May 2014 decided to adopt, on an interim basis, the Performance Standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Furthermore, GCF's own environmental and social safeguards (ESS), which will build on evolving best practices, is to be developed within a period of three years after the GCF becomes operational, and with inclusive multi-stakeholder participation.

Regarding safeguards, CSOs intervention should focus on:

1. The NDA should refer to those safeguards elements particularly the principles and minimal framework for social and environmental criteria and indicators in considering project proposals from national and international AEs for Indonesia;

2. The NDA must not approve any financing proposal that does not fulfill all aspects of the do-no-harm principle;
3. NDA should not endorse or provide a no-objection letter to project proposals from national and international AEs that contains significant social, gender or environmental risks.

In addition to safeguards, the GCF has established a grievance and redress mechanism within its policies. In its 6th meeting in February 2014, the GCF Board approved the terms of reference of an Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). The IRM will receive complaints relating to the operation of the GCF and will evaluate and make recommendations.

It will:

- a. address the reconsideration of funding decisions and
- b. address the grievances and complaints by communities and people who have been directly affected by the adverse impacts through the failure of the project or programme funded by the GCF to implement the GCF's operational policies and procedures, including environmental and social safeguards.

A grievance or complaint can be filed by a group of persons who have been directly affected by adverse impacts through the failure of the project or programme funded by the GCF to implement the GCF's operational policies and procedures, including environmental and social safeguards, or the failure of the GCF or its intermediaries and implementing entities to follow such policies. Other kinds of complaints, such as allegations of corruption, mis-

procurement, will be handled by other units of the GCF, i.e. the Independent Integrity Unit.

Regarding grievance and redress mechanisms, CSOs intervention should focus on:

1. NDA should provide a regular forum for civil society groups and affected communities and sectors that hear complaints or grievance from people affected by the projects and programmes supported by the GCF. This forum would be a part of outreach activities go the NDA;
2. NDA should provide a grievance and redress mechanism that are gender sensitive and responsive particularly to the needs of marginalised groups in the community. Information about this mechanism should be provided to affected communities at the same time that any proposed project is notified and introduced to them by national and international AEs.

CONTEXT INDONESIA ON SAFEGUARDS

Safeguards is not unusual practice in the Indonesian context. Aside from the Indonesian Presidential Decree 27/2012 on Environmental Permit that requires Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA), the Indonesian REDD+ Task Force also integrated safeguards elements in the REDD+ National Strategy in June 2012. Implementation of the National Strategy has to address following principles:

- Gender sensitivity: through attention to equality in roles, needs, and responsibilities of men and women;
- Inclusiveness: removing hindrances and deliberately ensuring participation of all relevant stakeholders;
- Collaboration: ensuring that all parties involved are treated as equal working partners;
- Adaptability: quickly and appropriately formulate policies anticipative of change;
- Transparency: ensuring open planning, decision making, and financing.

Moreover, the REDD+ Agency implement and apply the principles of FPIC in all REDD+ programmes and projects in Indonesia. The purpose of this approach is to ensure fairness and accountability for indigenous and local peoples whose lives and rights will be affected by REDD+ activities. Consultation with affected communities is based on complete, balanced, honest, unbiased, and easily understood information concerning the alternatives and choices existing for the public within the implementation of REDD+ activities, along with the consequences of each alternative choice. This information is meant to create leeway for broad consensus, with all parties having access to existing opportunities.

The minimal framework for environmental safeguards criteria and indicators developed by the REDD+ Task Force include:

1. Acknowledgement and protection of the basic rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to: (I) state their opinions about whether they approve REDD+ activities in the areas in which they live; (II) participate; (III) get information; (IV) object to or criticize public decisions relating to REDD+ projects; (V) have full rights to natural resources, not only on the basis of documents, but based on historical use; and (VI) an equitable level of benefits;
2. Assurance of gender equality and the right of vulnerable groups to participate equally in REDD+ implementation;
3. Guaranteeing the fulfillment of the principles of good governance and administrative functions that accommodate transparency and accountability to the public;
4. Guaranteeing that the application of the REDD+ scheme does not run counter to efforts to preserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable natural environment standards;
5. Assurance that rehabilitation is undertaken in the case of violation of sustainable environmental standards;
8. Ensuring that conflict resolution mechanisms are in place should disputes arise in the future.

Box 15: Context Indonesia on safeguards

5

CASE STUDY: THE SAMDHANA INSTITUTE

OPENING UP THE BLACK BOX OF GCF ACCREDITATION

The Green Climate Fund is committed to contributing to gender equity and to making direct access to funding a core aspect of its operation (see chapter 2). While these are two significant and potentially transformational principles of the GCF, in practice it is a challenge to ensure that local organisations and women-led groups are facilitated to access GCF climate financing.

The first and vital step is to make sure that the relevant organisations successfully apply for accreditation with the GCF. These should be organisations that can propose small grants based and gender-responsive projects and programmes to the GCF with the aim to get funding effectively, efficiently and responsibly to the communities most affected by climate change.

As discussed in previous chapters, the application process for accreditation by the GCF has so far been dominated by international and multilateral organisations, with development banks and financial institutions making up the majority of the currently accredited organisations. Many years of development experience has shown, however, that financial institutions are not best placed to work with local communities and are often quite weak on their gender-responsive track records.

In 2015, the Samdhana Institute (shorthand, Samdhana) and Both ENDS started working together on a pilot project to explore the practical steps involved in (preparing for) the GCF accreditation process and to share the lessons learned from this process.

Samdhana is a highly respected environmental small grants funder based in Indonesia and the Philippines (see box 16), with the ambition to create a small grants fund for strengthening women's resilience to climate change. Both ENDS has been lobbying and advocating for direct access and gender equity since the GCF's inception. Together they recognised that Samdhana might be in a strong position to submit projects to the GCF that have the potential to make an enormous difference on the ground for women (and men) in communities affected by climate change.

In this chapter, Samdhana shares the experiences and lessons learned from this pilot project over the past twelve months (September 2015 to August 2016). The objective of this chapter is to start opening up the 'black box' of what the GCF accreditation process entails for CSOs and small grants funders, for the benefit of other organisations that are interested in taking this path.

ABOUT THE SAMDHANA INSTITUTE

The Samdhana Institute is a small grants funder operating in Southeast Asia. It was established in 2003 by a small group of fellows (rights, environment and development practitioners) and currently has two offices, one in the Philippines and one in Indonesia. Samdhana provides small grants (US\$ 1000 to 5,000), medium-size grants (up to US\$ 15,000) and technical assistance to community-based organisations and CSOs. In 2015, Samdhana provided a total of 163 grants: 114 grants supported Indonesian civil society actions, 34 grants supported Philippine indigenous peoples, and 15 grants strengthened the actions of youth and artisans in the Mekong (Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia).

In Sanskrit 'Samdhana' means: "a peaceful coming together, a giving back". Samdhana's vision is a region where natural, cultural and spiritual diversity are valued and environmental conflicts are resolved peacefully, with justice and equity for all parties. Achieving this requires that communities who directly manage their local natural resources, local and indigenous peoples, have clear rights, have ready recourse to justice, have strong and skilled leadership, as well as access to appropriate financial resources and technical support.

Samdhana has an impressive track record and is supported by institutional donors such as NORAD, DANIDA and UNDP; and other donors such as the Ford Foundation, Global Greengrants Fund, Both ENDS, and the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA). Samdhana manages relationships with more than ten donors a year, together contributing to Samdhana's annual budget of around US\$ 2 million.

Box 16: About the Samdhana Institute



Woman planting seeds in a mangrove rehabilitation project in Rumba-Rumba village, south-east Sulawesi province

GETTING STARTED: THE FIRST QUESTIONS TO ASK

Who will lead the project?

It is important to establish clear leadership and division of responsibilities regarding the GCF accreditation process. Samdhana discussed internally who was best suited to lead the organisation through the pilot project and the accreditation process. The management was conscious that the Programme Director was already heavily involved in preparing to take on the role of National Executing Agency (NEA) for the World Bank's Designated Grant Mechanism (DGM) programme in Indonesia. Moreover, they considered it important that the two projects work closely together to ensure Samdhana's organisational policies and operations stay aligned.

The Samdhana management decided to appoint the current Grants Manager in the programmes team, Ms. Neni Rochaeni, to lead the GCF accreditation project. Ms Rochaeni has worked with Samdhana for many years and is very familiar with the operating procedures of Samdhana's small grants system.

Is the organisation eligible for fast-track accreditation?

Organisations can apply for accreditation with the GCF through one of two modes of access:

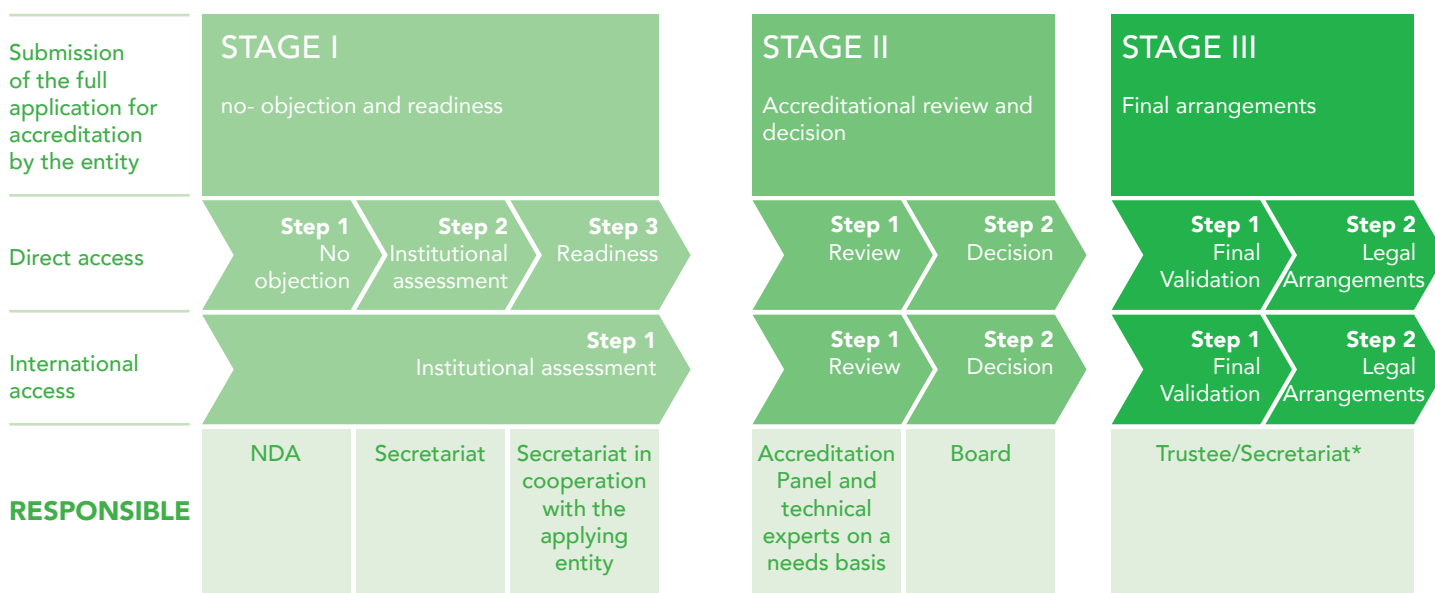
- Direct access modality: for regional, national and subnational entities (both public and private)
- International access modality: for international entities, including

United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and regional institutions.

There are two paths to acquiring GCF accreditation: the regular one and the fast-track one. The fast-track accreditation process is for organisations that have already been accredited by other development or climate finance mechanisms (see box 17). The majority of the currently 33 accredited entities of the GCF went through the fast-track process.

Samdhana was not eligible for the fast-track path and thus Samdhana and Both ENDS started preparing for the regular accreditation process. The main stages for this regular track are outlined in figure 1.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS:



* To be defined in the context of provisions for legal and formal arrangements with intermediaries and implementing entities, including policies on fees and payments.

figure 1. Source: GCF website

ELIGIBILITY FOR FAST-TRACK ACCREDITATION

Entities are eligible to apply under the GCF's fast-track accreditation process if both criteria are met:

1. The entity was accredited by one or more of the following funds by 09 July 2015:
 - Global Environment Facility (GEF)
 - Adaptation Fund (AF)
 - Directorate-General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid of the European Commission (EU DEVCO)
2. The entity is in full compliance with the relevant accreditation requirements of the fund(s) they are accredited to:
 - GEF's Minimum Fiduciary Standards and Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards
 - AF's fiduciary standards
 - EU DEVCO's fiduciary standards under the 6-pillar assessment

Box 17 Source: http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/46513/1.9_-_Fast-track_Accreditation_Guidance.pdf/daa75a16-e657-4409-9453-215dc9de209c

How to contact the in-country NDA?

The GCF is set up in a way that gives much ownership to developing countries. The first point of contact and information for organisations aspiring GCF funding is therefore the in-country NDA. The names and contact details of NDAs can be found on the GCF's website.

However, in this case, contacting the NDA presented the project's first serious challenge. In early 2015, Indonesia had dissolved the governmental entities that were responsible for engaging with the GCF and climate finance (see chapter 3 Box 13). There was no official NDA in Indonesia throughout 2015 and a vacuum of information and communication was the result. When in 2016 a new NDA was appointed and made public, it no longer resided under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), but within the Ministry of Finance. While Samdhana had built up a good rapport with the MoEF, the organisation had to start all over and find a way to introduce itself and its track record to the Ministry of Finance.

In May 2016, Samdhana was finally granted a first meeting with the new NDA to learn what their requirements were for obtaining a 'No-Objection Letter' from the NDA. Only with this official no-objection clearance are organisations entitled to enter the Stage 1 of the GCF accreditation process. It is also the precondition to being able to register for an official login to the GCF's Online Accreditation System (OAS) and, eventually, for being selected to receive readiness support/technical consultancies paid for by either the GCF or the NDA.

While waiting for the no-objection clearance, Samdhana started to self-assess its organisational readiness by using publicly available check lists and resources as described below.

The in-country NDA has the authority to issue a No-Objection Letter (NOL) for institutions and organisations that wish to undergo the GCF's accreditation process. Engaging with the NDA in your country is thus a crucial step.

Box 18: Engaging with the NDA is crucial

WALKING THROUGH THE MANY STEPS OF THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Information gathering

The very first step for any organisation that aspires accreditation by the GCF is to gather information and knowledge about the accreditation requirements. Samdhana used three sources.

First, the most reliable source is of course the GCF website: www.greenclimate.fund (on its home page scroll down and find the GET ACCREDITED link or go to this link: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/partners/accredited-entities/accreditation>).

On this page, the following documents were the most useful to begin with:

- 1.3 – Introduction to Accreditation Framework
- 1.5.1 – Application Form
- 1.6 – Fiduciary Standards
- 1.7 – Environmental and Social Safeguards
- 1.8 – Gender Policy and Action Plan

Other useful sources of background information on the GCF are listed in the References at the end of this CSO Guide. Particularly useful is the "Simplified Guidebook for Direct Access Accreditation to the Green Climate Fund" prepared by the UNEP/UNDP/WRI GCF Readiness Programme and updated in July 2016.⁵ They also prepared a helpful guide to the GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards.⁶

Secondly, other CSOs or NGOs can be a valuable source of information, especially those attending the NDA awareness meetings organised by the NDA. Networking with like-minded organisations can thus be very useful. Samdhana attended the awareness and consultation meetings that were hosted by the Indonesia's NDA in January 2015, just before it was dissolved.⁷ These meetings were attended by organisations that had already started the application process for accreditation and by others that intended to do so.

A third helpful source of information are the CSO observers. Especially those that regularly attend the GCF Board meetings have up-to-date information as to policy and procedures, and can help facilitate contacts with the GCF Secretariat. Both ENDS has had observer status since 2012. A list of current observers can be found here: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/boardroom/observers/civil-society>. One of Indonesia's CSO observers took the initiative to convene a meeting in November 2015 where several institutions that were in the process of applying for accreditation gathered and shared their experiences and challenges. At this forum Samdhana learned from their experiences which helped to anticipate the (potential) challenges ahead.

Examining eligibility and assessing capacity

Samdhana is preparing itself to apply for accreditation as a national entity through the direct access modality, in the micro category (projects up to US\$ 10million).

To apply for accreditation, an organisation needs to have in place and be able to present:

1. proper legal documentation, to show that your entity is a legally established entity;
2. a proper institutional system, with standard operational procedures/policies/guidelines;
3. track records demonstrating that these policies/procedures/guidelines are actually and effectively implemented.

⁵ Can be found online at http://www.gcfreadinessprogramme.org/sites/default/files/Simple%20Guidebook%20for%20NIE%20Accreditation%203.0_0.pdf

⁶ This can be found online at <http://www.gcfreadinessprogramme.org/sites/default/files/Environmental%20and%20Social%20Safeguards%20at%20the%20Green%20Climate%20Fund.pdf>

⁷ Until January 2015, NDA-I was managed by Dewan Nasional Perubahan Iklim or Indonesia's National Climate Change Council (DNPI). In February 2015, DNPI was dissolved through the Presidential Regulation 16/2015. The NDA-I is now officially managed by Badan Kebijakan Fiskal of Kementerian Keuangan Republik Indonesia or the Fiscal Policy Agency at Indonesia's Ministry of Finance.

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION?

The accreditation application will include the following sections:

1. Background and contact information of the applicant entity
2. Information on the way in which the institution and its intended projects/programmes will contribute to furthering the country's climate strategies and action plans, in line with GCF's objectives
3. Information on the scope of intended projects/programmes and estimates contribution requested for an individual project or activity within a programme
4. Basis fiduciary criteria
5. Applicable specialized fiduciary criteria
6. Environmental and social safeguards (ESS)
7. Gender

What you need to apply*

- Nomination by your NDA(s) or focal point(s) (for subnational, national and regional entities applying under direct access);
- Intended projects/programmes (for information purposes);
- Evidence of how your Organisation can meet the Fund's fiduciary standards, ESS, and gender policy;
- Track record, which should include climate change-related projects/programmes and the fiduciary, environmental and social practices applied.

* this is not exhaustive.

Figure 2.
Source: GCF website



Samdhana has adequate financial and project management systems in place needed for running a small grants fund. However, Samdhana still had to work a lot on the required documents as the level of detail demanded by the GCF is quite high. Therefore, the project leader initiated a gap analysis, examining the requirements listed on the GCF's Application Form (document 1.5.1) and checking these against the documents and procedures that Samdhana already has in place.

In Box 19 are some of the sections and items to be fulfilled, as quoted from the Application Form:

- Section 4 **BASIC FIDUCIARY CRITERIA**
- Section 4.1 Key administrative and financial capacities
 - 1.1.1. General management and administrative capacities
 - 1.1.2. Financial management and accounting
 - 1.1.3. Internal and external audit
 - 1.1.4. Control frameworks
 - 1.1.5. Procurements
- Section 4.2 Transparency and accountability
 - 4.2.1 Code of ethics
 - 1.1.2. Disclosure of conflict of interests
 - 1.1.3. Prevent financial mismanagement
 - 1.1.4. Investigations
 - 1.1.5. Anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing policies
- Section 5 **SPECIALIZED FIDUCIARY CRITERIA**
- Section 5.1 Project management
 - 5.1.1 Project identification, preparation and appraisal
 - 5.1.2 Project oversight and control
 - 5.1.3 Monitoring and evaluation
 - 5.1.4 Project-at-risk systems and related project risk management capabilities
- Section 5.2 Grant award and/or funding allocation mechanism
 - 5.2.1 Grant award procedures
 - 5.2.2 Public access to information on beneficiaries and results
 - 5.2.3 Transparent allocation of financial resources
 - 5.2.4 Good standing for financial requirements with regard to multilateral funding
- Section 6 **ESS (ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS)**
 - 6.1 Policy
 - 6.2 Identification of risks and impacts
 - 6.3 Management programme
 - 6.4 Organisational capacity and competency
 - 6.5 Monitoring and review
 - 6.6 External communications
- Section 7 **GENDER**
 - 7.1 Demonstrate competencies, policies and procedures to implement the GCF's Gender Policy
 - 7.2 Demonstrate experience with gender and climate change, including a track record of lending to both men and women

Box 19: some of the Application Form requirements. Source: GCF website

Many of these requirements reflect the type of policies and procedures that one would expect to be in place in banks or financial institutions processing large loans; they are not common among small grants funders such as Samdhana. Unfortunately, however, as GCF accreditation policy now stands, one standard package of requirements applies for all types of institutions seeking accreditation, regardless of whether one applies for Micro, Small, Medium or Large size projects. In taking stock of Samdhana's current written policies, three areas in particular were identified that require work:

- **Transparency and accountability:** Samdhana is considered a transparent and accountable organisation both by its donors and its programme partners, and undergoes a professional external audit every year. However, comparing against the list of documents the GCF Application process asks for, it is clear that some documents need to be more formalised and policies put in place to articulate what is done in practice. Two examples are Samdhana's internal audit plans and its procurement dispute resolution process. For both, the organisation's plans as well as actual execution for the past three years need to be submitted.
- **Project management:** Samdhana's core business is the granting and monitoring of small grants to community organisations. These organisations have successfully passed multiple external evaluations in the past years. However, all documentation is in Bahasa and therefore needs to be translated into English in order to demonstrate organisational competence in this regard. Additionally, formalising

the procedures on risk assessment and the projects-at risk system need documentation in order to comply with the level of documentation that the GCF application process requests.

- **Environmental and social standards:** Samdhana's core mission revolves around improving environmental stewardship and upholding human rights. However, an overall framework document is needed in English that describes how this mission is implemented and which meets the look and feel of standard environmental and social safeguards documents.

Obtaining a No-Objection Letter

In March 2016, Samdhana submitted a request to Indonesia's new NDA for a No-Objection Letter. As part of this request, Samdhana explained about the organisation and its programmes. The NDA responded that Samdhana must submit the following documents before a No-Objection Letter can be issued:

1. Legal document demonstrating legal registration of Samdhana;
2. Basic fiduciary procedure;
3. Environmental and social safeguards;
4. Gender policy;
5. Concept note of the type of projects Samdhana wishes to submit to the GCF once accreditation is granted. The NDA provided a template for this project description.

This last requirement was an extra obligation that is not officially part of the GCF's accreditation application package. Samdhana was surprised to learn that the Ministry of Finance requested such an extensive project application. However, it has been

confirmed that the GCF Secretariat allows the NDAs to decide on their own process and requirements for issuing No-Objection Letters, considering this to be part of country ownership.

Entering the online application process

The GCF accreditation process consists of three stages (see Figure 1 and figures 3, 4, and 5 for the 10 steps involved in Stage I to III).

- Stage I: No-objection and readiness
- Stage II: Accreditation review and decision
- Stage III: Final arrangements

Since Samdhana is still at the preparation phase for entering Stage 1, the organisation has not yet entered the online application process. Here we present what we learned from speaking to other Indonesian organisations that have reached Step 2 of Stage 1, that is, submitting the application via the online system.

The time it takes from Stage I through to Stage III

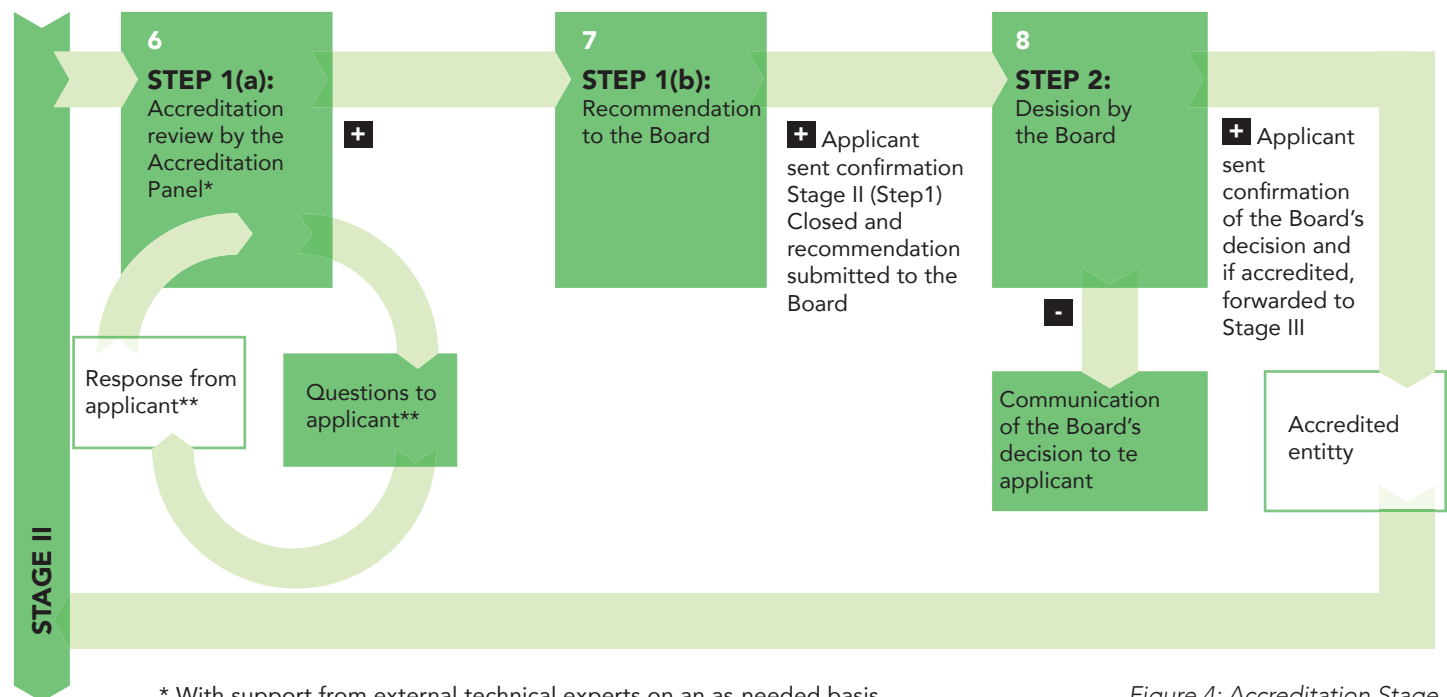
The time spent in Stage I will vary widely between organisations. What is clear, however, is that it cannot be underestimated. An international NGO that received accreditation through the fast-track pathway explained that it

took them two full years. If Samdhana's first year of this pilot project is any indication, it is likely to take at least two years or longer before Samdhana completes the preparation phase and can pass through to Stage II.

In Stage II, there currently is such a considerable queue of organisations

waiting for GCF Board approval, that if nothing changes Samdhana will have to wait another several years to receive this approval. Both ENDS and other CSO Active Observers have realised that they must urgently advocate for a change in procedure, or else it will take years before the important principle of local direct access is put into practice.

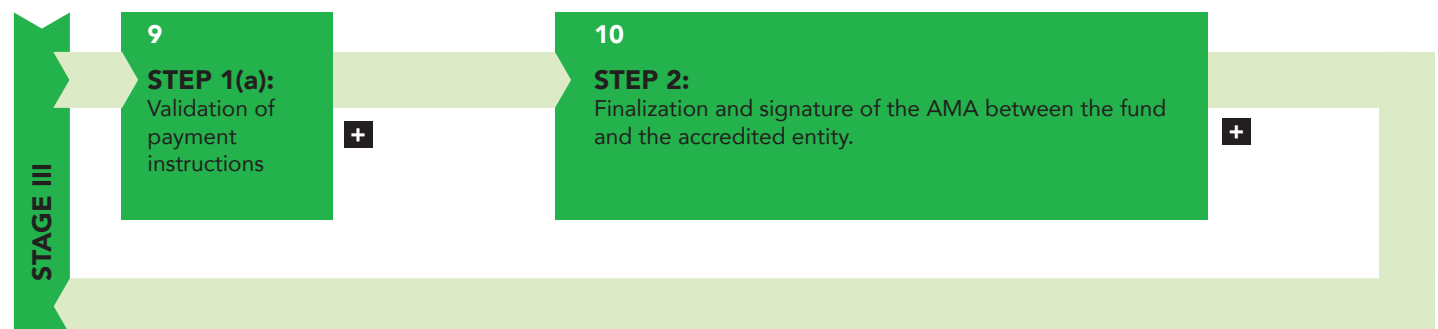
ACCREDITATION STAGE II



* With support from external technical experts on an as-needed basis
 To Stage III ** The number of rounds of questions may vary. interview and a site visit may be required

Figure 4: Accreditation Stage II
 Source: GCF website

ACCREDITATION STAGE III



Post-accreditation Process

Project and Programme funding proposal preparation, assessment and approval process as per the fund's investment framework and results management framework

Post Accreditation

Figure 5: Accreditation Stage III
 Source: GCF website

SUMMING UP THE LESSONS LEARNED BY SAMDHANA

Samdhana is still in the early stages of the GCF accreditation process. The lessons learned so far, supplemented with experiences from other CSOs and NGOs that have advanced a little further in the same process, are listed here.

1. Starting the process (including the preparation) of getting GCF accreditation should be regarded as a major management decision and considered part of the organisation's efforts to increase its institutional capacity. All staff and departments of an organisation should understand, participate in, and own the process.
2. The accreditation process requires significant time, energy and dedication from an organisation. Ideally a small team of people is largely freed up from day-to-day tasks to focus on the process. This will be challenging for small organisations and small grants funders.
3. Early in the preparation phase, it is important to conduct a thorough 'gap analysis' comparing the organisation's policies and procedures against the requirements of the GCF accreditation process. This gap analysis serves two purposes. Firstly, to assess which parts of the process require most effort and time and to evaluate whether it is realistic to expect that the organisation will make it through the accreditation process. Secondly, the gap analysis will show which areas of expertise need to be covered in the accreditation process team.
4. It is highly recommended to hire a consultant who has the relevant expertise and experience with international financial institutions to ensure that the package of documents submitted for accreditation is appropriate and complete.
5. Organisations from non-English-speaking countries that wish to apply for accreditation should be prepared to translate all needed documents into English. English is currently the only language accepted for documentation for GCF accreditation.
6. The NDA is a critical resource for information in-country; it is also a gatekeeper that can make or break an organisation's ability to apply for GCF accreditation. Engaging early on and often with the NDA is highly recommended.
7. The GCF Secretariat pays a lot of attention to the Standard Operation Procedures that accreditation candidates have in place, especially those related to avoiding fraud, corruption and money laundering.
8. Several standards and default practices for the private (especially banking) sector are not easily translated to non-profit entities or NGOs. The GCF requirement, for instance, to have a Know Your Customer (KYC) procedure in place, will present a challenge to many organisations. NGOs and small grants funders use different types of procedures that help them to know their partners, but these do not necessarily match the type of mechanisms large financial institutions use.
9. To pursue the GCF accreditation, however, it is mandatory to have these procedures in place. The Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) requirement of the GCF is meant to be based on the principle of fit for purpose. However, the GCF Secretariat does not yet have a known standard against which an organisation's ESS is assessed. The GCF team will thus assess a candidate's standards and suggest improvements and adjustments as they see fit.
10. Participating in a workshop conducted by the NDA, focal point or an NGO is of great help to understand the process and basic conditions of the GCF accreditation. Getting up-to-date, well-informed and experience-based information will help candidates in setting their strategy for undertaking the GCF accreditation process.

6

THE WAY FORWARD

When the idea first came up within our organisations – Aksi!, Both ENDS, and The Samdhana Institute – to write a guide for CSOs on the Green Climate Fund, we knew our target audience: local and national women’s rights and environmental organisations and the world of small grants funders.

We agreed that we would attempt to break down the technical jargon to help CSOs that may not yet have a great deal of knowledge about climate finance or the Green Climate Fund. We wanted to give real-life examples of two CSOs in Indonesia that are at various stages of engaging with the GCF regime, in order to encourage and assist CSOs to start monitoring their NDAs and the decision-making about and spending of climate finance in their countries. We wanted to help small grants funders to make informed decisions before committing their organisations to the GCF accreditation process. Last but not least, we wanted to explain and spread awareness about the Gender Policy of the GCF, so that we can all hold the GCF and accredited organisations accountable to what is on paper in terms of promoting gender equity.

Ultimately, with this guide we hope to inspire more CSOs and small grants funders to engage in monitoring and ‘get in line’ for GCF accreditation so that together we can build a formidable negotiating block to influence the GCF to become the transformational and paradigm-shifting actor it aspires to be. By increasing the numbers of CSOs and small grants funders engaged with the GCF, we can show that a very credible network already exists. This should become a critical part of the institutional plumbing of the GCF in order to get the funding there where climate change has its biggest impact: in communities at the local level. We believe that private sector actors do not have the mandate nor the infrastructure to make that difference, but CSOs and small grants funders do. We need to strengthen our advocacy so that climate finance starts flowing to the local communities –women and men- effectively, efficiently and responsibly.

We hope this publication has honoured our intentions. We pledge to continue to collaborate with CSOs around the world to ensure the learnings get updated regularly, as we consider this CSO guide a living document.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Titi Soentoro is a feminist living in Mendut village in Central Java, Indonesia. Currently, Titi is the Executive Director of Aksi! for gender, social and environmental justice. She has been actively monitoring the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) for more than ten years, focusing on integrating gender considerations, safeguards, rights to information and consultation, and accountability into policy drafts and reviews of the IFIs. Moreover, she builds capacity of local groups and affected communities to defend their rights against harmful projects financed by the IFIs. She also monitors climate change financing to Indonesia and has been monitoring and engaging with the GCF for the past three years. Titi's organisation Aksi! is an active CSO observer to the Board meetings of the GCF and Titi has personally attended 6 of the 14 meetings at the time of writing.

Neni Rochaeni is an experienced development professional who lives

in Jakarta, Indonesia. Currently, she is the Grants Manager for The Samdhana Institute. Neni works with community organisations across Indonesia, ensuring small grants enable their work on environmental and social issues relevant to their communities. Since 2015, Neni has led the project to prepare her organisation for GCF accreditation. In that process she has presented at several international conferences including the COP21 to share their learnings. She attended the GCF Board meeting in March 2016 as an active observer.

Cindy Coltman and **Daan Robben** both work for Both ENDS, an Amsterdam-based human rights and environmental lobby and advocacy NGO that supports the environmental justice movement in developing countries. Aksi! and The Samdhana Institute have been partners of Both ENDS for many years. Since GCF's inception in August 2012, Both ENDS has actively participated in its Board Meetings. Together with partners worldwide, Both ENDS advocates

for strong policies on local access, gender, country ownership and multi-stakeholder engagement in the overall GCF regime.

Daan monitors GCF Board decision-making and has personally attended the last 4 GCF Board meetings in 2015-2016 as an observer. Since 2015, Cindy has supported The Samdhana Institute in the pilot project to go through the practical steps for applying for GCF direct access accreditation, in order to propose a programme that aims at small grants to strengthen women's resilience to climate change. This guide is part of the project's aim to disseminate learnings in order to encourage women's rights and environmental groups participation in climate finance.

This publication was edited by Ellen Lammers, <http://www.wereldinwoorden.nl>



CONTACTS FOR CSOs ENGAGEMENT

1. Indonesia National Designated Authority (NDA)

per 16 August 2016:

Dr. Suahasil Nazara

Chairman of the Fiscal Policy Agency, Ministry of Finance
E-mail: suahasilnazara@fiskal.depkeu.go.id

Syurkani Ishak Kasim (Secretariat)

Director Center for Climate Finance and
Multilateral Policy
E-mail: syurkani@fiskal.depkeu.go.id
E-mail: syurkani.ik@gmail.com

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2. GCF Active Observers (2016-2018)

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Southern CSOs Active Observer
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Andrea Rodríguez

Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa
del Ambiente (AIDA)
Southern CSOs Alternate Active Observer
E-mail: arodriguez@aida-americas.org

Kimaren Ole Riamit

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Southern CSOs Alternate Active Observer
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Liane Schalatek

Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America
Northern CSOs Active Observer
E-mail: liane.Schalatek@us.boell.org

Oscar Reyes

Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)
Northern CSOs Alternate Active Observer
E-mail: oscar@ips-dc.org

Lutz Weischer

Germanwatch
Northern CSOs Alternate Active Observer
E-mail: weischer@germanwatch.org

3. Indonesian CSOs registered as GCF Observers and monitoring GCF:

- Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice
- Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR)
- Perserikatan Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity for Human Rights)
- Sawit Watch
- The Samdhana Institute
- Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI), Friends of the Earth Indonesia (FOE Indonesia)
- Yayasan Keanekaragaman Hayati Indonesia (Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation)

Resources for GCF Monitoring

Some of many resources available that provide reports on GCF Board meeting, analysis, statements, submissions are among others:

- Green Climate Fund – Official Website
Website: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/>
- Global GCF CSOs list serve:
gcf-cso-list@googlegroups.com
Contact for subscription:
Karen Oerenstein, Friends of the Earth US.
E-mail: KOerenstein@foe.org
- CSOs list-serves
South-South GCF list serve, only for Southern CSOs:
E-mail: south-south-on-gcf@googlegroups.com
Contact for subscription: Claire Miranda, APMDD:
E-mail: clairemiranda08@gmail.com
- Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)
Ecological Debt, Environmental Justice & Climate Change Website: <http://www.apmdd.org/campaigns/ecological-debt-environmental-justice-climate-change>
- German Watch CFAS Project - Daily Briefings
German Watch produces a short daily summary of the GCF Board meetings and usually is sent out the same evening or early in the morning. It is useful for monitoring the GCF Board meeting. This daily briefing is not circulated to CSOs list-serve but will be sent upon request.
Contact: David Eckstein
E-mail: eckstein@germanwatch.org

-
- Heinrich-Boell Foundation:
Climate Policy and Finance
Website: <https://us.boell.org/categories/climate-policy-finance>

 - TWN Info Service on Climate Change
Website: <http://www.twn.my/climate.htm>
E-mail: news@twnnews.net

 - GCFWatch.org: Towards a CSO GCF monitor
Recently GCF Watchers started a GCF Watch: Towards a CSO GCF Monitor, a portal of a growing nucleus for GCF-related content, which are flagged, developed, and maintained by civil society organisations. It has the architecture to accommodate different modes of collaboration through file sharing, announcements, and better data presentations.

The GCFWatch.org aims to:

- Share information on GCF processes in different countries more effectively;
- Contribute to enabling local society keeping pace with national discussions;
- Track more regularly and efficiently in-country progress regarding GCF;
- Need for an information hub independent from GCF Secretariat;
- Serve as one stop shop for GCF CSO information.

Website: <http://gcfwatch.org/>

E-mail: info@gcfwatch.org

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