

# GCF READINESS: ENABLING RESILIENCE INVESTMENTS

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## Global Water Partnership as a Delivery Partner for GCF Readiness

### **Building Climate Resilience via Water: GWP's 2020-2025 Strategy**

Countries experience climate change impacts via water – over 90% of climate change disasters are water-related. Investing in water resources management and development is essential for reducing climate change risk and building resilience of people, ecosystems, and economies. The 2023 UNFCCC Global Stocktake synthesis report calls the global community to take more action on all fronts to reduce emissions and build resilience, including via water. Countries are already prioritizing to do so – a synthesis of 80 developing country Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) reveals that 90% of countries' top priorities for climate change adaptation are water-related. The same synthesis highlights a clear water and climate resilience investment gap; only 10% of these countries have packaged their needs into bankable investments that can secure required financing. The lack of capacity to develop bankable water and climate resilience investments is a binding constraint to translate their climate adaptation priorities into action.

GWP's 2020-2025 Strategy aims to address this water and climate resilience investment gap – by targeting to support over 30 countries to access climate finance, and directly support preparing and realizing over €1B in climate-resilient water management and development investments founded on robust and inclusive water governance systems.

GWP considers the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – a financing instrument of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the world's largest fund dedicated solely to address climate change – as a major vehicle to achieve these targets. Between 2020-2023, GCF mobilized 10B USD to generate investments of over 40B USD in transformational climate projects in over 100 countries. Now in its second replenishment period, GCF is even more ambitious: as of Dec 2023, it has secured over 12B USD in pledges, and it aims to manage 50B in climate resilience investments by 2030. The GCF's ultimate objective is to provide climate finance to the tune value of 100B USD per year to drive the needed paradigm shift in the global response to climate change. The GCF therefore presents a significant opportunity to provide finance for transitioning to low-emission and climate-resilient sustainable development pathways.

### **GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme 2024-2027**

The GCF recognizes that countries need to possess a substantial degree of technical and institutional capabilities in order to be able to access the large GCF investment finance needed to build systemic resilience. To ensure that these capabilities are in place, the GCF Readiness & Preparatory Support Programme enables developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, planning and programming frameworks, and pipeline development capacities to advance a transformational long-term climate action agenda. The Readiness Programme can provide:

- Up to 4M USD per country over 4 years between 2024-2027
- Up to 3M USD per country for the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and additional support for NAP implementation

## In 2023, GWP is a GCF Readiness Delivery Partner to 20 Countries

GWP is an accredited GCF Readiness Delivery Partner and is supporting 5 countries to implement approved GCF Readiness projects over 2020-2023. In 2023, GWP submitted GCF Readiness proposals for 18 countries, expected to begin implementation in 2024. More details on the projects under implementation and pipeline projects are presented in the table below.

READINESS TYPE	COUNTRY
<b>Under implementation</b>	
Cross-sectoral NAP	Zambia <sup>1</sup>
Capacity building, strategic frameworks, pipeline development, knowledge sharing	Sri Lanka <sup>2</sup> , Somalia <sup>3</sup> , Eswatini <sup>4</sup> , Central African Republic <sup>5</sup>
<b>Pipeline</b>	
Water NAP	Zambia
Capacity building, strategic frameworks, pipeline development, knowledge sharing	<b>SADC Multi-Country Initiative:</b> Seychelles, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia
	<b>AU Multi-Country Initiative:</b> Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tunisia
	Montenegro, Tanzania

## Emerging Results

GWP’s projects under implementation in Zambia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Eswatini, and Central African Republic are supporting the countries to develop and implement National Adaptation Plans, build capacity for climate finance coordination, develop strategic frameworks that can guide pipeline development, develop GCF concept notes, and establish knowledge sharing infrastructure and processes that facilitate iterative learning. These different objectives are interrelated within a project, to deliver Readiness support that is holistic. Some emerging results from our support to countries on GCF Readiness are as follows:



### 16 Technical & Institutional Assessments

Carefully conducted assessments of Readiness gaps – including their technical, socio-economic, and political dimensions – form the basis for designing interventions that effectively strengthen Readiness for water and climate investments. GWP has delivered a technology needs assessment for climate-resilient water technologies in Eswatini, a GCF Direct Access Accreditation needs assessment in Sri Lanka, sectoral climate vulnerability assessments and adaptations options analysis in Zambia, pipeline development capacity needs assessments across multiple countries, a climate finance tracking assessment in the Central African Republic, and a medium-term strategic readiness needs assessment in Somalia.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/adaptation-planning-support-zambia-through-gwpo>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/strengthening-capacity-direct-access-entities-daes-nda-and-gcf-project-programming>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/nda-strengthening-country-programming-support-and-project-pipeline-development-somalia>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/strengthening-nda-s-institutional-and-technical-capacity-mobilize-gender-responsive-climate>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/advancing-car-country-programme-supporting-nda-and-country-stakeholders-programme>



**18 Policies & Strategic Frameworks**

Policies and strategic frameworks guide preparation of water and climate investments that can access the international climate funds in complementarity to domestic finance and private sector finance. GWP has supported the development of a cross-sectoral National Adaptation Plan in Zambia. GWP is currently supporting the development of a climate finance policy and a GCF Country Programme in Somalia, a financing strategy for climate-resilient water management technologies and a private sector engagement roadmap in Eswatini, a climate-smart green growth strategy and investment plan in Sri Lanka, as well as related policy guidelines, stakeholder engagement strategies, and communication strategies across multiple countries.



**10 GCF Concept Notes**

Quality GCF concept notes are essential to translate water and climate priorities into paradigm-shifting investments that can access climate finance with the urgency that countries face. Through country-owned multi-stakeholder processes, GWP is supporting GCF concept note development in Central African Republic, Eswatini, Somalia, and Sri Lanka.



**10 Gender Mainstreaming Frameworks & Tools**

True climate resilience is not possible without gender equality. Every GWP Readiness project is informed by a context-specific gender analysis and a resulting gender action plan. Identified entry-points to improve gender equality at the agency, relational, and structural levels are taken advantage of during the delivery of the Readiness project. In addition, GWP is supporting Eswatini to develop a gender action framework for gender-responsive climate finance programming, Central African Republic to conduct a gender and inclusion assessment of its priority project pipeline, Zambia to develop tools for appraising gender sensitive adaptation options, and multiple countries to develop climate and gender briefs to mainstream gender across different climate change policies, processes, and investment planning.



**15 Capacity Building Initiatives**

Capacity building components are embedded across different areas of Readiness support – strategic frameworks, pipeline development, knowledge and learning – to ensure that country stakeholders, including the NDA, are equipped with the human abilities and technical and informational resources to fulfil their roles and responsibilities towards effective climate finance programming. GWP is currently working to deliver capacity building for GCF programming and pipeline development, direct access accreditation, implementing climate finance trackers, enhanced stakeholder engagement, effective NDA operations, operationalization of data, and information portals, among others.



**9 Knowledge Platforms & Accompanying Tools**

Supporting knowledge management and sharing is one of the key objectives of the GCF Readiness Programme. In addition to delivering specific knowledge management products and tools, GWP supports countries to proactively design for enabling and tracking learning throughout GCF Readiness implementation. Across multiple Readiness projects, GWP is supporting the development of enhanced knowledge sharing platforms and documentation of best practices.

## **GWP's Approach to GCF Readiness Delivery**

To support countries in designing and implementing their GCF Readiness Projects, GWP, through its 13 Regional Water Partnerships and 77 Country Water Partnerships, leverages its strength of being a neutral party that mobilises stakeholders for action. GWP brings together government agencies, sectoral entities, academia, NGOs, CSOs, Private Sector Actors, GCF direct and international Accredited Entities and executing entities. Through country-driven multi-stakeholder dialogues and processes, GWP supports countries to identify how best the GCF Readiness Programme can be useful in closing the water and climate resilience investment gap. The result is strong country ownership rooted in actions aligned with needs and demands of country stakeholders, designed to benefit the most vulnerable populations.

GWP adopts these key strategies for success:

- **Take a comprehensive, but phased approach to strengthening Readiness.** Countries are at various stages of Readiness for water and climate resilience investment implementation and face different gaps with context-specific underlying barriers. Based on countries' Readiness baseline and targets, GWP works with countries to design and implement approaches to strengthening Readiness that takes a phased, programmatic approach guided by a comprehensive cross-sectoral, medium to long term view.
- **Build on existing national institutional systems.** GWP emphasizes integrating institutional coordination mechanisms and pipeline development processes into existing national institutional systems for climate change and sustainable development, and not creating separate structures or processes.
- **Adopt Government-led participatory approaches; create multi-stakeholder ownership of the Readiness strengthening process and results.** GWP delivers Readiness strengthening support through Government-led processes. GWP's multi-stakeholder approaches ensures that stakeholders at national and sub-national levels and across sectors engage in these Government-led processes, build shared ownership, and understand their individual roles in designing and implementing water and climate resilience investments beyond the duration of the Readiness project.
- **Integrate gender equality in Readiness support design and implementation.** Gender is an integral dimension in the design and implementation of GWP-supported Readiness, as guided by national gender and climate change strategies and action plans. GWP allocates technical expertise and budget for integrating approaches that promote gender equality, conducts a gender analysis at project inception, and takes advantage of entry-points for promoting gender equality while strengthening Readiness.
- **Embed a systematic approach to tracking learning, strengthened capacity, and application for results.** Guided by a capacity development action plan for project stakeholders, GWP supports NDAs to track incremental progress in learning and delivery capacity across the stakeholder base engaged in its Readiness projects. Importantly, this approach equips NDAs to monitor how the stakeholders that have benefited from Readiness continue serving the country in realizing climate-finance supported water and climate resilience investments over time, illustrating any further needs for capacity building.