



Asia-Pacific
Water Forum



6TH ASIA-PACIFIC
CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION FORUM

CONCEPT NOTE

Technical Workshop on Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Project Concepts in Asia

October 15-16, Manila

Multifunction Room 2 / Lecture Theatre, Asian Development Bank HQ,
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila, Philippines

1. Background

In 2015, the Paris Agreement saw countries make a commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). In parallel, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted to address a broad range of sustainable development issues. These two landmark international agreements offer substantive opportunities to integrate water security and climate resilience into transformational growth and development globally, regionally, and nationally.

Across Asia and the Caucasus, countries are acting to implement their NDCs, NAPs and to deliver on their SDGs; achieving targets however will require transformative action at national and regional levels that goes beyond business as usual. This includes accelerating the pace of investments in water resources information systems, infrastructure, and supporting institutions – for countries to continue harnessing the potential of water as a platform for growth amidst a changing and more uncertain climate, mitigate water related disaster risks, and ensure sustainability of the natural resource base. Accelerating the pace of water investment implementation requires high quality project proposals, appropriate structuring of project finance, and accessing the diverse set of available financing sources. Countries across Asia and the Caucasus have requested GWP to help strengthen their capacity on these fronts, and to facilitate partnerships across key stakeholders within countries, in the region, and with global entities, to advance implementation of climate resilience investments on the ground, foster exchange of lessons learned, and promote best practices across the region. The proposed Pan-Asian Project Preparation Workshop responds to this common continental need and expressed demand.

2. Strengthening Project Preparation to Access GCF Support for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Projects in Asia

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established in 2012 as a financing mechanism of the UNFCCC dedicated to addressing climate change. The GCF is specifically mandated to promote country-driven, climate-resilient, and low-carbon development. It is expected to become a primary channel through which international public climate finance will flow over time.

www.gwp.org

Global Water Partnership (GWP), Global Secretariat, PO Box 24177, 104 51 Stockholm, SWEDEN
Visitor's address: Linnégatan 87D, Phone: +46 (0)8 1213 8600, Fax: + 46 (0)8 1213 8604, e-mail: gwp@gwp.org

To access support from the GCF for climate resilience water projects, countries need to present projects designed specifically for impactful, paradigm shifting, and transformative change – reflected through prioritized project ideas, clear climate rationale, compelling concept notes, and comprehensive funding proposals. However, capacity limitations constrain countries in identifying and preparing catalytic water-related adaptation interventions. Limited understanding of the GCF's funding modalities, proposal requirements, and options for structuring co-financing poses further barriers for countries wishing to access GCF resources for adaptation planning and projects.

Technical assistance can help enable developing countries to prepare well-prioritized climate resilience-building water projects that can secure funding from the GCF. Countries are seeking clarification on the structured, yet evolving GCF funding modalities, especially around enhanced direct access, its range of financing instruments and project proposal requirements.

3. Workshop Objectives

The workshop responds to country demands for support to strengthen capacity to prepare high quality climate resilience water project proposals, appropriately structure project finance, and access the diverse set of available financing sources.

The GCF is taken as a reference fund to build country-requested capacity. The intention is that capacity built in this process is useful for preparing climate resilience water projects that may seek financing from other sources as well.

Related to the GCF, the workshop focuses on building capacity of, strengthening collaboration among, and sharing lessons across the GCF National Designated Authority (NDA), Direct Access Entities (DAEs) and potential DAEs, and water ministries or national water agencies within a country, and across country. Coordination among these national level mechanisms for successful preparation and participation in the workshop will serve as a useful example of similar cross-institutional coordination required to access other climate funds.

Specifically, the workshop aims to:

- Build participant understanding of the overall climate adaptation finance landscape in Asia, with the view to enable countries to identify potential funding sources for climate resilient water projects
- Present the GCF, its mandate, investment criteria, and its operational modalities and procedures for delivering climate finance through different windows
- Discuss GCF financing instruments, along with fit-for-purpose examples of climate rationale, project design, and financing instrument selection in the Asian context
- Discuss approaches for articulating incremental costs of climate-proofing water projects
- Review challenges and constraints, and explore solutions for DAEs to coordinate with NDAs, and water ministries, water-related sectors in preparation of GCF projects
- Identify opportunities and follow-up activities for GCF Concept Note preparation

4. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the workshop are:

- Enhanced understanding of climate adaptation finance landscape in Asia

- Enhanced understanding of the GCF impact criteria, operational modalities and procedures, and financing instruments
- Clear understanding of concrete steps needed to prepare strong climate resilient water project concepts for GCF
- Approaches and available resources understood for articulating climate rationale and estimating incremental costs of climate-proofing water investments
- Enhanced understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved throughout the project cycle
- Identification of potential GCF project concepts for each participating country
- Discussion of follow-on support mechanism – Project Preparation Partnership for Climate Resilient Water Projects in Asia

5. Target Audience

The workshop targets participants from Asia. It supports project preparation and delivery by promoting exchange of experiences and strengthening capacity of:

- Water resource planners from water ministries and agencies
- GCF National Designated Authorities
- Current and potential GCF Direct Access Entities
- GWP Pan-Asia Programme Managers, Regional Coordinators, and Country Water Partnerships

The workshop is an invitation-only event and participants have been selected from countries that have submitted prioritized potential water project ideas.

6. Resource Experts

The workshop draws from the following resource experts:

- GCF Accredited Entities and NDAs, to share experiences and lessons
- Climate science specialists, to build capacity to articulate climate rationale for GCF concept note and proposals
- GWP and partner organizations in project development and financing
- GCF Secretariat specialists, to build understanding and capacity around the GCF, its standards, procedures, and requirements

7. Pre-Workshop Preparation by Participants

7.1 Draft project ideas

Kindly note that submission of project ideas is a pre-requisite for workshop participation.

Participants from each country have come to the workshop with at least one country-prioritized water project idea that could potentially be turned into a GCF concept note, to be further be developed into project proposals for submission to the GCF.

Participants have coordinated with their country NDA in the selection of the water project idea. Project ideas have strong country ownership, reflected in their prioritization or alignment to the country's national development plans, Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), National Adaptation Plan NAPs, IWRM plan or similar.

During the workshop, country teams will be supported to review and further develop the project ideas into project concept notes that meet GCF requirements. The workshop includes exercises on translating draft project ideas into GCF project concept notes, and provide examples of quality project proposals that meet GCF investment requirements that the concept notes can then be advanced towards.

7.2 Background study on climate finance

As part of the preparation for the workshop, a background study on the landscape of financing options for climate resilience water investments in Asia has been undertaken. Main findings will be presented during the workshop. It will include:

- An overview of the climate finance architecture within the agreed international agreements and its relevance for Asia
- Overall landscape of financing available to fund climate resilience water investments across Asia, including
 - An analytical review of finance channels in the Pan-Asian context including multilateral, bilateral, regional, national, and private, as described above
 - Description of the characteristics, target, specific geographical or thematic conditions, and access modalities
- Trends and recommendations, providing an understanding on how financing for water-related climate adaptation is likely to evolve in Asia and what would be the best way for countries to access to these funds in the present and future

8. Towards a Project Preparation Partnership for Climate Resilient Water Projects in Asia

At the end of the workshop, participants – NDAs, DAEs, Water Ministries, regional institutions, climate and development financiers, private sector and other entities – will explore mechanisms for continuing to exchange of experiences and lessons beyond the workshop, and accessing strategic and technical support for prioritization and preparation of climate resilience water security investments.

9. Indicative Agenda

Time/Room	Topic	Presenter/ Facilitator
15 October, Monday – Asia Climate Finance Landscape & GCF 101		
08:00-08:30	Registration & Coffee	GWP Philippines
Multifunction Room 2	Session 1: Welcome & Workshop Rationale	Fany Wedahuditama GWP SEA Regional Coordinator – confirmed
08:30-09:15	Perspectives from Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naidalaa Badrakh, Mongolia Sustainable Finance Association (MSFA) – confirmed • Kyaw San, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar NDA – confirmed • Puti Faraniza, PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur, Indonesia DAE – confirmed • Pervaiz Amir, Pakistan Water Partnership – participation confirmed, tbc panelist 	Moderator: Alex Simalabwi Head GWP Water, Climate & Development Programme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noor Syaifudin, Ministry of Finance, Indonesia NDA – confirmed • Flerida Chan, JICA – confirmed • Dominique Berod, WMO – confirmed 	
9:15-9:20	Remarks from GCF	Alastair Morrison GCF Senior Water Specialist – tbc
9:20-9:25	Welcome from Hosts: Philippine Water Partnership	Nathaniel Santos GWP Philippines – confirmed
9:25-9:30	Opening by Hosts: Asia Pacific Adaptation Network	Mozaharul Alam APAN – confirmed
09:30–09:45	Portfolio of country prioritized water project ideas in Asia for the GCF: strengths & challenges	Alex Simalabwi GWP – confirmed
09:45-10:00	Preparing climate resilient water projects, accessing project finance, programming for the GCF: Experiences and workshop expectations <i>This session is intended to be interactive, with participants introducing themselves, sharing their experiences and raising their challenges</i>	ALL Moderator: Alex Simalabwi – confirmed
Multifunction Room 2	Session 2: GCF Introduction	Yumiko Yasuda GWP
10:00-10:45	Introduction to the GCF: <i>what it is and is not able to support, overview of funding windows</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCF mandate, Investment Criteria, Project Cycle • GCF funding windows and financing mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Readiness and Preparatory Support ○ Project Preparation Grants ○ Programme and Project Finance ○ Private Sector Facility ○ Simplified Approval Process Pilot Scheme (SAP) • Environmental and social safeguards (ESS) • Gender mainstreaming 	Jason Spensley GCF – tbc
10:45-11:00	<i>Interactive discussion on GCF</i>	ALL
11:00-11:15	Coffee & Group Photo	
Multifunction Room 2	Session 3: GCF Investment Criteria & Project Cycle	Nathaniel Santos GWP Philippines – confirmed
11:15-11:25	Case Study 1: Bhutan NDA – Gross National Happiness Commission. How GCF investment criteria was applied to approved project 'Bhutan for Life' – experiences and lessons	Kinley Yangden Bhutan GNHC – confirmed
11:25-11:35	Case Study 2: GWP Nepal. How did Nepal access GCF readiness support? How is adaptation planning and NDA strengthening helping Nepal prepare proposals for GCF projects that meet that GCF investment criteria?	Batu Krishna Uprety GWP Nepal – confirmed
11:35-11:45	Case Study 3: Philippines NDA. Ensuring country readiness for GCF: How is the Philippines NDA coordinating among DAEs, Delivery Partners, executing entities, across sectors, and with Ministries of Planning and Finance?	Rachel Herrera / Josefina Ramos Philippines NDA – confirmed
11:45-12:00	<i>Interactive Discussion on GCF Investment Criteria</i>	ALL

Multifunction Room 2	Session 4: Climate Rationale	Alex Simalabwi GWP – confirmed
12:00-12:45	<p>What is a climate rationale? Discussion of GCF's required justification to ensure its projects tackle GHG induced climate change impacts on the most vulnerable communities, in the most technically and financially efficient ways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate impact projections • Identifying vulnerabilities • Assessing responses to reduce climate risk • Attributing development vs. climate adaptation benefits • Case studies – climate rationale in successful project proposals 	Alastair Morrison GCF – tbc
12:45-13:15	<p>What resources can countries access to articulate climate rationale for water projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMO services • Relevant data sources, analytical methods and tools 	Dominique Berod WMO – confirmed Frederik Pischke GWP/WMO – confirmed
13:15-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:15	Case Study 4: Sri Lanka NDA. Climate Rationale in approved GCF Project in Sri Lanka: Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers in the Dry Zone to climate variability and extreme events through an integrated approach to water management	G S Chanke Rodrigo Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment - Sri Lanka NDA – confirmed
14:15-14:30	Case Study 5: Adapting to climate impacts on sediment flows in the Mekong River Basin	Mekong River Commission – tbc
14:30-15:30	<i>Interactive Discussion on Climate Rationale for GCF Water Projects: challenges faced by countries in articulating climate rationale along with potential solutions and resources</i>	ALL Moderator: Alex Simalabwi , GWP – confirmed
15:30-15:45	Briefing on group discussions & Coffee	
15:45-17:00	<p>Group Discussion - Climate Rationale: Project Ideas <i>Three groups will be established by region:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Asia and the Caucasus • South Asia • South-East Asia <p><i>Each Group will discuss three select project ideas from countries in their respective region; respective countries will present selected projects in their groups. 9 project ideas in total will be reviewed.</i></p>	ALL Moderator: Frederik Pischke , GWP/WMO – confirmed
17:00-18:00	Report back from regional groups: Project ideas reviewed and lessons learned on climate rationale	Group Rapporteurs
18:00	End of Day 1	
16 October, Tuesday – Designing & Financing Climate Resilience Water Projects		
Lecture Theatre	Session 5: Climate Resilience across Water Sub-sectors	Francois Brikke GWP – confirmed
08:00-08:15	Recap of Day 1	Yasmina Rais El Fenni CAPNET – confirmed
08:15-08:45	Approaches for building resilience across water-subsectors, including prioritizing and sequencing project options will be introduced.	Alastair Morrison GCF – tbc

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation: Water resources, Irrigation, Water supply, sanitation, and drainage, Coastal defence and coastal zone management, Flood management, Water-borne diseases Mitigation: Navigation, Hydropower, Renewable energy, Water recycling Cross-cutting projects: Leakage reduction 	
08:45-09:15	Successful GCF project proposals across water-sub sectors – lessons learned	Alastair Morrison GCF – tbc
09:15-09:45	<i>Interactive discussion on options for water actions that build resilience</i>	ALL
09:45-10:00	Coffee	
Lecture Theatre	Session 6: GCF Project Preparation Facility	Anjali Lohani GWP – confirmed
10:00-10:20	What gets submitted? Walk through concept note and full funding proposal for a successful project – pitfalls and tips	Jason Spensley & Alastair Morrison GFC – tbc
10:20-10:45	Introduction to the GCF Project Preparation Facility: support to take project from concept note to full funding proposal. Sharing case studies of successful PPF proposals to the GCF and highlighting in particular, capacity and coordination challenges and solutions.	Jason Spensley GCF – tbc
10:45-11:00	Supporting countries in preparing concept notes and project proposals – experiences and lessons	Lyan Villacorta AIT – confirmed
11:00-11:30	<i>Interactive discussion on GCF PPF</i>	
11:30-11:45	Briefing on group discussions & switch rooms to Multifunction Room 2	
Multifunction Room 2	Session 7: Preparing Concepts Notes	
11:45-13:00	Group Discussions: Preparing Concept Notes Group hands-on exercise where country teams – NDAs, DAEs, Water Ministries – prepare project concept notes for country-prioritized project ideas.	ALL Moderator: Alex Simalabwi , GWP – confirmed
13:00-13:45	Lunch	
13:45-15:00	Report back from country groups: Project ideas reviewed and lessons learned on concept note preparation	Moderator: Alex Simalabwi , GWP – confirmed
Multifunction Room 2	Session 8: Fit-for-purpose Financing	Noor Syaifudin Indonesia Ministry of Finance, Indonesia NDA – attendance confirmed, moderation tbc
15:00-15:15	Presentation on the range of financing instruments offered by the GCF, along with examples of fit-for-purpose pairing of project design and financing instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants, Loans, Guarantees & Equity 	Alastair Morrison GCF – tbc
15:15-15:30	Introduction to GCF's Private Sector Facility	Tony Clamp GCF – tbc
15:30-15:45	Case study 6: Mongolia. Mongolia Sustainable Finance Association and its role in structuring a GCF proposal for the Green Finance Corporation Project as a PPP.	Naidalaa Badrakh MSFA – confirmed
15:45-16:00	<i>Interactive discussion on GCF financing instruments, PSF</i>	ALL

16:00-16:15	Coffee	
16:15-16:30	Co-financing GCF, and beyond: Overview of the climate finance landscape in Asia	Francois Brikke GWP – confirmed
16:30-16:40	Case study 7: JICA. PPPs for climate resilience water projects – Leveraging private finance through the Philippines Water Revolving Fund	Flerida Chan JICA – confirmed
16:40-16:50	Case study 8: Adaptation Fund. Project preparation for integrated flood management in the transboundary Volta River Basin.	Frederik Pischke GWP/WMO – confirmed
16:50-17:00	Case study 9: Cambodia Executing Entity. Multi-source public co-financing for GCF-supported Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project	EI Reasai Cambodia Ministry of Water Res. & Met. – tbc
17:00-17:10	Case study 10: Blue Orchard. Impact investing, climate insurance, blending finance for improved resilience in Asia – experiences and opportunities	Pierrick Balmain Blue Orchard Singapore – confirmed
17:10-17:30	<i>Interactive discussion on financing</i>	
Multifunction Room 2	Session 9: In-country Coordination for Improved Concept Notes and Proposals	
17:30-17:50	To develop high quality GCF concept notes and project proposals, how will countries enhance coordination among NDA, DAEs, Delivery Partners, executing entities, across sectors, and with Ministries of Planning and Finance? <i>Presentation and interactive discussion.</i>	Ridzwan Ali Malaysia Ministry of Energy, Sci & Tech, Env & Climate Change Malaysia NDA – attendance confirmed, moderation tbc
Multifunction Room 2	Session 10: Next Steps & Closing	
17:50-18:00	Summary of workshop outcomes	Anjali Lohani GWP – confirmed
18:00-18:30	Next Steps: A panel discussion by countries	Moderator: Alex Simalabwi , GWP – confirmed
18:30-19:00	Towards a Project Preparation Partnership for Climate Resilience in Asia	GWP & Partners – confirmed