

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

on

Accessing GCF Funds through PKSF

1. What is the Green Climate Fund (GCF)?

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a global fund created to support the efforts of developing countries in responding to the challenge of climate change. It aims to promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways.

2. What is PKSF's role in accessing GCF funds in Bangladesh?

PKSF (Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation) is an **Accredited Entity (AE)** and a **Direct Access Entity (DAE)** of the GCF in Bangladesh. This means PKSF can directly submit project proposals to the GCF for funding and act as the primary channel for GCF resources within the country. PKSF also acts as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) for the UN Adaptation Fund.

3. What is a Direct Access Entity (DAE)?

A **Direct Access Entity (DAE)** is a sub-national, national, or regional organization accredited by the GCF. DAEs provide developing countries with direct access to GCF resources, fostering country ownership and enabling climate finance to be channeled directly within the country. PKSF is a DAE for Bangladesh.

4. What is an Accredited Entity (AE)?

An **Accredited Entity (AE)** is an organization (private, public, non-governmental, sub-national, national, regional, or international) that has been approved by the GCF Board to develop, submit, and oversee the implementation of GCF-funded projects and programs. AEs are responsible for financial management, environmental and social safeguards, and monitoring and reporting of GCF projects. PKSF is an AE.

5. What is the National Designated Authority (NDA) in Bangladesh for GCF?

The **National Designated Authority (NDA)** serves as the interface between a country and the GCF. In Bangladesh, the **Economic Relations Division (ERD)** of the Ministry of Finance is the NDA for the GCF. The NDA provides strategic oversight, communicates the country's climate priorities, and issues "No Objection Letters" (NoLs) for GCF proposals.

6. What is a "No Objection Letter" (NoL)?

A **No Objection Letter (NoL)** is a formal letter issued by the NDA (ERD in Bangladesh) to the GCF, indicating that the country's government has no objection to a proposed funding proposal and that the proposal aligns with national climate strategies and plans (such as the NDC and NAP). A NoL is a mandatory requirement for GCF project approval.

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7. What is an Executing Entity (EE) and an Implementing Entity (IE)?

- An **Executing Entity (EE)** is an organization or entity that carries out the specific activities or components of a GCF-funded project under the overall guidance, management, or supervision of the Accredited Entity (AE). An AE (like PKSf) can also act as an EE.
- An **Implementing Entity (IE)** is a term often used broadly to refer to the organization primarily responsible for carrying out the project activities on the ground. In the context of GCF projects, if PKSf acts as both the AE and EE, the project-preparatory organization might be considered the Implementing Entity.

8. Are grassroots NGOs with proven capacity and experience working with foreign donors eligible to apply or collaborate as implementing partners?

- On principle, **grassroots-level organizations can serve as implementing entities**. But they need to have enough capacity and track record to run international project.

9. How can local organizations in Bangladesh access GCF funds through PKSf?

Local organizations interested in accessing GCF funds can collaborate with PKSf as follows:

- **Step 1: Concept Note (CN) Development:** Interested organizations can develop a project Concept Note (CN) aligned with Bangladesh's national climate policies and priorities (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions - NDC, and National Adaptation Plan - NAP).
- **Step 2:** Submit the CN to the NDA for incorporating to the Country Programme. NDA will also guide you on selecting accredited entity, which can be either a **Direct Access Entity (DAE)** (a national-level accredited entity) or an **international accredited entity**. Once, accredited entity is selected, write them for receiving their consent to work on the concept.
- **Step 3: Submission to PKSf:** The prepared Concept Note should be submitted to PKSf for primary evaluation.
- **Step 4: PKSf's Internal Review:** PKSf will review the Concept Note to assess its alignment with national policies, GCF investment criteria, and PKSf's strategic priorities.
- **Step 5: NDA (ERD) Engagement and NoL:** If PKSf finds the Concept Note appropriate, PKSf will engage with the ERD (the NDA) to obtain a No Objection Letter (NoL).
- **Step 6: Submission to GCF:** With the NoL in hand, PKSf will then formally submit the project Concept Note (and later, if invited, the full Funding Proposal) to the GCF.
- **Step 7: Project Approval and Implementation:** If the project is approved by the GCF, PKSf will be the Accredited Entity (AE). The project-developing organization, if it meets GCF's criteria, can become the Executing Entity (EE) under PKSf's oversight. Alternatively, PKSf may undertake both the AE and EE roles, with the project preparator acting as an Implementing Entity.



10. What are the key elements to consider when developing a Concept Note for GCF funding?

A GCF Concept Note (*Hyperlink the Downloadable CN Template*) provides basic information about a proposed project and should typically include:

- **Project/Programme Information:** Title, location, proposed AE (PKSF), Executing Entities, project categories (size, type of access, public/private, mitigation/adaptation/mixed), result areas, and proposed project lifespan.
- **Project/Programme Details:** A summary of objectives, background information, relevant market overview, regulatory context, and proposed implementation arrangements.
- **Financing/Cost Information:** Description of financial elements and proposed financing structure.
- **Expected Performance against Investment Criteria:** Explanation of how the project aligns with GCF's six investment criteria:
 - **Impact potential:** Potential to contribute to the GCF's objectives and paradigm shift.
 - **Paradigm shift potential:** Potential to catalyze broader transformation towards low-emission and climate-resilient development.
 - **Sustainable development potential:** Potential to deliver broader social, economic, and environmental co-benefits.
 - **Needs of the recipient country:** How the project addresses the specific needs and priorities of Bangladesh.
 - **Country ownership and institutional capacity:** Evidence of country ownership and the capacity of the proposed executing and implementing entities.
 - **Efficiency and effectiveness:** Financial and economic viability, cost-effectiveness, and potential for leverage.
- **Brief Rationale for GCF Involvement and Exit Strategy:** Justification for GCF support and plans for project sustainability beyond GCF funding.
- **Risk Analysis:** Identification and assessment of potential risks and proposed mitigation measures.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Engagement:** Description of how relevant stakeholders (including vulnerable groups and gender considerations) will be engaged throughout the project cycle.

11. What kind of supporting documents might be beneficial to include with the Concept Note?

While not always mandatory for the initial Concept Note submission, including the following can strengthen your proposal:

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- Map indicating the project/programme location.
- Financial model (if applicable).
- Pre-feasibility or feasibility studies.
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or initial risk screening.
- Evaluation reports of previous relevant projects.
- Diagram of the theory of change.

12. What happens after the Concept Note is submitted to GCF by PKSf?

The GCF Secretariat will review the Concept Note and may provide feedback. This feedback helps refine the proposal to better align with GCF objectives. If the Concept Note is well-received, PKSf will be invited to develop a full Funding Proposal, which undergoes a more rigorous review process by the GCF Board for eventual approval.

13. What support can PKSf offer during the project development process? As an Accredited Entity, PKSf can provide valuable guidance and technical assistance to local organizations throughout the project development process, from Concept Note formulation to full proposal preparation, ensuring alignment with GCF requirements and national priorities. Organizations are encouraged to consult with PKSf early in their project conceptualization phase.

14. How can we contact PKSf to discuss potential GCF project ideas?

Interested organizations should reach out to PKSf's dedicated Environment & Climate Change Unit.

15. How is a project submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)?

To be considered for GCF funding, a project must generally be included in the Country Programme (CP), which is coordinated by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) — the National Designated Authority (NDA) for GCF in Bangladesh.

The process involves:

- Submitting the concept to the NDA.
- Selecting an Accredited Entity (national or international).
- Getting consent from the Accredited Entity to support the project.
- The Accredited Entity reviews the concept for alignment with GCF criteria.
- If acceptable, the Accredited Entity seeks a No Objection Letter (NoL) from the NDA.
- Upon receiving the NoL, the Accredited Entity submits the project to GCF through the online submission portal.

16. Who are the Accredited Entities (AEs) for GCF in Bangladesh?

Bangladesh currently has both national and international Accredited Entities.

- **National Accredited Entities (Direct Access Entities):**
 - Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
 - Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)
- **International Accredited Entities include:**
 - The World Bank
 - UNDP
 - FAO
 - IFAD



- KfW
- GIZ
- Others

17. Can grassroots organizations serve as Implementing Entities?

Yes, in principle grassroots-level organizations can act as Implementing Entities (IEs) under a GCF-funded project. However, they must demonstrate adequate capacity, systems, and experience in managing development or climate projects in alignment with international standards.

18. Do I need to wait for a GCF funding call to submit a project concept?

It's **not mandatory** to wait for a GCF funding call to submit a project concept note. PKSf, as a Direct Access Entity (DAE), submits projects based on the priorities outlined in the Country Programme.

Contact details of someone: email/Contac number: pkssf@pkssf.org.bd

