

## **Call for inputs from the Standing Committee on Finance Call on the next SCF Forum: Finance for Nature-based Solutions**

### **Submission by the Green Climate Fund**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. Established by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2010, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the world's largest fund dedicated to supporting developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to adapt to climate change.
2. The SCF Forum provides an important opportunity for collaboration between SCF and GCF. This submission addresses two aspects of the calls for inputs, a) NBS related papers and case studies that could inform the Forum and b) potential avenues for partnership in the organization of the Forum.

#### **II. NBS relevant work to inform the Forum**

3. The GCF has extensive experience in providing finance for nature-based solutions. As at 30 June 2020, GCF has invested approximately USD 2.9 billion to support 41 projects related to nature-based climate change mitigation and adaptation activities (32% of the GCF portfolio by number of projects, or 15.2% of the portfolio by value)<sup>1</sup>. Of this investment, \$700 million has been directly allocated to supporting and restoring ecosystems and ecosystem services.
4. For example, through the project FP034 “Building Resilient Communities, Wetlands Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda” GCF is providing support to enhance Ugandan subsistence farmers’ ability to deal with climate impacts. Uganda’s wetlands are vital for the entire country’s ability to chart an uncertain ecological future in the face of rising global temperatures. They regulate flooding and remove pollutants from storm surface runoff before the waters enters lakes and other water bodies, and they play a critical role in continuously recharging ground water sources. Uganda has lost around 30 percent of its wetlands in the last 15 years due to degradation and encroachment, which in turn has exacerbated a series of ecological problems. This project will help Uganda to restore critical wetlands to improve ecosystem services; enhance the skills of people to diversify their livelihoods and become more resilient to climate shocks and; improve the ability of communities in sensitive wetland areas to reduce climate risks and prepare them for climate-related disasters.
5. GCF institutional frameworks create an enabling environment for finance flows to nature-based climate mitigation and adaptation activities. In addition its Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), and Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) allow the incorporation of ‘environmental and social considerations in ways that not only include safeguard measures of “do no harm,” but also improve environmental and social outcomes and generate co-benefits to the environment and the communities, including indigenous peoples, that depend on it. Within the parameters of the ESMS, this is translated into the operations of GCF, such as accreditation, investment criteria, ESS application, monitoring and accountability, information disclosure, gender mainstreaming, incorporation of

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<sup>1</sup> A sample of these project is listed in Annex I

considerations related to indigenous peoples, stakeholder engagement, and the redress mechanism.’<sup>2</sup>

6. GCF technical expertise as relevant to the scope and purpose of the Forum are thus drawn from its learning experiences in establishing the enabling institutional environment, as well as the wealth of relevant on-the-ground case studies implemented with the support of various partners and stakeholders. The sharing of experiences will be useful for the various stakeholders, also contributing to GCF’s role in facilitating access to climate finance for adaptation and mitigation actions and measures that utilise NBS.
7. The knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities, alongside the natural sciences, are important foundations for NBS and community resilience. Bolstered by the GCF Indigenous Peoples’ Policy that bring together indigenous peoples and local communities, accredited entities and governments, the current GCF project portfolio contains different regional examples of how indigenous knowledge systems are supported.
8. A UNDP-led project in Colombia (FP 56) supported the First Indigenous National Forum on Climate Change: Talking around the Fire that included the participation of 230 people from twenty-two villages. Future activities also aims to
 

‘ensure the collection, dissemination and exchange of indigenous knowledge in a manner that is culturally sensitive and appropriate. For example, to define and agree on the approach of restoration actions with the different actors involved in the wetland rehabilitation process such as the Humboldt Institute, Paisajes Rurales and Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC), the project held a workshop on “climate change approaches through an ethnic sensitive approach in ecological restoration”’.
9. In the Pacific, SPREP through GCF support has been maintaining its work in Vanuatu on traditional knowledge, enabling Vanuatu to develop its Van Kirap Traditional Knowledge Strategy, integrating of traditional knowledge and climate science into community-level climate information system tools and information (FP 35).
10. Further examples of projects that promote the use of TK and engage IPs are listed in Annex 2.

### III. Potential avenues for partnership in the organization of the Forum

11. The GCF would also like to convey its interest in assisting with the organization of the Forum and partnering in the Forum.
12. In partnering with the SCF, GCF can leverage both its experiences and in-house expertise to contribute the following to the Forum:
  - High-level speaker for the opening session;
  - Case studies from GCF supported NBS projects, including access to GCF finances and challenges;
  - Case studies on local communities and indigenous peoples where GCF could highlight good practice cases in both exhibition and/or a panel discussion formats in collaboration with the UNFCCC LCIPP and CBD 8j, including GCF IP policy, safeguards, as well as access to finances and challenges;
  - Information and updates from GCF’s large-scale programmes related to NBSs such as the programmes on REDD+, the Great Green Wall, coastal ecosystems and peatlands;

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<sup>2</sup> GCF/B.19/06



- Speakers at director and technical level, particularly during sessions 6 and 8; and
- Assisting or taking the lead in organizing break-out sessions, particularly during sessions 5, 7 and 9, including access to finances and challenges.

## **Annex 1 GCF Projects demonstrating nature-based solutions**

FP003 Senegal (CSE): Increasing the resilience of ecosystems and communities through the restoration of the productive bases of salinized lands.

FP034 Uganda (UNDP): Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda

FP053 Egypt (UNDP): Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in the North Coast and Nile Delta Regions in Egypt.

FP056 Colombia (UNDP): Scaling up climate resilient water management practices for vulnerable communities in La Mojana.

FP062 Paraguay (FAO) Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change (PROEZA)

FP087 Guatemala (MARN) Building livelihood resilience to climate change in the upper basins of Guatemala's highlands

FP089 El Salvador (FAO) "Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador (RECLIMA)"

FP113 Kenya (IUCN) TWENDE Towards Ending Drought Emergencies: Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Rangelands

FP122 Countries in the Western Indian Ocean (Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa) (KfW) Blue Action Fund (BAF): GCF Ecosystem Based Adaptation Programme in the Western Indian Ocean (Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa)

## **Annex 2 IP GCF Projects**

FP001: Building the Resilience of Wetlands in the Province of Datem del Marañón, Peru

FP002: Scaling Up of Modernized Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Malawi

FP012: Africa Hydromet Program - Strengthening Climate Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Mali Country Project

FP018: Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risk reduction in Northern Pakistan

FP019: Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation

FP023: Climate Resilient Agriculture in three of the Vulnerable Extreme northern crop-growing regions (CRAVE)

FP024: Empower to Adapt: Creating Climate-Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia

FP045: Ground water recharge and solar micro irrigation to ensure food security and enhance resilience in vulnerable tribal areas of Odisha

FP050: Bhutan for Life

FP072: Strengthening climate resilience of agricultural livelihoods in AgroEcological Regions I and II in Zambia



FP087: Building livelihood resilience to climate change in the upper basins of Guatemala's highlands

FP089: Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador (RECLIMA)

FP097: Productive Investment Initiative for Adaptation to Climate Change (CAMBio II)

FP117: Implementation of the Lao PDR Emission Reductions Programme through improved governance and sustainable forest landscape management

FP118: Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)

FP125: Strengthening the resilience of smallholder agriculture to climate change-induced water insecurity in the Central Highlands and South-Central Coast regions of Vietnam

SAP001: Improving rangeland and ecosystem management practices of smallholder farmers under conditions of climate change in Sesfontein, Fransfontein, and Warmquelle areas of the Republic of Namibia

SAP006: Building resilience of communities living in landscapes threatened under climate change through an ecosystems-based adaptation approach

SAP008: Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood)

SAP010: Multi-Hazard Impact-Based Forecasting and Early Warning System for the Philippines



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