



African Scientific
Research and
Innovation Council

GETTING ACCREDITED TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND & FUNDING

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE ACCREDITATION
PROCESSES AND FUNDING



PART 1

ACCREDITATION PROCESS

STEP I – ASSESSMENT, PREPARATION & APPLICATION

A magnifying glass with a black handle and a silver rim is positioned over the word "Assessment". The word is written in a large, orange, serif font. The magnifying glass is focused on the letters "m", "e", and "n", making them appear larger and more prominent than the rest of the word. The background is a plain white surface.

Assessment

HOW TO GET ACCREDITED

What is Accreditation?

The action or process of officially recognizing someone as having a particular status or being qualified to perform a particular activity.

To be Accredited to GCF is being giving the mandate/responsibility to present funding applications to the GCF and then overseeing, supervising, managing and monitoring the overall GCF-approved projects and programmes.

Accreditation basically goes through the following steps/procedures;

1. Assessment
2. Preparation
3. Application
4. Review
5. Legal Arrangements

SELF ASSESSMENT

Q MENU ≡



GCF ACCREDITATION SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Developed in partnership with



SELF ASSESSMENT

- What is this questionnaire about?
 - To outline the minimum requirements of the application

- How will it help?
 - To sensitize potential applicants of the accreditation process
 - To enable them determine if an organization is ready to start the process
- Who should take the questionnaire?
 - Any entity, institution interested in seeking accreditation to the GCF, including other parties supporting or willing to understand the accreditation.

- Why should the questionnaire be taken?
 - Whether an organization is considered to have full legal capacity to undertake funded activities by the GCF
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- What their institutional arrangements are, including their systems, policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Their track record – considering whether their systems, policies, procedures and guidelines have been implemented systematically.

The Assessment tool helps organizations save time and expenses by deciding at an early stage...., once they are confident it has the credentials to become an Accredited Entity, it can start the three (3) stage application.

Though the scope of Accreditation vary, all entities need to meet a number of basic standards based on the following;

A₁ Basic Fiduciary Standards

- Key Administrative and Financial capacities
 - Transparency and Accountability
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A₂ Specialized Fiduciary Standards

- Project management
- Grant award and/or Funding allocation mechanisms
- On-lending and/or Blending

B Gender Policy

- Policies, Procedures and Competencies

C Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

- Assessment and Management of relevant Performance Standards (PS) 1-8

PREPARING AN APPLICATION

Entities applying for accreditation should be operating for at least 3yrs.

Unlike the Direct Access Entities who needs to be nominated by a Developing Country's NDA/FP, International Access Entities can seek GCF accreditation directly.

- All accreditation applicants need to apply to join GCF's Online Accreditation System (OAS); this can be done by filling out a document(Request for a GCF Online Accreditation System Account)
- Once the completed form is accepted by the GCF Secretariat, applicants will receive a log-in details OAS.
- Applicants will be required to fill out online application form(GCF Accreditation Application Form) – **this is the main part of applying for accreditation**. The form has detailed guidance on how to fill it.

- After submission of the online application form, applicants can now go on to pay their application fee. **Application fee varies according to your fiduciary functions and the size of financing for projects/programmes Accreditation applicant is proposing to receive from GCF funding. This is waived for applicants from Small Island developing & Least Developed States.**

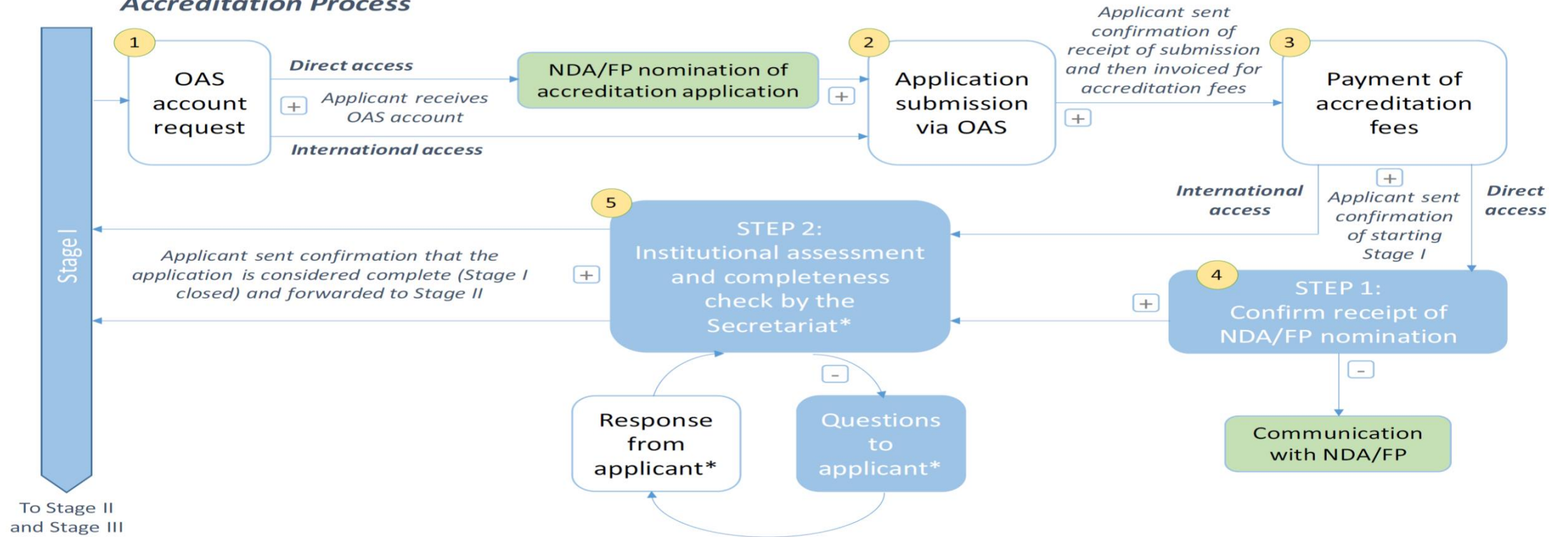
CHECKING APPLICATION

- Once application fee is received, the GCF secretariat reviews the application;
 - i) Ensuring the mandate and objectives in targeting climate finance, and in a manner that can contribute to developing country programming priorities with the GCF.
 - ii) Whether applicant has supplied sufficient information about their systems, policies, procedures and guidelines related to the safeguarding projects against financial, environmental, social and gender risk and impacts.
 - iii) And checks whether information on the applicants track record of applying (ii) above have been provided.
- *Questions may be asked with the aim of requiring a complete application. It often involves considerable back and forth correspondence between Applicant and GCF.



Accreditation Stage I

Accreditation Process



*The number of rounds of questions may vary depending on the completeness of the application.

STEP II - REVIEW



REVIEWING & RECOMMENDATION TO GCF BOARD

- Once the secretariat is satisfied that application completeness requirements are met, it passes on submitted documents to the Accreditation Panel. The group of six (6) Accreditation Experts provide independent appraisal of the application, focusing on whether applicant meets GCF's standards.
- At this point, the Accreditation panel may ask applicants to provide clarification while liaising with the GCF secretariat.
- The Secretariat and the Accreditation panel then send their recommendation to the GCF Board. Recommendation includes;
 - Secretariats Assessment from checking application
 - Recommendation by Accreditation panel

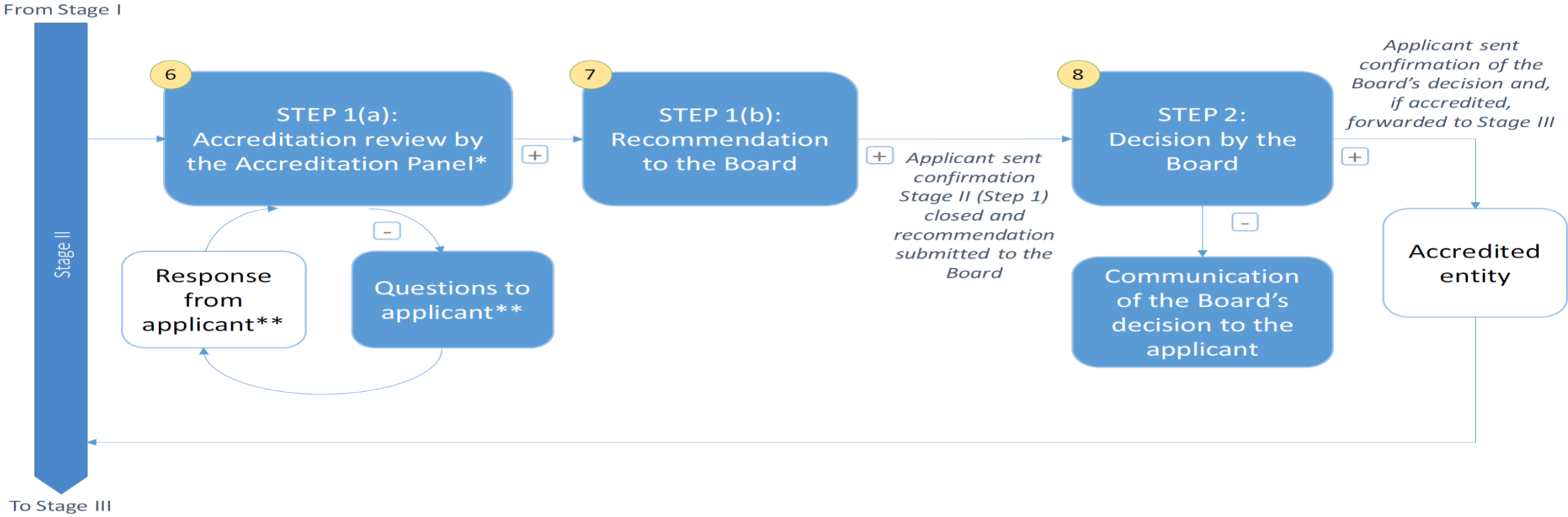
Sometimes when there are gaps in Application, Accreditation Panel recommend condition of accreditation. For example additional monitoring requirement.

Ideally, duration of review by both GCF Secretariat & Accreditation Panel could be a minimum of six (6) months or three (3) months for fast-track application, provided the application is complete and does not require follow up questions.

- The GCF Board, which generally meets three times a year, then makes the final decision about whether to accredit the Entity or not.
- The GCF Secretariat then informs the Applicant about the result of the GCF Board decision.



Accreditation Stage II



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

STEP III – LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS



LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS

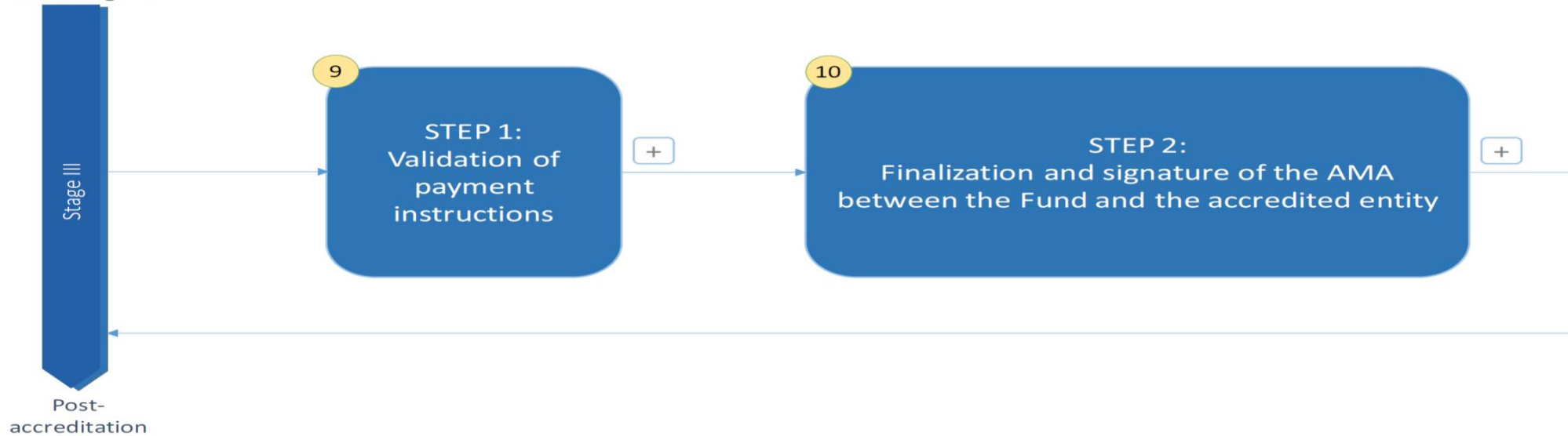
- The approved Accredited Entity will then sign an Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) with GCF. AMA is a legal agreement that set out terms and conditions for an Accredited Entity's use of GCF Resources. They formalize the Accredited Entity's accountability in carrying out GCF-approved projects appropriately.
- Accredited Entities are required to carry out a yearly self-assessment of their operations to assess whether they continue to meet the accreditation standards applied for.
- Yearly progress reports about their management of GCF-approved climate finance projects or programmes are also required by the GCF.
- Accredited Entities will need to re-apply to retain their status every 5yrs. GCF is currently working on procedures to guide re-accreditation.



GREEN CLIMATE FUND

Accreditation Stage III*

From Stage II









Post-accreditation Process

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

* The template Accreditation Master Agreement can be found [here](#). AMAs signed between the GCF and Accredited Entities may be found [here](#).

Examples of AE's

	ENTITY NAME / ACRONYM
	Acumen Fund, Inc. (Acumen)
	Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)
	African Development Bank (AfDB)
	Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
	Agency for Agricultural Development of Morocco (ADA)

	 Agency for Agricultural Development of Morocco (ADA)	SEARCH MENU
	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	
	Austrian Development Agency (ADA Austria)	
	Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)	
	BNP Paribas S.A. (BNP)	
	Caixa Economica Federal (CEF)	

	 Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	SEARCH MENU
	CDG Capital S.A. (CDG Capital)	
	Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)	
	Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE)	
	CGIAR System Organization (CGIAR)	
	China Clean Development Mechanism Fund Management Center (China CDM Fund Management Center)	



PART 2

FUNDING

FUNDING PROPOSAL

The fund utilizes a variety of financial instruments to realize these projects. These includes grants, concessional debt financing, equity and guarantees.

Funding projects that are submitted to the GCF are subject to a rigorous review process, culminating in a decision by the GCF Board as to whether to support the project.

- Proposals must include an impact assessment to ensure the project meets the environmental and social standards (ESS) including gender, of the GCF.

This requires extensive consultation with those who would be affected by the project, and must be published 120days before the Board decision for Category A (High risk) projects and 30days for Category B (Medium risk) projects.

- GCF Secretariat now carries out a receipt and completeness check, by assessing the submitted funding proposal and the technical specifications alongside the documents that need to accompany it.
- The Secretariat then may contact the Accredited Entity to discuss the proposal and seek to strengthen the application in advance of further, more detailed review.
- Following the initial completeness check, the GCF Secretariat undertakes a more detailed assessment of the project proposal compliance with GCF policies, including but not limited to;
 - Fiduciary Standards
 - Risk Management
 - ESS
 - Gender Policy
 - Legal Standards

ASSESSMENT

- Once the proposal has passed the initial review stage, the GCF Secretariat will pass the submitted proposal and supporting documents to the Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP)
- ITAP is made up of six (6) international experts (3 Developing and 3 Developed Countries)
- ITAP assesses the funding proposal against the six (6) GCF investment criteria. But can add conditions and recommendations to the funding proposals at its discretion.

ITAP may ask Accredited Entities to provide clarifications, while liaising with the GCF Secretariat.

BOARD DECISION

GCF Secretariat submits a funding proposal package to the GCF Board. This includes,

- Funding Proposals
- Documents required to support the proposal

- No objection letter by NDA in the case of DAE
- The GCF Secretariat & ITAP Assessments

The Board then considers the proposal, with a unanimous decision required. They can choose one of the three possible decisions:

- Approve funding
- Approve funding with the conditions and recommendations, that modifications are made to the funding proposal.
- Reject the funding proposal

The Funded Activity Agreement lays the groundwork for the implementation phase of the project.

Financing:	PUBLIC	PUBLIC / PRIVATE	PRIVATE	
Project size:	MICRO	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
E&S Risk category:	CATEGORY A	CATEGORY B	CATEGORY C	

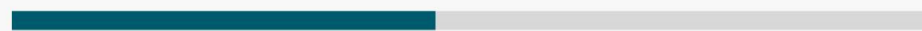
Examples of the funded projects

\$16.3m

Total project investment

GCF Financing

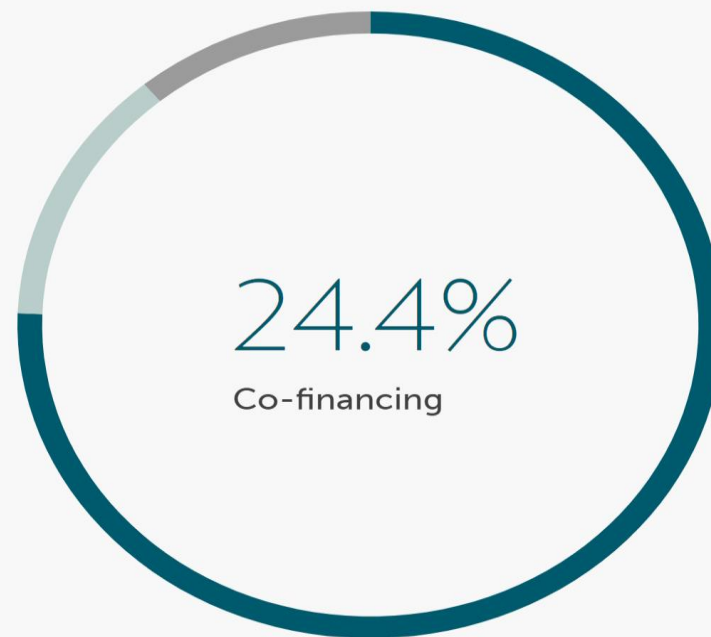
Instrument	Grant	USD 12.3 M	●
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46.4% GCF financing disbursed

Co-Financing

Government of Malawi	Grant	USD 2.2 M	●
UNDP	Grant	USD 1.8 M	●



24.4%

Co-financing

FP104

MITIGATION

NIGERIA

Nigeria solar IPP support program

SAP005

ADAPTATION

BENIN

Enhanced climate resilience of rural communities in central and north Benin through the impleme...

FP103

MITIGATION

KENYA / SENEGAL

Promotion of climate-friendly cooking: Kenya and Senegal

FP096

MITIGATION

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

DRC Green Mini-Grid Program

FP100

MITIGATION

BRAZIL

REDD+ results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014...

FP099

MITIGATION

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

Climate Investor One

15-Apr-19

26

CONCLUSION

I conclude by saying that the STRC/ASRIC will be able to access the GCF funding and accreditation via IAE, provided its able to go through the rigorous processes successfully.

Recommendations

- ASRIC Bureau recommends the following:
 - The Bureau requests the STRC as the ASRIC Secretariat to take the necessary action to be registered as an Accredited Entity to the GCF.
 - The Secretariat to work with the Resource Mobilization Committee to ensure registration and accreditation of the STRC as the Secretariat of ASRIC as an entity to the GCF.
 - The Resource Mobilisation Committee is to engage with National Designated Authorities (NDAs) for advice and consultation.
 - The Secretariat is empowered to engage the services of experts in registration and accreditation for the GCF.

