



Government of Niue



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

# HANDBOOK FOR GREEN CLIMATE FUND IN NIUE

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## Niue and Green the Climate Fund: Purpose

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This publication provides an overview of the Government of Niue's approach to accessing support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The aim is to inform and encourage all stakeholders to actively participate in the development and implementation of climate change related proposals that can be submitted to the GCF, the financial mechanism for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its implications to Niue.

The information provided in this publication represents the Government of Niue's approach to accessing finance through the fund. This approach is based on both the priorities of the Government of Niue and technical and operational guidance from the GCF.

Further information about the fund can be found at <http://www.greenclimate.fund/home>

## Niue and the Green Climate Fund: Overview

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The Green Climate Fund is a new global fund created as a financial mechanism and established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that serves the Paris Agreement dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance.

Niue's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is a term used under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that represents Niue's contributions to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Green Climate Fund helps developing countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. It seeks to promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and high climate-resilient development, taking into account the needs of nations that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

The Green Climate Fund is the largest single source of climate finance globally. The GCF is able to provide Grants, Loans, Guarantees and Equity.

## National Designated Authority (NDA)

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The Niue Designated Authority is the operational point within the Project Management Coordination Unit (PMCU), that sits under the Secretary of Government Office. The NDA is responsible for the overall coordination and capacity building of Niue's engagement with the Green Climate Fund and acts as the interface on behalf of Government with the Green Climate Fund.

The contact person is the Director of PMCU.

The establishment of the NDA is to foster country ownership.

The NDA is represented by the PMCU as the focal point for all funding proposals to the GCF, and to provide the overall coordination and technical oversight on the development and implementation of GCF funding proposals in the country.

The NDA works in collaboration with the Government of Niue, Private sector, Civil Society Organisations and all NGO's to meet Niue's Climate Change priorities.



*NDA Role*

## Niue's Climate Change National Focus

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Niue's Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement is Mitigation of electricity generation (reduced reliance on fossil fuel) in the areas of renewable energy and transport and Adaptation in areas of food security, built environment and infrastructure, livelihoods of people and communities.

The Government of Niue developed a climate change policy in response to the need for addressing climate change issues in a more coherent and whole-of government manner in line with the Niue National Strategic Plan (2016-2026). The goal of the policy is "to promote understanding of and formulate appropriate responses to the causes and effects of climate change in support of national sustainable development objectives".

Projects should be strategically informed by using the Joint National Action Plan (JNAP)

on Climate Change Adaptation (2012). This document is currently under review to be updated to include new strategies and plans aiming to adapt to climate change (Niue Infrastructure Energy Road Map– Niue National Transport strategy).

The Private Sector is in the process of developing an Options Paper on how the private sector can support the low emission high resilience development agenda of Niue.

Engagement with the Green Climate Fund to access climate finance is done by aligning Concepts and Projects to the priorities identified in those strategies and plans.

**(Source: Niue NDC)**

### ***Niue Nationally Determined Contributions***

*While Niue's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is negligible (less than 0.0001%), and Niue is a net sink given the growth of our forests, nevertheless we are taking steps to reduce our emissions, in particular in the energy sector. The Niue Strategic Energy Road Map (NiSERM) 2015-2025 outlines Niue's aspiration to meet 80% of its electricity needs from renewable energy sources by 2025, which would in turn reduce the country's high reliance on imported fossil fuel. Part of this goal can be achieved through national resources and identified assistance, but achieving such high levels of electricity from renewables (from around 2% today) is very ambitious and will need considerable contributions of financial and capacity support from our partners.*

## GCF Eight Strategic Result Areas

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Under the themes of Mitigation and Adaptation, there are eight areas that identify where a project proposal could best make an impact.

MITIGATION	ADAPTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy Generation and Access</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Livelihoods of people and communities.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transportation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health, food and water security</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forests and Land Use</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Infrastructure and Built Environment.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buildings, Cities, Industries, and appliances.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ecosystems and ecosystem Services</li></ul>



## GCF: Six High Level Investment Criteria

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All project and programme proposals submitted to the GCF will be assessed according to the Fund's strategic result areas, outlined on page 8 and evaluated against the GCF's investment criteria.

IMPACT POTENTIAL	Potential of the programme/project to contribute to the Funds' objectives to shift towards low-emission and climate resilient sustainable development.
PARADIGM SHIFT POTENTIAL	Degree to which the proposed activity can impact beyond a one-off project or programme investment. How scalable and replicable is the project? How innovative and transformative is it?
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL	Potential of the programme/project to contribute to the Funds' objectives to shift towards low-emission and climate resilient sustainable development.
COUNTRY OWNERSHIP	Ownership of the beneficiary country and capacity to implement a funded project. How well does the project fit within the beneficiary country's existing policies, climate strategies and institutions?
EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS	Economic and financial soundness of the programme/project.
NEEDS OF THE REEPIENT	Vulnerability and financing needs of the beneficiary country and target groups

## **GCF Accredited Entities (AEs)**

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Every funding proposal must be supported by at least one ‘Accredited Entity’. National government agencies and departments, NGOs, private sector companies, and international organisations can all apply for GCF accreditation. Some of the GCF accredited entities working in the Pacific Region.

- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- Pacific Community Commission (PCC)
- Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- Asia Development Bank (ADB)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

At present no government or non-government entities are accredited in Niue. PMCU will support applicants in efforts to become accredited.

For more information about AEs, please visit the GCF website

***<http://www.greenclimate.fund/home>***

## Types of GCF Support

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1

### GCF READINESS PROGRAMME

- Institutional capacity and coordination
- Direct Access
- Adaptation and Planning (NAPs)
- Project Pipelines.

2

### PROJECTS AND PROGRAMME FUNDING

- Access to finance for implementation of funding proposals through an Accredited Entity.
- Project Preparation Facility (PPF)
- Simplified Approval Process (SAP)

3

### PRIVATE SECTOR FACILITY

The fund seeks to engage across public and private sectors to unlock high impact and paradigm shifting climate investments. GCF offers a range of flexible financial instruments, enabling it to respond to specific investment contexts and market barriers. It is also able to work with national- level entities to build readiness to access Fund resources.

## What should a Concept Note or Proposal Consider

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- Linkages to national policies and strategic plans
- Paradigm shift potential: GCF will not fund 'business-as-usual'
- Stakeholder engagement (all sectors and groups)
- Clear climate change rationale for mitigation and adaption
- Feasibility and background studies
- Compliance with the social and environmental safeguards of Niue, the UNFCCC and the GCF
- Evidence of consideration of various financing options available through the GCF (e.g. grants, loans, guarantees) and strong justification for the selected modality/ies
- Strong sustainability and replication potential
- Innovation



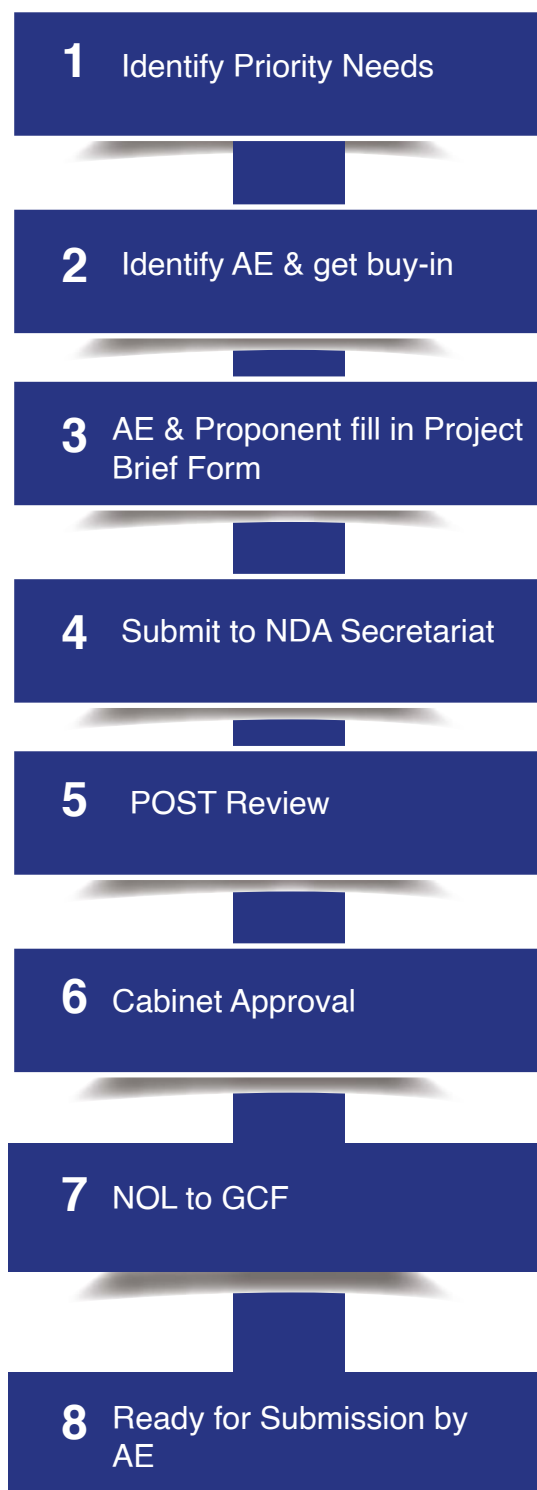
## Niue's GCF Project Development Process

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### 2 NDA Submissions

- 1) Concept Stage
- 2) Full Project Proposal Stage

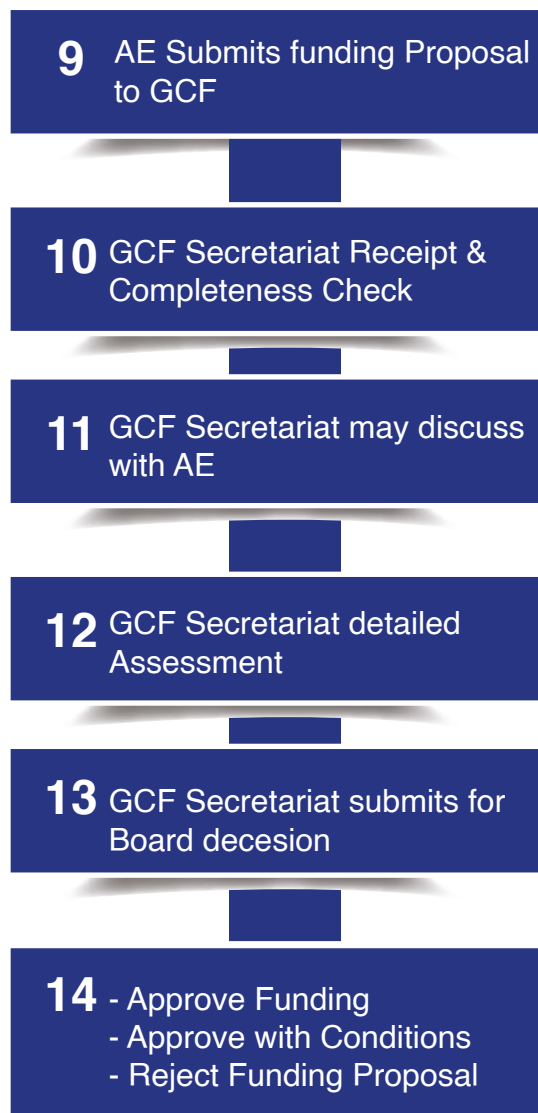


## GCF Approval Process

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### 3 GCF Submissions

- 1) Concept Stage
- 2) Full Project Proposal Stage
- 3) Online Simplified Approval Process (SAP)



## No Objection Procedure

### PURPOSE

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The purpose of the no-objection procedure is to ensure consistency with national climate strategies and plans and country-driven approaches, and to provide for effective direct and indirect public and private sector financing by the Fund.

A no-objection letter must accompany the funding proposal before submitting to the Green Climate Fund.

The no-objection letter is issued by the NDA. The NDA will communicate its no-objection letter to the GCF Secretariat after due assessment by POST and cabinet endorsement.

The no-objection letter will be signed by the official representative of the NDA registered with the Secretariat.

The GCF Secretariat will formally acknowledge the receipt of the no objection letter to the NDA and respective implementing entity or intermediary.

In cases of submissions of proposals for funding that are not accompanied by a no-objection letter, the GCF Secretariat will inform the NDA or focal point that the funding proposal will not be processed for Board consideration unless the NDA or focal point provides its no-objection.

## No Objection PROCEDURE

<b>Step 1 - Proponent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proponent is the agency/group/community who owns a project idea/concept or a proposal and is responsible for submitting the proposal to the NDA.</li> <li>• The proponent could also be the execution entity (EE) or an accredited entity (AE) in partnership with a national entity (a government agency, a private sector or a community group) working together on project ideas or concepts. There may be more than one EE or AE entities involved in a project.</li> <li>• The proponent is responsible for formulation of the project idea(s), consultations and preparation of the project documents. The proponent may use the project profile template to submit their project idea or the GCF templates to the NDA.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2 - The Niue Designated Authority (NDA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NDA is to review concepts/project documents received from the proponents using the enclosed guiding questions.</li> <li>• If there are any queries or the project document is not complete, the NDA is responsible for initiating timely conversation/consultation with the proponent until the proposal is complete and ready for the next step.</li> </ul> <p>Additional tasks that the NDA may carry out while working closely with the Proponent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness – Identify Delivery Partner if not yet done</li> <li>• Project Preparation Facility (PPF) – to engage with Accredited Entity to develop the pipeline (concept) if not yet done and inform the NDA</li> <li>• Full Proposal – NDA to be kept informed with the full proposal is being developed by the proponent/executing entity and the AE (Accredited Entity)</li> <li>• When the project document is complete for review, the NDA is to convene the Government Project Oversight Steering Team (POST) review meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3 - Project Oversight Steering Team (POST)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• POST role is to consult on the project idea/concept/proposals submitted by the NDA on behalf of the proponent to inform Niue Cabinets consideration.</li> <li>• POST ensures that the project idea/concept/proposal aligns with climate change priorities, coordinates and compliments existing projects, and is supported by evidence.</li> <li>• The project document is then tabled with Niue Cabinet to endorse the No Objection Procedure Approval or otherwise with reasons.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 4 - NDA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NDA to submit its no objection letter to the GCF Secretariat to show that the No Objection Procedure was carried out and the proposal is approved for GCF funding considerations.</li> </ul>



## Example Templates

**POST – PROJECT PROFILE AND CLOSURE FORM**

<b>Concept/Project Title:</b>	
<b>Implementing Ministry/Organisation:</b> <small>(List all if more than one)</small>	<b>Lead Government Department/s:</b>
<b>Other Partner Agencies:</b>	<b>Project Contact Details:</b>
<b>Estimated project duration:</b> <small>(If known)</small>	<b>Total Funding:</b> <small>(If known)</small>
<b>Donor / funding source/s:</b> <small>(If known)</small>	<b>Location &amp; site/s:</b>
<b>Land Lease Secured:</b> Yes or No <small>(If applicable)</small>	<b>Land Consultations:</b>

**Project Type/sector/themes:**  
(Infrastructure, Social Services, Health, Education, Community, Training, Technical Assistance,)

**Entity Expertise Justification:**  
(What expertise can your organisation contribute to this project? Justify your experience)

**Simplified Approval Process  
Concept Note**

Project/Programme Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Country(ies): \_\_\_\_\_

National Designated Authority(ies) (NDA): \_\_\_\_\_

Executing Entities: \_\_\_\_\_

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first submission/ version number: YYYY-MM-DD/ V.0

Date of current submission/ version number: YYYY-MM-DD/ V.0

 **GREEN CLIMATE FUND**

Eligibility for SLP is determined by the review of the concept note and the ESI screening.

Please submit the completed form to [fundingproposals@gcfund.org](mailto:fundingproposals@gcfund.org) using the following name convention in the subject line and file name: "CN-[Accredited Entity or Country]-YYYYMMDD"

**Rationale and Objective/s** (100 words max in total for all points)

- What is the rationale for the project? What is the baseline?
- What is the primary need, and how was it identified?
- Is this project concept building on any previous activities or policy?

**Description:** (1-2 paragraphs per topic max)

- Outline key project components
- How will it be implemented?
- Will the project concept fund local positions? Where?
- What related projects are being undertaken in the area?
- Potential overlaps/duplication to be resolved – Is there similar work happening in the project's focus area? Have the differences, similarities or how existing and proposed activities complement or reinforce each other?
- Risk management strategies

**Project Feasibility and Risk Assessments** (1-2 paragraphs per topic max)

- Has the project concept assessed potential environmental and social risks, and were the risk shared and discussed amongst stakeholders and agreed solutions to address those risks were identified?
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Technical assessment
- Vulnerability assessment
- Identified risks and solutions
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning

**How does the project concept link to the Govt. of Niue Priorities?**  
(NNSP, National pillars, Sector/Ministry Strategies, National strategies)

**Concept  
Note**

Project/Programme Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Country(ies): \_\_\_\_\_

National Designated Authority(ies) (NDA): \_\_\_\_\_

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first submission/ version number: YYYY-MM-DD/ V.0

Date of current submission/ version number: YYYY-MM-DD/ V.0

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## Summary

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- The GCF is the primary financing entity for the UNFCCC for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- The PMCU, as Niue's National Designated Authority (NDA) to the GCF, has a coordinating role in linking different sectors and stakeholders with the GCF and facilitate access to financing to implement Niue's climate change adaptation and mitigation priorities.
- PMCU and other stakeholders need to work with Accredited Entities to access GCF finance.
- The PMCU is working with a range of sectors and accredited entities to access GCF support for:
  - Readiness: To build PMCU's capacity to coordinate action on climate change
  - Programming: to develop and implement projects on adaption& resilience
- PMCU wants to work with all in country partners to ensure successful project development and build a pipeline of future projects for GCF support. Implementation and execution.

### Reference Links - Key Policy Documents

Pacific Climate Change Portal - Niue page

**-<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/node/55>**

- Government of Niue: National climate change policy
- Nationally Determined Contributions: Niue
- Niue's Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change
- Niue Initial national communication under the United Nations
- Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)







