

Country Platforms for Climate Finance

Overview of GCF's Approach, Available Support and Impact

In short

- **Country platforms are a strategic, country-driven approach** to mobilizing climate and development finance by translating climate and other key priorities into a programmatic investment approach and aligning financing flows and stakeholders, including key ministries and the private sector.
- **Country platforms bring multiple benefits:** By moving away from a fragmented, project-based approach to a programmatic, country-led model, they can achieve greater investment mobilisation and improved coordination while reducing fragmentation and administrative burden on developing countries—to ultimately support systemic climate and socio-economic transitions.
- **GCF can provide end-to-end support** for country platforms:
 1. **Readiness support** for the platform secretariat to ignite the country platform engine,
 2. **Project Preparation Facility** to develop a strong project pipeline,
 3. **Catalytic concessional financing**, including grants, loans, guarantees, and equity to implement projects and mobilise other funding sources.
- **This support allows for realising the full potential of country platforms** by strengthening governance, coordination, and stakeholder engagement, while boosting the project pipeline and contributing to effective financial mobilisation and achievement of country policy priorities.
- **GCF is a trusted partner of country platforms** with the ability to offer flexible, tailored support over long time frames, a track record setting up successful platforms, experience coordinating diverse partners, commitment to country ownership, and a focus on vulnerable communities.



Why country platforms?



Country platforms have emerged as a way for countries to mobilise public and private climate finance to support their strategies for transformational climate action, while fostering social and economic stability.

Developing countries have unmet demand for climate and development finance, in part due to a lack of established approaches for mobilising diverse funding sources towards policy priorities such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Country platforms—defined as *“voluntary country-level mechanisms, set out by governments and designed to foster collaboration among development partners, based on a shared strategic vision and priorities”*¹—offer a strategic solution to address this.

Country platforms follow an **inclusive, country-driven** approach that ensures national ownership and broad stakeholder participation—including the private sector, subnational governments, investment agencies and line ministries—in designing and implementing investment strategies. Crucially, there is no **‘one size fits all’** platform. Platforms follow different models depending on a countries’ specific needs and priorities. They should also be **flexible** to adapt to evolving circumstances. The benefits of country platforms include:

1. Stronger country ownership and leadership | Align investments and policy with country ambitions and commitments such as NDC and NAP and empower governments to lead climate transitions.

2. Enhanced coordination and efficiency | Streamline funding sources and improve collaboration among government bodies, private sector, and international partners, like MDBs and climate funds, easing the administrative strain on developing countries.

3. Increased access to finance and mobilisation | Aggregate financing sources and support a catalytic effect by encouraging participation from businesses, institutional investors, and banks, and leveraging concessional financing to crowd in private capital.

4. Positive signal to the market | Lower risks for investors, increase investor confidence and encourage long-term investment in climate transitions by demonstrating policy stability, providing a clear investment framework and de-risking projects.

5. Systemic approach | Integrate economic, financial, environmental, social, green skilling, and technological objectives, while addressing country-specific vulnerabilities, including climate adaptation needs, fiscal challenges, job creation, youth employment and supporting vulnerable populations.

6. Accelerated climate action | Align financing with prioritised projects, strengthen technical and institutional capacity, and remove roadblocks to implementation.

7. Greater transparency and accountability | Enhance monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of climate finance flows and help track progress towards climate and development goals.

What does a country platform look like?

Country platforms fulfil **four core functions**, with platform secretariats playing a key coordinating role.

Figure 1. Country platform functions

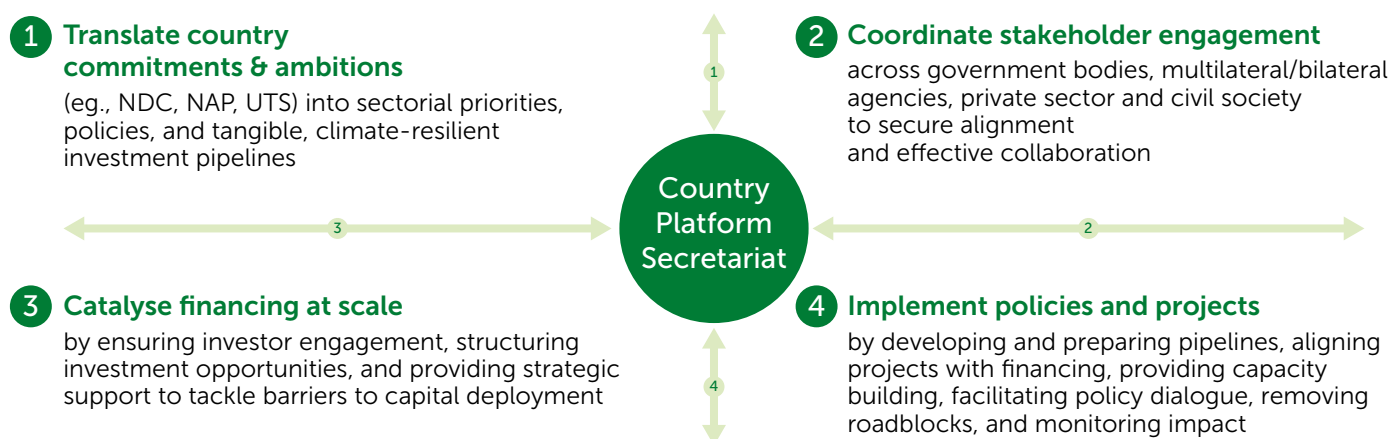
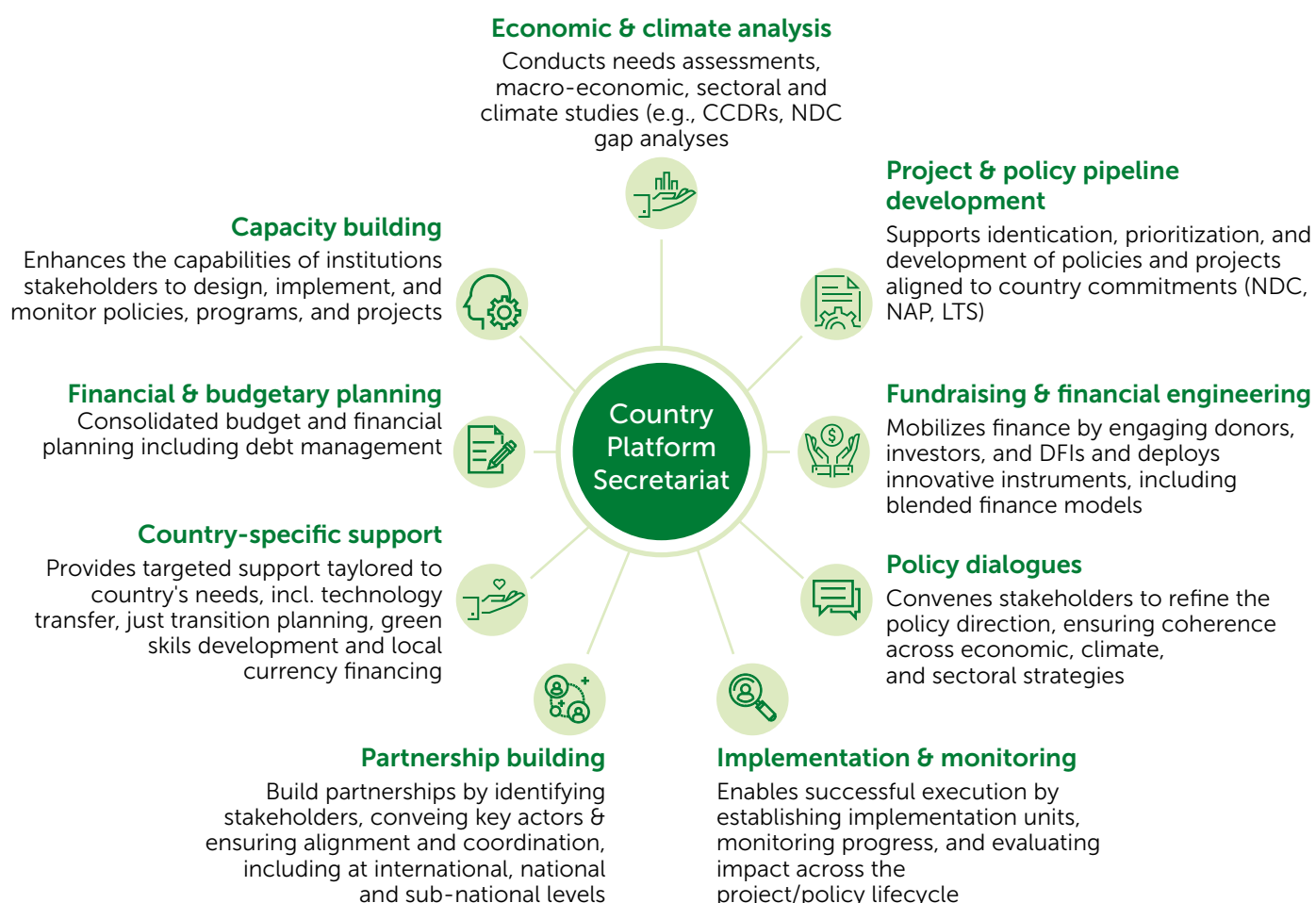


Figure 2. Country platform secretariat activities






How GCF can support country platforms

Despite their potential, countries face challenges in setting up and operationalising country platforms. Establishing them from scratch may pose challenges for countries used to dealing with financiers on a per-project basis. Meanwhile, limited secretariat capacity, poor project pipelines and ineffective coordination may limit the impact of existing platforms.

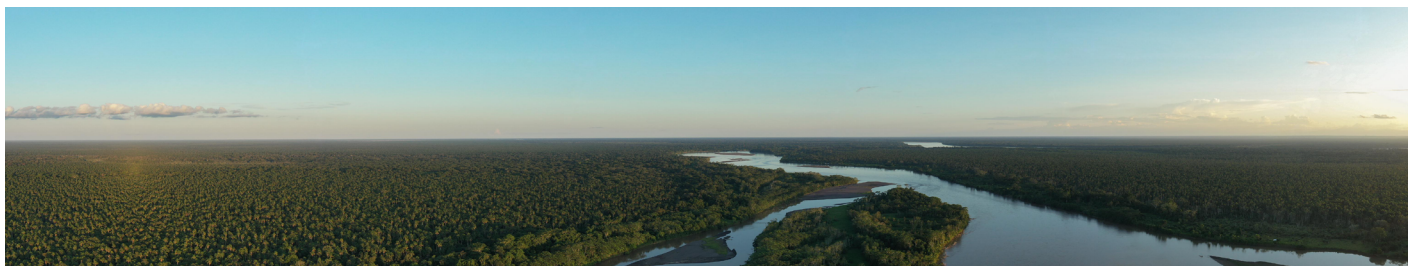
GCF offers **comprehensive support** for the establishment and strengthening of country platforms across their full lifecycle, which can be tailored to specific contexts and needs, supporting different platform configurations. Our commitment to country ownership, convening power, end-to-end support, and flexibility in terms of our instruments, thematic coverage and geographic scope, make GCF a partner of choice for country platforms. And we're an honest broker, acting as an unbiased facilitator.

Under the Readiness Programme, countries can access a total envelope of up to **USD 7 million per country** over 4 years for the integrated planning and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures. This support can be used to set up country platforms.

Figure 3. Summary of available support

GCF support	Description	Example/suggested supported activities
 Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme	Offers grant-based support for the set-up and/or strengthening of country platforms, which can be leveraged to build capacity, improve coordination and stakeholder engagement, and establish governance mechanisms such as platform secretariats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support needs assessments and macro-economic, climate, and sectoral studies</i> (e.g., CCDRs, NDC gap analysis). • <i>Establish communication channels</i> for continuous stakeholder dialogue and knowledge sharing. • <i>Provide technical assistance</i> to enhance the capacity of platform secretariats, including in inter-sectoral coordination and investment mobilisation. • <i>Deploy standardised templates, guidelines, and digital tools</i> for project prioritisation, stakeholder engagement, and financial tracking. • <i>Pilot enhanced platform functionalities</i> in select regions or sectors and scale based on lessons learnt.
 Project Preparation Facility (PPF)	Offers financing and technical support to accredited entities to develop high-quality, investment-ready projects, by financing the preparation of feasibility studies, project design, and environmental and social assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support feasibility studies and technical assessments</i> to evaluate project viability, including climate impact, financial sustainability, and implementation risks. • <i>Provide standardised project preparation guidelines</i> to support proposal writing in line with GCF investment criteria and funding requirements. • <i>Provide access to technical assistance</i> resources for strong proposal writing and robust project management by accredited entities.
 Catalytic concessional financing	Provides concessional financing to overcome barriers in implementing projects and mobilise co-financing from public and private sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mobilise the full suite of financial instruments</i> (grants, concessional loans, equity, guarantees) to support climate project implementation and scale-up. • <i>Facilitate co-financing arrangements</i> with public and private sector partners to mobilise investment.

Case studies



GCF has extensive experience in supporting countries to build their climate planning capacities and deliver impactful climate action. Here are two recent examples of how we are supporting the development of country platforms.

Figure 4. Prior GCF experience implementing country platforms

I. Brazil's Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform (BIP)²

Brazil is one of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters. While the country has made progress in advancing its net-zero by 2050 goal, mobilising climate finance at scale remains a barrier.

The Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform (BIP) was created to accelerate sustainable investments by addressing challenges in the climate finance landscape such as limited institutional capacities, fragmented project pipelines, low diversification of funding sources, and insufficient private sector engagement. BIP is housed by the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) and focuses on 3 themes: i) Nature-based solutions/bioeconomy, ii) energy and iii) industry/mobility.

GCF Readiness funding is helping establish a fully operational secretariat within BIP. This support aims to improve governance, stakeholder coordination, and pipeline development to strengthen private sector engagement and finance mobilisation, and ultimately to help deliver on Brazil's net-zero transition.

II. South Africa's Water Reuse Programme (WRP)²

South Africa faces severe water shortages, with a 17% water deficit projected by 2030. The National Adaptation Plan prioritises water reuse to ease pressure on freshwater sources.

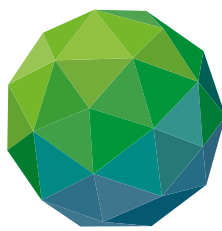
The National Water Reuse Programme was launched to enable collaboration between government, municipalities, and investors. Housed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, GCF's Accredited Entity, it facilitates a programmatic approach through project identification and prioritisation, project preparation support, funding facilitation and implementation monitoring.

GCF provided comprehensive support to establish this sectoral platform, including support for project preparation and structuring via the Project Preparation Facility, and project financing through a blend of pooled programmatic capital, private capital and credit enhancement instruments to enable successful project execution.

Endnotes:

¹ G20 Saudi Arabia (2020). "G20 reference framework for effective country platforms."

² See the Readiness Proposal for Brazil's Investment Platform [here](#) and details of South Africa's Water Reuse Programme [here](#).



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Accessing GCF Readiness support for country platforms:

See the standardised Readiness template here: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/request-support-template>, and additional resources here: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/readiness/country-window>.

Contact us:

For enquiries related to the Readiness Programme, contact: readiness@gcfund.org

For enquiries related to GCF accreditation, contact: accreditation@gcfund.org