

SUMMARY BRIEFING

43rd Green Climate Fund Board Meeting

27-30 October 2025

Dear Friend of the Climate Finance Advisory Service (CFAS),

This is the CFAS Summary Briefing. Produced at key meetings and negotiations by the CFAS expert team, the Summary Briefing tries to provide a concise, informative update on key discussions that have taken place at each meeting and give an overview of substantive points of action or progress. Please note that this is an independent summary by CFAS and not officially mandated by the GCF.

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The CFAS Team

Summary

From 27 to 30 October 2025, the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) convened for its 43rd meeting in Songdo, Republic of Korea. The meeting's agenda focused on the revision of the Accreditation Framework and related policies; as well as the establishment of GCF regional presence. Furthermore, the Board considered the approval of 24 funding proposals (requesting USD 1,399 million in GCF funding), and the accreditation of five new entities.

Status of GCF resources, pipeline, and portfolio performance

As of 31 August 2025, the GCF portfolio comprises 314 projects worth USD 18 billion. The 314 projects and programmes are spread across 133 countries with 42% invested in mitigation and 58% invested in adaptation, in grant equivalent terms. It was reported that the cumulative GCF pipeline of funding proposals as of 31 August comprised 142 concept notes, requesting a total of USD 8.1 billion in GCF funding, as well as 66 funding proposals, requesting USD 4.2 billion.

Currently, approved funding of the 2nd replenishment period is distributed to the Africa region (40%), the Asia-Pacific region (29%), Latin America and the Caribbean (23%) and Eastern Europe (7%). The private sector accounts for 36% of the approved GCF-2 portfolio.

Furthermore, the Secretariat reported consistent growth in the Readiness Programme

portfolio, which increased by 5% from USD 713 million in the previous reporting period to USD 749.1 million for 874 grants as at 31 August 2025.

Consideration of funding proposals

At its 43rd meeting, the Secretariat presented a funding proposal (FP) package comprising a record number of 24 proposals, requesting approximately USD 1.4 billion in GCF resources, with a total value of USD 12.420 billion, including co-financing. The investments are projected to benefit approximately 158 million people and avoid 76.6 MtCO₂eq.

The package sets a clear focus on adaptation (about 75% of nominal funding and 78% in grant-equivalent terms), and features 9 proposals from Direct Access Entities (DAEs). Regionally, the largest allocation is dedicated to Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East (40%), followed by Latin America & the Caribbean (24%), Asia-Pacific (19%), and Africa (17%). Instruments were diversified across grants (51%), loans (28%), equity (14%) and results-based payments (7%).

The Secretariat highlighted several features of the proposal package. For instance, three proposals were submitted by first-time DAEs (NCDD/Cambodia, EPIU/Armenia, IICA/Brazil), also three first-time single-country projects were presented for Oman (SAP052), Dominica (SAP062) and South Sudan (FP279). Furthermore, four proposals were submitted through the Project-specific Assessment Approach (PSAA) and five proposals were supported by the Project Preparation Facility (PPF).

Board members welcomed the large proposal package and strong co-financing coming with it, as well as the adaptation focus and high number of single-country projects. Project highlights were SAP055, which is tackling the climate-health nexus in Benin, SAP065, as the first GCF private sector project supporting agriculture insurance schemes, SAP061 and FP284, two proposals that strengthen agroforestry in the Amazonian region and FP 283 which protects glacier-fed communities, linking glacier monitoring with downstream actions in agriculture, water management, and disaster risk reduction.

Most discussions centred around SAP052 (Oman Early Warning Systems) and FP264 (Prosperete Growth Fund). Several Board members questioned the use of grants for a high-income country, such as Oman, in SAP052, which was, however, defended by the majority of the Board. Ultimately, the project failed to secure approval after a formal vote (18 in favour, 5 against), because five developed-country members voted against. FP264, which was already presented at the two previous Board meetings, was finally withdrawn by the PSAA applicant following a debate on the entity's readiness and insufficient track record.

A further extended exchange concerned FP288, including the role of renewable energy in the electricity supply for the planned desalination plant in Jordan. The Board approved FP288 with amended conditions, essentially stating that if the project's renewable-energy share falls below the agreed threshold, it would constitute a major change and return to the Board based on the GCF's Policy on Restructuring and Cancellation (PRC). The Board

also held a vote on SAP056 after diverging views regarding political risks in Burkina Faso. The result, 18 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions, led to approval. Ultimately, the Board approved 22 proposals from the package, for a final GCF envelope of USD 1.334 billion.

The following projects and programmes were approved by the Board at B.43:

- **SAP055:** “*Strengthening the Health Resilience of Communities Vulnerable to Climate Change in Benin’s ABD (Adjohoun, Bonou and Dangbo) Zone*” / Benin / FNEC / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 8.6M
- **SAP056:** “*Climate Resilience in the Guiriko Region*” / Burkina Faso / GIZ / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 24.7M
- **SAP057:** “*AY4SF – Adolescents and Youth for a Sustainable Future: strengthening climate change adaptation and community resilience through green jobs in Zimbabwe*” / Zimbabwe / SCA / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 25.0M
- **SAP058:** “*Local Governments and Climate Change III (LGCC-3)*” / Cambodia / NCDD / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 9.8M
- **SAP059:** “*Fueling Green Recovery in Armenia – advancing forest infrastructure and creating sustainable jobs for rural communities*” / Armenia / EPIU / Cross-cutting / Public Sector / USD 9.5M
- **SAP060:** “*Promoting Climate-Resilient Livelihoods for Food-Insecure People in Southern Iraq*” / Iraq / WFP / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 20.2M
- **SAP061:** “*Mitigation and adaptation to climate change under agroforestry systems in cocoa production in the Amazon and Atlantic Forest biomes*” / Brazil / IICA / Cross-cutting / Public Sector / USD 23.1M
- **SAP062:** “*Dominica Community Resilience Enhancement Project (DOMCREP)*” / Dominica / CCCCC / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 24.5M
- **SAP063:** “*Scaling up of Caribbean Hydrometeorological and Multi-hazard Early Warning Services (CREWS) in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago*” / Belize, Trinidad and Tobago / CDB / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 24.1M
- **SAP064:** “*Building Eco-system for Accelerating Contribution to NDC through Climate Innovation Incubation for India (BEACON INDIA)*” / India / SIDBI / Cross-cutting / Private Sector / USD 25.0M
- **SAP065:** “*Harnessing Insurance for Climate Resilience in Indian Agriculture*” / India / NABARD / Adaptation / Private Sector / USD 20.0M
- **FP278:** “*Adaptation of agricultural value chains to climate change in Madagascar – PrAda 2+*” / Madagascar / GIZ / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 51.3M
- **FP279:** “*Enhancing Climate Resilience in Flood-Prone Areas in Northwestern South Sudan (ECRF)*” / South Sudan / WFP / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 44.7M
- **FP280:** “*Uganda REDD+ RBP for results period 2016–2017*” / Uganda / FAO / Mitigation / Public Sector / USD 31.0M

- **FP281:** “Direct Financing for Communities and Businesses to Respond to Climate Change in the Cook Islands” / Cook Islands / MFEM (Cook Islands) / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 40.0M
- **FP282:** “Lao People’s Democratic Republic: REDD+ Results-based Payments for results period [2015–2018] – ‘Governance, Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods – Southern Laos Project (GFLL-SL)’” / Lao People’s Democratic Republic (the) / JICA / Mitigation / Public Sector / USD 61.5M
- **FP283:** “Glaciers to Farms (G2F) Regional Program: Advancing Climate Resilience & Sustainable Development in Central and West Asia” / Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan / ADB / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 250.0M
- **FP284:** “Amazonia Viva Program” / Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname / World Bank / Cross-cutting / Public Sector / USD 200.0M
- **FP285:** “GEF Latam Climate Solutions Fund IV” / Brazil / GEF Brasil / Cross-cutting / Private Sector / USD 70.0M
- **FP286:** “Mandala Capital SSEA Food Programme (“MCSSEAFP”)” / Indonesia, Philippines (the), Thailand / Mandala Capital / Adaptation / Private Sector / USD 36.0M
- **FP287:** “Novastar Ventures Africa People and Planet Fund III” / Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa / Novastar Ventures / Cross-cutting / Private Sector / USD 40.0M
- **FP288:** “Jordan Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance Project (AAWDGP)” / Jordan / IFC / Cross-cutting / Private Sector / USD 295.0M

Not approved / withdrawn proposals:

- SAP052: “Building Oman’s Climate Intelligence and Early Warning Ecosystem for Risk-Informed Planning and Inclusive Climate-Proof Investment” / Oman / UNIDO / Adaptation / Public Sector / USD 15.0M
- FP264: “Prosperete Growth fund” / Bangladesh, India, Mauritius / Prosperete / Cross-cutting / Private Sector / USD 50.0M

Consideration of accreditation proposals

At B.43, the Board considered the accreditation of five new entities, all operating under the direct access modality. Two of the newly accredited entities are based in SIDS, and four are the first national DAEs in their respective countries (Tunisia, Kazakhstan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vanuatu). In addition, the Board considered the upgrade of the accreditation type of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), enabling on-lending/blending for loans and equity. One Board member placed substantive disagreements on record regarding specific paragraphs for two DAEs and JICA, but supported approval; others welcomed the DAE focus and SIDS’ representation.

The Secretariat reported that, with the accreditation of the five new applicants, the network of accredited entities would rise to 158, of which 106 would be DAEs (67%). The session also highlighted the transition to the revised accreditation framework (RAF), taking effect on 31 October 2025 with a one-year transitional window. The Secretariat plans to open the first RAF application window in January 2026, accrediting the first RAF applicants at B.45. Furthermore, it is envisaged to accredit 40–50 entities annually from 2027. The Secretariat stated that communication is ensured for a straightforward updating of applications to align with the RAF. The Accreditation Panel noted improved processing efficiency, as the Stage-2 assessments were completed in three to four months, for one applicant even within one month.

The following entities were accredited/upgraded by the Board at B.43:

- **APL158:** Agence de Promotion des Investissements Agricoles (APIA) / national direct access / Tunisia / project/programme size: micro
- **APL159:** Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV) / national direct access / Viet Nam / size: medium
- **APL160:** Joint Stock Company “Development Bank of Kazakhstan” (DBK) / national direct access / Kazakhstan / size: medium
- **APL161:** Environmental Management Authority (EMA) / national direct access / Trinidad and Tobago / size: small
- **APL162:** Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) Vanuatu / national direct access / Vanuatu / size: small
- **Upgrade:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) / international access / Japan / upgrade to on-lending/blending (loans & equity)

Regional presence

At B.41, the Board agreed in principle to establish GCF regional presence offices, while at B.42, the Board adopted the terms of reference for the selection of host countries and launched a call for proposals from interested countries, with submissions due 19 September 2025. While no Board decision was required at this stage, at B.43, the Secretariat presented an update on the operationalisation of a GCF regional presence. The secretariat reported extensive outreach during the call for proposals, receiving 47 submissions, of which 43 were deemed eligible. Next steps include a comprehensive evaluation of eligible proposals to inform a recommended configuration and a finalised implementation plan for establishing the Fund’s regional presence, to be presented for Board consideration at B.44.

In the discussion, Board members acknowledged the Secretariat’s work and broadly welcomed the strong response and high number of applications, as evidence of global interest in the GCF. The Board further reaffirmed the objective of bringing the GCF closer to countries and beneficiaries. In addition, it was stressed that the implementation plan should include a clear, disaggregated cost analysis, with some calling for cost-neutrality. Furthermore, many requested that a workshop be organised before B.44 to support an

informed decision. Such an event could also serve as an opportunity for regions to align behind a small number of candidates. The CSO active observers underscored the importance of assessing countries' track records on the engagement of communities and indigenous people and adherence to human rights.

Multilingualism

The Board discussed the Secretariat's evolving approach to multilingualism as outlined in the corresponding document, following the mandate from decision B.36 on focusing on improving access, inclusivity, and operational clarity for non-English speakers.

The Secretariat outlined a three-pillar strategy: (1) targeted hiring to strengthen language skills across staff from 61 nationalities, with enhanced interpretation for regional dialogues; (2) translation of all remaining key policy and operational documents; and (3) further study on accepting non-English proposal submissions. The IEU analysis found no systematic correlation between English proficiency and portfolio size or approval rates, though English-speaking countries experience modestly faster approval times. Translation costs are estimated at USD 10k per proposal and USD 70-140k for Board meeting interpretation.

Board members expressed support for advancing multilingualism as a means to promote inclusivity, transparency, and equitable access to GCF funding. Some, however, raised procedural concerns about the limited time to review the draft decision and the need for broader consultations before its adoption. As a result, consensus could not be reached, and the agenda item was closed without a decision, with agreement that it would be revisited at a future Board meeting following further analysis and consultations.

Policy on restructuring and cancellation

The Board considered the Secretariat's proposed revisions to the Policy on Restructuring and Cancellation (PRC), which was originally adopted at B.22 (six and a half years ago) to manage changes to projects after Board approval. The Secretariat noted that since adoption, the GCF portfolio has grown significantly, requiring an updated policy that maintains Board strategic oversight while improving operational efficiency.

The Secretariat explained that the review was informed by extensive consultations, including written feedback and webinars. These consultations generated strong support for enhancing efficiency while ensuring country ownership and accountability. The proposed policy revisions aim to preserve the Board's oversight role while introducing streamlined procedures for operational changes, such as project extensions, to enable a more timely and proactive response to implementation challenges. Waivers would still require Board approval. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of country ownership and committed to including NDA guidelines until the forthcoming country ownership policy is adopted.

It was acknowledged that further work is required to address concerns raised during consultations, particularly in relation to NDA engagement and the delineation of roles between the Board and the Secretariat. The Secretariat stated that it will develop

additional guidelines for consultations with NDAs in the context of restructuring and cancellation and will present a revised policy in due course.

During the discussion, Board members recognized the need for the policy to respond to the growing complexity of a USD 20 billion portfolio and to accelerate disbursements and implementation in developing countries. The proposal was described as progressive, with potential to improve delivery and impact, while balancing efficiency and oversight. Members agreed that the GCF Board's limited meeting schedule makes it necessary to delegate some authority to the Secretariat to maintain momentum.

A number of Board members, however, raised concerns about clarity in the current draft, particularly regarding the rationale for changes, the implications for country ownership, and the lack of analysis on the underlying causes of delays in disbursement. They called for more detailed evidence and clearer definitions of responsibilities. There was broad agreement that the Secretariat should continue its analytical work to identify systemic bottlenecks in disbursement, engage more closely with NDAs and AEs, and provide a more detailed assessment to inform revisions. The Secretariat confirmed its commitment to bring a revised version of the policy to B.44, together with further evidence and clarification.

The agenda item was closed without a decision, with appreciation expressed for the constructive discussions and acknowledgment that the Secretariat will continue working with stakeholders to refine the policy to ensure both efficiency and strong country ownership.

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Dates and venues of upcoming Board meetings

The Board discussed the item and considered the draft decision to hold its 44th meeting from 25-28 March 2026 in Songdo, Republic of Korea. Furthermore, the decision contained the option to hold the Board's 45th meeting from 29 June to 2 July 2026 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Some Board members raised concerns regarding the proposal to

hold a meeting in Tajikistan, as supposedly no consultations had been held between Board and Secretariat. Hence, as an agreement could not be reached quickly, the decision was deferred.

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