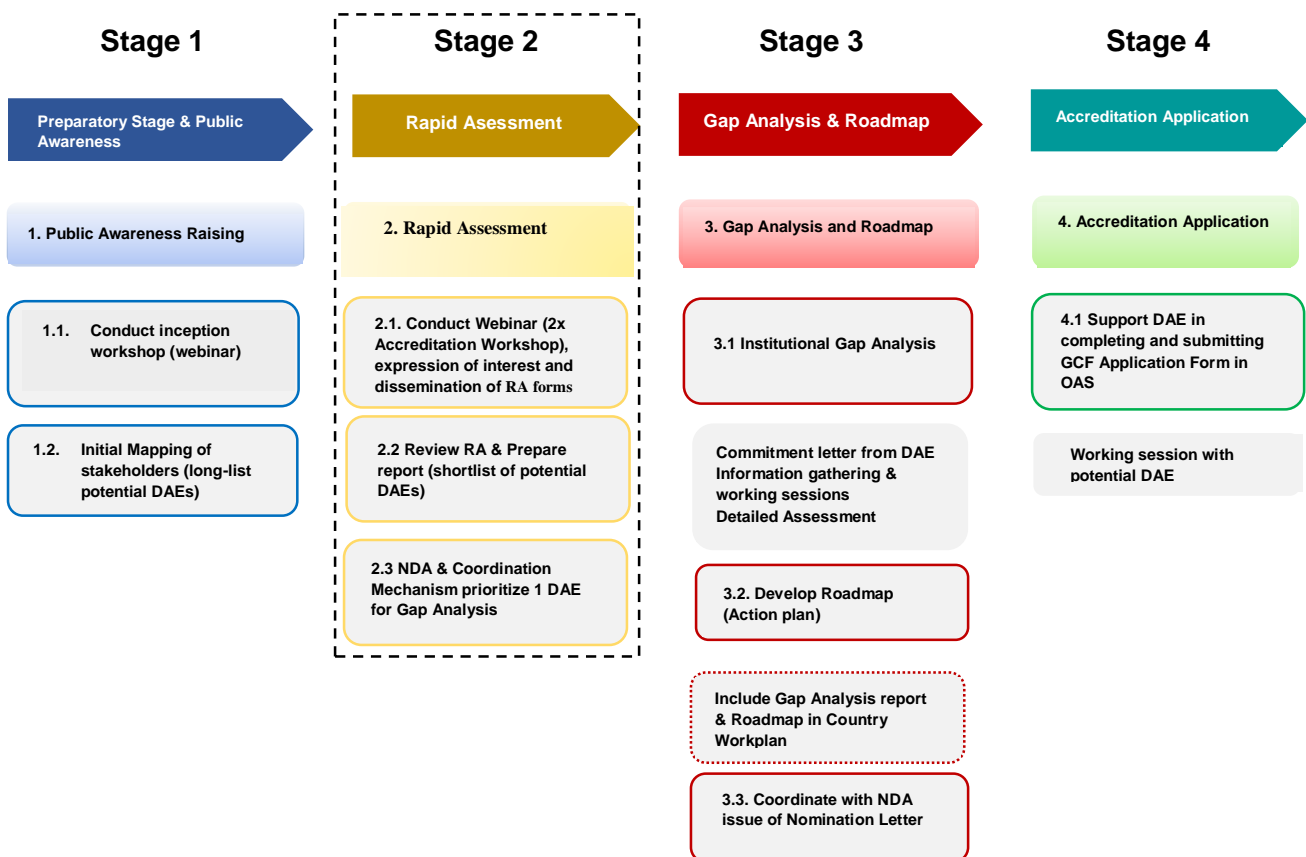


Open Call for Applications of Potential Green Climate Fund Direct Access Entities

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia acting as a National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund announces an Open call for Submitting Applications from potential Green Climate Fund (GCF) Direct Access Entities.

The Open Call aims to identify potential Direct Access Entities (DAEs) that have interest in participating in the process of prioritization and selection of the most suitable entity that could support the country as Direct Access Accredited Entity by the Green Climate Fund, to develop, implement and/or oversee projects/programs funded with GCF resources in alignment with Serbia's GCF Country Program.

The overall process to prioritize and select the potential DAE in the Republic of Serbia, will be conducted following the four stages shown below:



This call refers specifically to Stage 2, which will aim at conducting a Rapid Assessment of all entities with potential to become Direct Access Entities. Stage 2 will provide as a final product a shortlist of the institutions with greater potential to become accredited and a recommendation to the NDA of the one institution to be prioritized to move into the next stage under which a detailed Institutional Gap Analysis will be conducted and a roadmap for accreditation will be developed.

Who can apply?

This call is open for any public or private legal entity interested in participating in the accreditation prioritization process of candidate Direct Access Entities. All interested institutions at national, regional and local level from stakeholder groups including academic institutions, national/local authorities, public and private companies, civil society organization (CSOs) and other legal persons with capacities and expertise for the implementation of investments financed with external and/or domestic sources are eligible to apply.

Timeline

The Call for Applications is officially launched on November 26, 2021; interested entities will have up to 30 calendar days, after the call is launched, to express their interest via email to ivan.todorovic@fao.org in order to receive the application forms and to submit completed application forms according to the instructions until the deadline - **December 26, 2021**.

How to apply?

Interested institutions should send email to ivan.todorovic@fao.org to request the Rapid Assessment Application Forms. Only entities/applicants that express interest in receiving the required application forms can participate in Serbia's accreditation prioritization process (Stage 2).

The Rapid Assessment Application Form consists of 2 (two) main documents:

- A. Eligibility Assessment Questionnaire (GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-02)
- B. Climate Change Project Portfolio (GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-03)

Upon completion of the Application Forms, entities shall submit both documents to the following FAO email address:
ivan.todorovic@fao.org

Requirements

- **Request:** To participate in the process, applicants need to send email to ivan.todorovic@fao.org in order to receive the Rapid Assessment Application Forms. As part the email, entities shall include the following:
 - Official name of the institution
 - Complete name of the contact person and telephone number
 - Name and charge/function of the legal representative of the entity
- **Complete¹:** Applicant institutions shall complete the application Forms
 - Eligibility Assessment Questionnaire (GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-02)
 - Climate Change Project Portfolio (GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-03)
- **Submit:** Applicant institutions shall submit the fully completed application forms along with supporting documents:

¹ FAO Accreditation Team will provide feedback to entities that required further clarification on how to complete the application forms.

- Copy of a) the legal document establishing the Applicant as registered or authorized entity to operate in the country and b) bylaws and other documents that highlights the entity's organizational structure (e.g. organogram or organizational chart).
- The completed application forms along with the supporting documents, should be submitted to the email address: ivan.todorovic@fao.org

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The maximum score that any potential DAE can obtain from completing the Rapid Assessment Application Forms is **193 points**: 151 points for the Eligibility Questionnaire (78% of the overall evaluation) and 42 points for the Project Portfolio (22% of the overall evaluation).

Applications will be evaluated according to the criteria and specific values indicated below:

Maximum score assigned to the Rapid Assessment Application Forms

Eligibility Questionnaire Criteria	max %
Legal Framework	4%
Strategic alignment	7%
Financial & Administrative	8%
Experience	30%
ESS	10%
Gender	7%
Commitment	12%

Project Portfolio Criteria	max %
Projects/programs implemented	10%
Experience in IFC Performance Standards	8%
Experience in Financial Instruments	4%

Please read the document "[Procedure to assess/prioritize potential direct access entities for the GCF accreditation process](#)" (GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-04) for more detailed information regarding the evaluation criteria and the scoring system for the Rapid Assessment of Direct Access Entities.

SELECTION PROCESS

The review and analysis Phase of the Rapid Assessment Stage will follow a four-step approach, as described below:

Step I

Initial screening and verification of the received applications will be conducted, ensuring that information provided by potential DAE is complete, and that documentation was answered according to the provided instructions.

Only those application forms that have been properly completed by the applicant entities and received in time according to the established deadline, will be evaluated and assessed by the reviewers.

Step II

Systematic revision and assessment of the Application Forms (GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-02 and GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-03) will be conducted.

The Application Forms will be scored per applicant entity, based on the evaluation criteria.

Step III

The applicant entities will be prioritized based on the received total score and a shortlist will be created.

Two main criteria will need to be satisfied for the applicant to be shortlisted:

1. Candidate DAE will need to score at least 60 points on the GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-02 i.e. all minimum required points per question to be shortlisted as recommended entity.
2. Candidate DAE will need to score at least 5 points on the GCP/SRB/004/GCR-03 i.e. entities shall demonstrate that they have the experience and track record in developing and implementing climate change initiatives, with at least 3 years of experience and more than 3 Climate Change Projects or Programs implemented.

Step IV

At least one Direct Access Entity candidate will be recommended to the NDA of the Republic of Serbia, so it can be considered for prioritization and take part in the following stage (Gap Analysis & Road Map). The prioritized entity will eventually be considered by the NDA for the issuance of a Nomination Letter to initiate the accreditation process with the GCF.

It should be noted that FAO has the responsibility to technically assess the potential DAEs while **the final decision on which entities are prioritized or receive the nomination letter to initiate the accreditation process lies solely on the NDA.**

GUIDELINES

For guidelines about the Rapid Assessment and the GCF Accreditation process, please refer to the following:

- Guidebook for direct access entities engaging in the GCF accreditation process, available at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB3306EN/>
- Procedure to assess/prioritize potential direct access entities for the GCF accreditation process (GCP/SRB/004/GCR -ACC-04).
- <https://www.greenclimate.fund/accreditation>

FAQ

1. What is GCF?

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the largest global fund dedicated to help development countries fight climate change. The GCF is an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and therefore, is guided by, serves, and is accountable to the Convention. The GCF aims at supporting developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions by channeling financial resources to promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways by providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and to adapt to the impacts of climate change (adaptation). For more information visit the Fund's website: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/home>.

2. What are Accredited Entities?

Accredited Entities (AEs) are institutions or organizations that are accredited by GCF through the accreditation process (thorough assessment). The accreditation defines the way in which an entity can access and use GCF resources, e.g., the accreditation scope, size, financing modality (e.g., for managing projects, awarding grants, on-lending, blending, etc.) and the environmental and social risk levels. AEs are an essential part of the GCF business model, only AEs can submit funding proposal to GCF. Their role of AEs includes developing and submitting funding proposals for appraisal and approval by GCF and oversee and monitor the management and implementation of projects and programmes approved and financed by GCF. The two types of accreditation modalities include Direct Access Entities (DAEs) and International Access entities (IAEs). The work supported under the present Readiness project targets DAEs.

3. What are Direct Access Entities?

Direct Access Entities (DAEs) are entities accredited under the GCF direct access modality, including subnational, national, or regional entities. DAE may include ministries or government agencies, development banks, climate funds, commercial banks or other financial institutions, private foundations, and non-governmental organizations. All potential DAEs shall obtain a Nomination Letter² issued by the country's National Designated Authorities (NDA).

4. What is Rapid Assessment Process?

The Rapid Assessment Process corresponds to the second stage of accreditation support provided under the present Readiness Program. The Rapid Assessment aims at identifying, assessing and prioritizing candidate DAEs in the country. As a result of this process, Serbia NDA will be presented with a short-list of national entities, that could potentially benefit from tailored-made gap assessment and obtain a Nomination letter from behalf of Serbia's NDA. The Rapid Assessment Stage consist on the completion as assessment of the Rapid Assessment Forms:

² Nomination letter: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/nomination-letter-template-application-accreditation-gcf>

A. Eligibility Assessment Questionnaire (GCP/SRB/004/GCR -ACC-02):

The questionnaire consists of a blend of open and multiple-choice questions, which aim at getting to know the applicant entity, how the entity works, the main sectors or activities it implements, as well as information regarding its operations, standards, procedures, systems, among other useful information. The questionnaire is divided in eight sections, out of which seven (7) will be scored by the reviewers.

B. Climate Change Project Portfolio (GCP/SRB/004/GCR-ACC-03):

To understand the experience of entities designing and implementing climate change (mitigation and/or adaptation) project/programmes, potential DAE will have to complete a Project Portfolio for the period comprising the past 3 years, providing detailed information on the type of project, deployed financial instruments, result areas, environmental and social risk category of the project, among other information.

5. How can I get support for completing the application forms?

When completing the application forms, entities that requested the Application Forms can contact FAO national team, in case of any doubts or questions regarding how to answer the questionnaire, using the following contact details.

NAME	POSITION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Ivan Todorovic	National Accreditation Consultant FAO country office in Serbia	Email: Ivan.Todorovic@fao.org Mobile: + 381 (0)63 77 26 153
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