



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT



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Resilient nations.*

NORWAY GCF PLEDGE: OVERALL FRAMEWORK

The Government of Norway has made a pledge of NOK 200 million (approx. USD 24 million) to the Governors' Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force to support innovative GCF tropical forest states and provinces in their plans to implement the Rio Branco Declaration to reduce deforestation 80% by 2020. The contribution was announced at the GCF Task Force annual meeting in Barcelona, Spain in 2015, but has yet to be operationalized.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been selected to manage and implement the pledge through UNDP's REDD+ Team in Geneva, and will have overall accountability. The support facilitated by UNDP Geneva will be coordinated with that of the GCF Secretariat, its regional coordinators and partners in supporting jurisdictions.

The work of the GCF has been facilitated by the GCF Secretariat since 2009. The Secretariat is based in Boulder, Colorado with regional coordinators in major GCF regions. The Secretariat focuses on facilitating high-level political engagement and leadership by GCF Governors and political appointees; empowering civil servants in GCF jurisdictions to advance the agenda of REDD+ and low emissions development; and promoting partnerships between GCF jurisdictions and civil society organizations, the private sector, the donor community, and indigenous people's organizations. The Secretariat will work with Norway and UNDP to design the overall framework for the Norway GCF pledge, develop guidance and facilitate information exchange between UNDP and the GCF members, support GCF members in their efforts to access funding, monitor and track results from funded activities, and seek additional contributions from other donors.

The aim of Norway's pledge remains to support innovative GCF tropical forest states and provinces to meet the commitments of the Rio Branco Declaration by developing/updating jurisdictional strategies for REDD+ and low emissions development, and catalyzing transformative financing opportunities. This will be done through two funding windows:

- A. GCF Jurisdictional Strategies and Investment Plans Funding Window
- B. GCF Innovation Funding Window

In addition, a small portion of the Norway pledge (approximately USD 3 million) will be used to support ongoing regional coordination processes across all existing GCF clusters, in accordance with regional cluster priorities as determined on an annual basis. Support for these regional processes will be facilitated by the GCF Secretariat and administered by UNDP. Supported activities may include staff time for coordinators, regional workshops, consultancies, meetings, and travel.

Eligibility Requirements: All tropical forest GCF member jurisdictions are eligible to submit proposals for support subject to the following requirements:

- All information for the relevant member jurisdiction in the GCF Knowledge Database is up to date.
- A partner that will be the “Responsible Party” for UNDP has been selected (see Process below).
- An official letter from the Governor of the relevant member jurisdiction that:
 - a. confirms the jurisdiction’s commitment to the Rio Branco Declaration,
 - b. describes the current status of the jurisdiction’s efforts to develop a strategy and investment plan, or improve existing strategies and investment plans
 - c. identifies the jurisdiction’s intended partner (or partners), and
 - d. describes the jurisdiction’s intended contributions, including in-kind contributions and co-financing, to the development or improvement of a strategy and investment plan.

Process: All support delivered must flow according to UNDP rules and procedures. Jurisdictions are requested to select a partner to support the preparation of their jurisdictional strategy/investment plan by December 1, 2017. The expectation is that funds will be channeled through the partner, acting as a “Responsible Party” for UNDP. UNDP will confirm the Responsible Party in consultation with jurisdictions, the GCF Secretariat and regional coordinators.

The partner organization must pass through an independent assessment process. As of November 2017, WWF, CI, IUCN and TNC have *already* completed this step. If the jurisdiction selects a local, national or international partner that has not been pre-qualified by UNDP, an independent assessment process will need to be conducted. The length of time required to complete the assessment process can vary but takes up to 3 months.

If a selected partner is unable to be confirmed as a Responsible Party, alternative UNDP modalities may be considered. This can be discussed with UNDP.

GCF Task Force regional coordinators will not be eligible to serve as a “Responsible Party” in partnership with individual jurisdictions seeking support under either of the two funding windows.

A. GCF JURISDICTIONAL STRATEGIES AND INVESTMENT PLANS FUNDING WINDOW

Purpose: To support the development of jurisdictional strategies and investment plans for REDD+ and low emissions development in GCF tropical forest states and provinces. All GCF members receiving support through this window will be expected to complete a self-assessment. For GCF members that have already developed strategies and investment plans, support can be used for further evaluation and assessment and/or the development of implementation partnerships under their existing strategies and plans. Regional approaches developed by groups of member jurisdictions (e.g., the Peruvian Amazon members) will be eligible for support. The overall goal is to develop or refine strategies and investment plans that will then be used as the basis for submissions to various financial mechanisms, including national funds where applicable and Window B below.

Amount: Approximately USD 13 million will be available to support jurisdictional strategies and investment plans. The cap on support for individual jurisdictions will be USD 400,000. Any remaining funds that are left over after decisions on funding have been made (see below) will be re-allocated to the GCF Innovation Funding Window (Window B).

Proposal Evaluation and Funding Decisions: Proposals will be evaluated by UNDP with input from an expert peer-review process. Final decisions on funding will be made by UNDP.

Anticipated Timeline:

- Template for proposals and additional guidance will be available by January 1, 2018.
- Proposals are due to UNDP by March 31, 2018.
- Funding decisions will be made by late June 2018 in time for announcement at the Oslo REDD Exchange (June 27-28), disbursements will follow shortly after.
- Supported activities are expected to last up to 18 months.

B. GCF INNOVATION FUNDING WINDOW

Purpose: To encourage innovative approaches to achieve transformation in forested landscapes.

Amount: Approximately USD 5 million will be allocated to this component, in addition to any unused funds from component A and any additional funds raised from other sources. This window will support individual proposals over USD 500,000.

Criteria Input, Proposal Evaluation, and Funding Decisions: The GCF Secretariat will facilitate GCF member inputs to the development of criteria for the Innovation Funding Window. Decisions on criteria and on the process for selecting proposals for funding will follow.

Anticipated Timeline:

- Initial Guidance document on GCF Innovation Funding window will be provided in January 2018.
- GCF Task Force members will provide input on criteria for GCF Innovation Funding Window to the GCF Secretariat, with assistance from the regional coordinators, during the first quarter of 2018.
- Initial input on criteria will be discussed at a joint meeting of the GCF Task Force Executive Committee, Norway, and UNDP to be hosted by the GCF Secretariat in Boulder, CO during April 2018. Feedback will be provided to GCF Task Force members based on this meeting.
- GCF Task Force members will provide reactions and additional input on criteria based on feedback from April 2018 meeting of GCF Task Force Executive Committee, Norway, and UNDP by the end of May 2018.
- Final GCF Task Force recommendations on criteria for GCF Innovation Funding Window submitted to Norway and UNDP at Oslo REDD Exchange in June 2018.

Additional Information and Contacts:

The GCF Secretariat will work with UNDP to make relevant information such as proposal templates and guidance documents available to GCF members. Questions on process and timelines should be directed initially to the GCF Secretariat.

From early 2018, the UNDP REDD+ Team will provide quality assurance, technical support, management services, oversight, as well as UNDP corporate requirements.

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