



NO-OBJECTION PROCEDURE FOR GREEN CLIMATE FUND PROJECTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** is a new global fund created by the countries, parties to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change. GCF seeks to **promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development**, accounting for the needs of nations that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. GCF uses public investment to stimulate private finance and unlock climate-friendly investment for low emission and climate resilient development. The Fund plays an important role in serving the **Paris Agreement** and supporting developing countries in implementation of **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.

Country Ownership in the work of the GCF

The principle of **Country Ownership** is at the heart of the work the Green Climate Fund conducts in the developing world; it is reflected in the Governing Instrument of the Fund, providing that “The Fund will pursue a country-driven approach and promote and strengthen engagement at country level through effective involvement of relevant institutions and stakeholders”¹. Particularly, the Fund will consider Country Ownership as the measure through which countries, through consultation with relevant national, local and community-level stakeholders, can demonstrate ownership of, and commitment to mitigation and adaptation to climate change². The Fund also recognizes that country ownership is a continual process, not a fixed state and that **National Designated Authorities (NDAs)** have a key role in driving institutional development and stakeholder engagement for establishing effective mechanism that addresses climate-related issues.

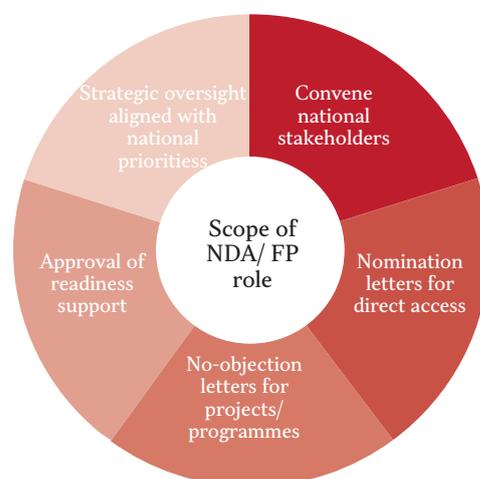


Figure 1: Role and responsibilities of the NDA
Source: GCF, 2019

Country ownership in the Republic of North Macedonia

In line with the guidelines on Country Ownership and the initial guidelines for NDA nomination and coordination mechanisms, the Republic of North Macedonia has established initial mechanisms for engaging the Green Climate Fund and is actively working with different relevant stakeholders to ensure enhanced access to climate finance in the country.

The Cabinet of the Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of economic affairs and coordination with economic sectors is the National Designated Authority to the Green Climate Fund for the Republic of North Macedonia. Its key function as the NDA is to serve as an official focal point for communication with GCF and to ensure the country ownership in all GCF-funded activities in North Macedonia. The Cabinet is responsible for the overall coordination of the economic departments within national institutions for proper alignment with national priorities, strategies and policies. The Cabinet is also responsible for coordinating and implementing activities arising from the Republic of North Macedonia’s arrangements with relevant international financial and economic institutions, for coordinating the implementation of processes related to structural reforms and impacts of legal acts to the business community in the country.

Based on the guidelines and initial best practices provided by the GCF related to country coordination mechanisms, all GCF-related activities will be coordinated by the NDA; however, a **Strategic Advisory Committee (NDA-SAC)** composed of experts in climate change, project management and financing from different relevant government institutions has been created as a permanent technical working group to support the NDA on GCF/ climate finance matters.

¹ Governing Instrument of the Green Climate Fund

² Country Ownership Guidelines, GCF/B.15/06

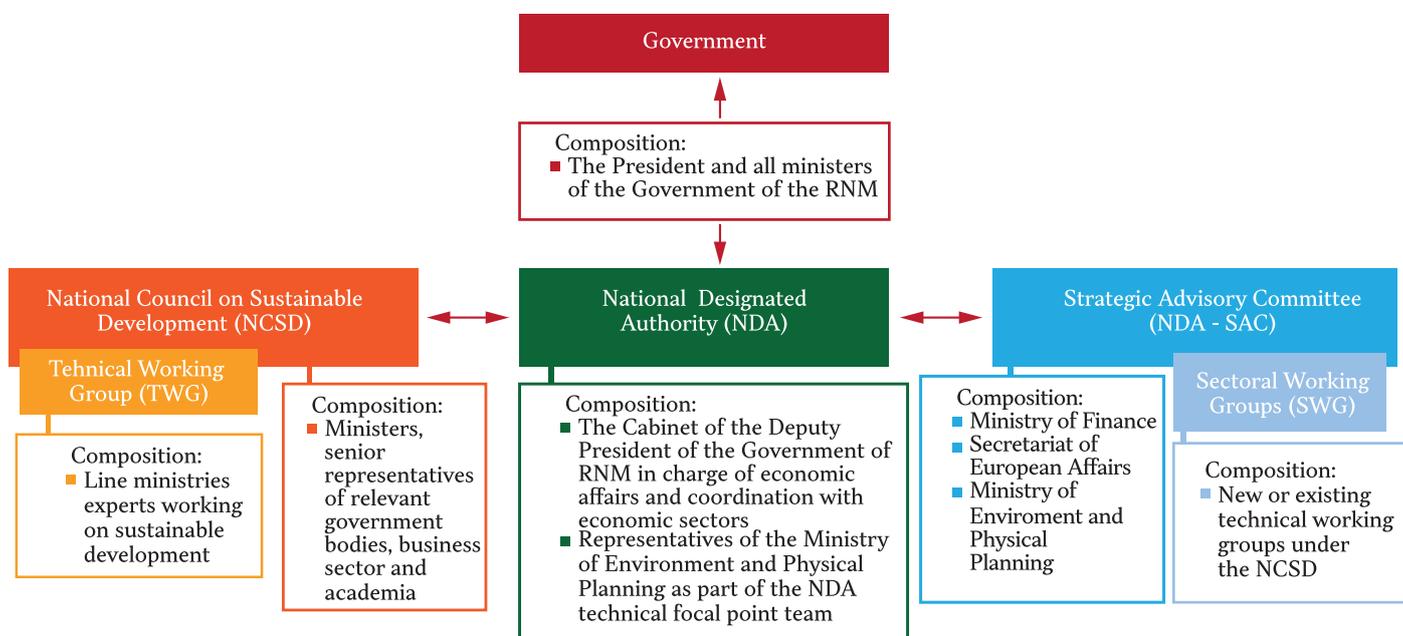


Figure 2: Structure of the Coordination Mechanism on GCF matters in the Republic of North Macedonia

GCF Project approval cycle and No-Objection procedure in the Republic of North Macedonia

The GCF accepts funding proposals on a rolling basis and by issuing requests for proposals. Accessing GCF resources implies a pipeline of sound and bankable projects that target North Macedonia’s national climate and development priorities. Prior to submitting funding proposals to GCF, there is a national process for generation of project ideas, assessment and endorsement of project proposals by the NDA. In this context, the NDA will facilitate generation of project pipeline by multilateral and bilateral stakeholder consultations and by biennial call for project ideas and will lead the process of generation, prioritization and appraisal of project ideas for no-objection prior to submission to the GCF, according to the approved **No-Objection procedure** (Figure 3).

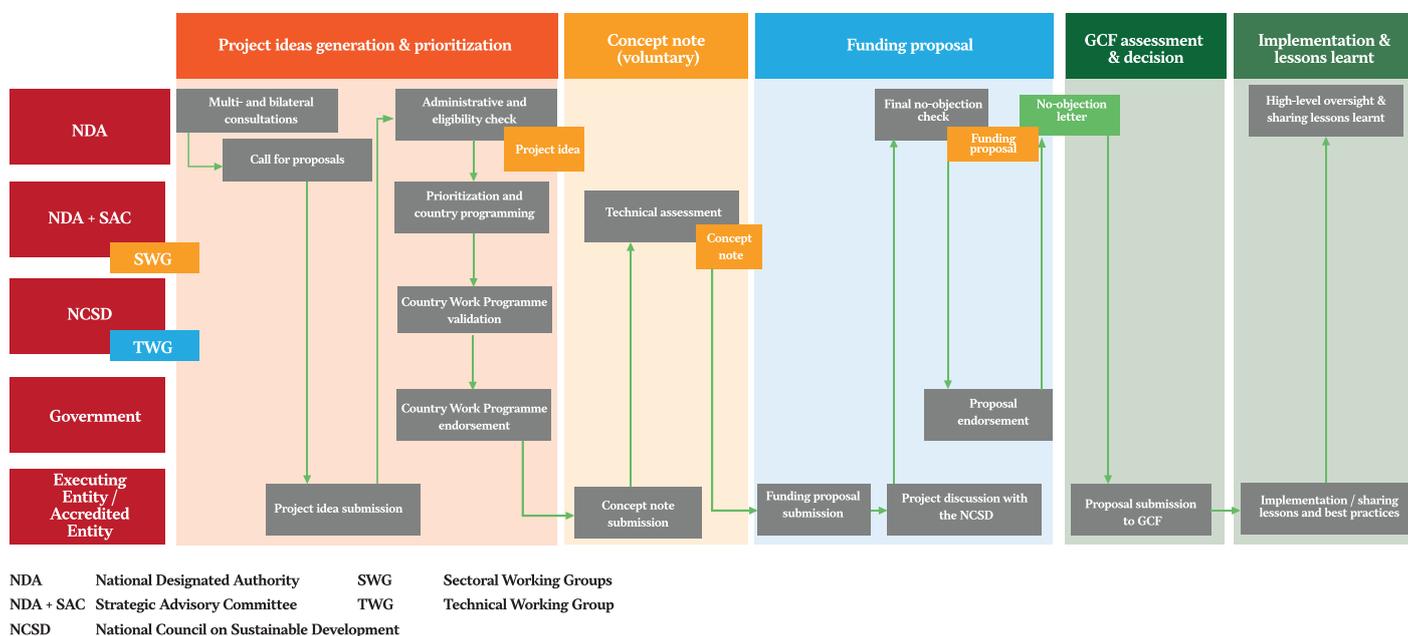


Figure 3: Roles and responsibilities throughout the GCF project cycle and no-objection procedure

CONTACTS

Cabinet of the Deputy President in Charge of Economic Affairs and Co-ordination of Economic Sectors, Government of the Republic of North Macedonia - NDA for the GCF

- Daniel.Josifovski@gs.gov.mk
- olimpija.zaevska@vlada.gov.mk

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Delivery Partner

- FAO-MK@fao.org
- Carmen.arguellolopez@fao.org



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