



## FAO and the Green Climate Fund boost climate action in least developed countries

### Unlocking climate finance for least developed countries

Rural people in least developed countries (LDCs) disproportionately suffer from the ever-increasing impacts of climate change, but they are the least prepared to respond to the crisis. Temperature extremes, heavy rainfall, prolonged periods of drought and other climate change-related weather events threaten the food security and livelihoods of millions of smallholders, especially the rural poor.

Climate change not only puts agricultural productivity and food security at risk, but also causes losses and damages that put further stress on LDCs, which are low-income countries with scarce resources and a high vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks.

To help LDCs respond to the climate crisis, FAO and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – the world's largest dedicated fund for climate action – catalyse investments in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors that build climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

FAO's GCF project portfolio, valued at USD 1.2 billion, includes five high-impact projects in Benin, Cambodia, the Gambia, Nepal and Sudan, with USD 160 million in climate investments.

### How FAO boosts climate action in least developed countries

In its role as a GCF Accredited Entity (AE), FAO provides LDCs with the necessary support to develop funding proposals for high-impact adaptation and mitigation projects with low to medium levels of environmental and social risk and up to USD 250 million in grants and co-financing.

Working alongside National Designated Authorities (NDAs), FAO accelerates LDCs' access to climate finance for GCF projects that deliver long-lasting impact by reducing GHG emissions and enhancing the climate resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

These projects scale up countries' efforts to transform agrifood systems, making them more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

These investments create opportunities for countries to meet the commitments laid out in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

FAO also serves as a Delivery Partner for the GCF's Readiness Programme, which provides grants for projects that strengthen institutional capacity, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks in accordance with NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and other national climate change strategies.

A third of the projects in FAO's USD 55.6 million readiness portfolio directly support LDCs. Three of these projects – in Kenya, Sudan and Togo – are designed to strengthen NAPs and adaptation planning processes, and four are specifically aimed at helping LDCs develop climate-resilient recovery strategies and stimulus packages for a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

FAO also extends its expertise and know-how to LDCs by collaborating, as a partner, with other AEs on GCF projects, including projects in Mozambique, Timor-Leste, and Zambia.



## Spotlight on transformative projects in least developed countries

### Gums for Adaptation and Mitigation in Sudan (GAMS): Enhancing adaptive capacity of local communities and restoring carbon sink potential of the Gum Arabic belt, expanding Africa's Great Green Wall

Sudan is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. With USD 10 million in climate investments, the GAMS project stands to benefit 1.6 million people in the Kordofan States, where 98 percent of agriculture is rainfed and thus heavily exposed to climatic variables. The project aims to enhance smallholder gum arabic producers' and pastoralists' resilience to climate change by restoring 75 000 hectares of smallholder gum agroforestry systems and 50 000 hectares of degraded lands. About 9.2 million tonnes of GHG emissions will be sequestered over the course of the project's 20-year investment lifespan.



@LRM\_EXPORT

### Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)

Lying in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Churia region is critical to maintaining the ecosystem of the heavily populated Terai plains and to ensuring Nepal's food security. Rural women and men in the region depend on natural resources for food, water and energy, but the area is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme rainfall and flash flooding. An FAO-led GCF project, with USD 47.3 million in climate investments, stands to benefit about 3.2 million vulnerable people, including Nepal's Indigenous Peoples, by promoting sustainable, climate-resilient land-use practices and restoring more than 200 000 ha of critical ecosystems, including forests, wetlands and grasslands.



@UN

### Ouémé Basin Climate-Resilience Initiative (OCRI) Benin

Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, along with seasonal variations in Benin's Ouémé Basin, threaten the area's agricultural productivity, and consequently the livelihoods and food security of the population. The OCRI project is aimed at enhancing the climate resilience of communities in the Ouémé Basin by promoting climate-resilient agriculture and agroforestry practices. Approximately 330 000 small-scale farmers stand to benefit directly from the USD 35 million project, while the Basin's 6 million people will benefit indirectly from climate-resilient land and water practices applied on 95 000 hectares in the area. About 1.7 million tonnes of GHG emissions will be avoided over the project's 20-year lifespan.



@FAO

### Climate Resilient Fishery Initiative for Livelihood Improvement in the Gambia (PROREFISH)

The Gambia PROREFISH project, with USD 25 million in financing, is the first GCF-funded project with a major focus on fisheries. Over 168 000 vulnerable women and men who depend on the fisheries value chain will benefit from the project, which will also help restore 2 300 hectares of mangrove forests. The project will strengthen the climate resilience of the Gambia's fishery communities, which are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise and climate stressors. More than 238 000 tonnes of GHG emissions will be avoided over the project's 20-year lifespan.



@FAO/Amadou Bah

## About the Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund is the world's largest dedicated fund for climate action. It was established as the financing mechanism for the United Nations Framework Convention

on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010, tasked with supporting developing and transition countries as they scale up their efforts to meet the Paris Agreement target of keeping the global temperature rise well below 2° Celsius.

**Contact:** For more information please visit our website at [www.fao.org/gcf/en](http://www.fao.org/gcf/en) or write to us at [fao-gcf-team@fao.org](mailto:fao-gcf-team@fao.org)



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence