



FAO and the Green Climate Fund boost climate action in Africa

Unlocking climate finance for countries in Africa

Africa's agriculture sector is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Temperature extremes, heavy rainfall, prolonged periods of drought and other extreme weather events increasingly threaten the food security and livelihoods of millions of smallholders, especially the rural poor.

Through its partnership with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) – the world's largest dedicated fund for climate action – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) catalyses investments in Africa's agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors to help the most vulnerable communities adapt to a changing climate and adopt low-emission agricultural practices.

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.

FAO's GCF project portfolio, valued at USD 1.2 billion, includes five high-impact projects in Benin, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Sudan – with USD 128.6 million in GCF grants and co-financing – aimed at building the resilience of rural communities, protecting forests and restoring ecosystems.

Protecting forests and livelihoods

High-impact projects have the potential to transform Africa's agriculture sector, shifting it away from farming practices that drive deforestation and land degradation towards low-carbon and climate-resilient food production, benefitting both people and the environment.

These projects create opportunities for countries to meet the commitments laid out in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and are aligned with national strategies and programmes as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

How FAO increases climate finance flows to African countries

In its role as a GCF Accredited Entity (AE), FAO provides African countries 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.

FAO also serves as a Delivery Partner for the GCF's Readiness and Preparatory Support 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.

More than a third of the projects in FAO's USD 55.6 million readiness portfolio directly support African countries. In addition, half of these projects in Africa are in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and three – in Kenya, Sudan and Togo – are designed to strengthen National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and adaptation planning processes.



Projects in African countries

5 transformative projects



USD 128.6 million

26 readiness projects



USD 20.9 million

Transformative FAO-led GCF projects in Africa: quick facts

Ouémé Basin Climate-Resilience Initiative (OCRI) Benin

The OCRI project's climate-resilient agriculture and agroforestry activities will directly benefit over 330 000 small-scale farmers. Best practices in climate-resilient land and water management will be applied across 95 000 hectares of agricultural land in the Ouémé basin, and 1.8 million tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will be avoided over the project's 20-year lifespan. Financing for the USD 35.3 million project includes a USD 18.4 million GCF grant and USD 16.8 million in co-financing from the Government of Benin, the National Fund for Environment and Climate (FNEC), and FAO.



@FAO/Benin

PREFOREST CONGO - Project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forests in five departments in the Republic of Congo

Over 900 000 people, including smallholder farmers in critical areas of the Congo, will benefit from the PREFOREST project's sustainable agroforestry approaches to tree, crop and livestock management. About 16.7 million tonnes of GHG emissions will be avoided over 20 years. Total financing for the project amounts to 46.6 million, including a USD 29 million GCF grant, and USD 17.5 million in co-financing from the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Ministry of Forest Economy (MEF).



@FAO/Giulio Napolitano

Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE)

The USD 11.7 million PROMIRE project includes a USD 10 million GCF grant and USD 1.7 million in co-financing from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD). Over 600 000 poor people who depend on cocoa farming for their livelihoods will benefit from improved incomes with sustainable, organic, fair-trade cocoa production. About 5.5 million tonnes of GHG emissions will be avoided over 20 years thanks to sustainable forest and land use practices.



@FAO/Luis Sanchez Diaz

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

Over 168 000 vulnerable women and men who depend on the fisheries value chain will benefit from the PROREFISH project, which will help restore 2 300 hectares of mangrove forests. PROREFISH is the first GCF-funded project with a major focus on fisheries. Funding for the USD 25 million project includes a GCF grant amounting to USD 17.2 million, and USD 7.8 million in co-financing - from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters (MoFWRNAM), and FAO. More than 238 000 tonnes of GHG emissions will be avoided over the project's 20-year lifespan.



@FAO/Amadou Bah

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

Around 1.6 million people will benefit from the USD 10 million GAMS project, which aims to enhance rural smallholders' resilience to climate change through climate-resilient gum agroforestry and rangeland restoration. The project will help restore 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

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.

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