

# NEWSLETTER

## READINESS AND PREPARATORY SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR RWANDA ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GCF

June - September 2021



### MAIN OBJECTIVE

Strengthening Rwanda's capacity to access GCF Funds through the assessment of readiness needs, updating country programme, capacitating national stakeholders and renewal of DAE accreditation

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Get to know GCF and the Readiness Support Programme in Rwanda

#### TOPIC 2

The Launch of the readiness and preparatory support programme for the national engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

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Photo: Participants during the launch of the readiness and preparatory support programme from GCF to Rwanda

## Foreword

### DEAR READER & STAKEHOLDER

We are proud to present the first quarter newsletter of the GCF Readiness Support Programme in Rwanda. Notwithstanding several challenges and limitations in accessing climate finance still exist, Rwanda made a progress in readiness for climate finance. In this journey, The National Designated Authority (NDA) which is Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) is implementing the readiness programme for increasing the capacity of NDA and stakeholders.

In this newsletter, we highlight some important achievements in the first quarter of the project implementation. This sixth GCF Readiness programme was launched with the engagement of various stakeholders from private sector, Civil society organizations, public institutions, sectoral ministries, and academia.

I hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter and invite you to check our REMA website (<https://www.rema.gov.rw>) and Rwanda climate change portal (<https://climatechange.gov.rw>) to have further information. For getting updated information, follow us on social media or contact us directly for more information.

Enjoy Reading



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# GREEN CLIMATE FUND

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established as the world's largest fund with a mandate to support efforts of developing countries in achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions in reducing greenhouse gases emissions and adaptation to effects of the global warming. In the Fund country-driven approach, developing countries have a leading role in the GCF programming and implementation.

It is in that context, GCF has in place a Readiness Support Programme that is available to all developing countries for capacity building financial support. The GCF Readiness Support Programme provides resources for strengthening the institutional capacities of National Designated Authorities (NDAs) and direct access entities to effectively engage with the Fund. GCF has 147 National Designated Authority (NDA) worldwide including REMA which is coordinating Rwanda national engagement with the GCF.

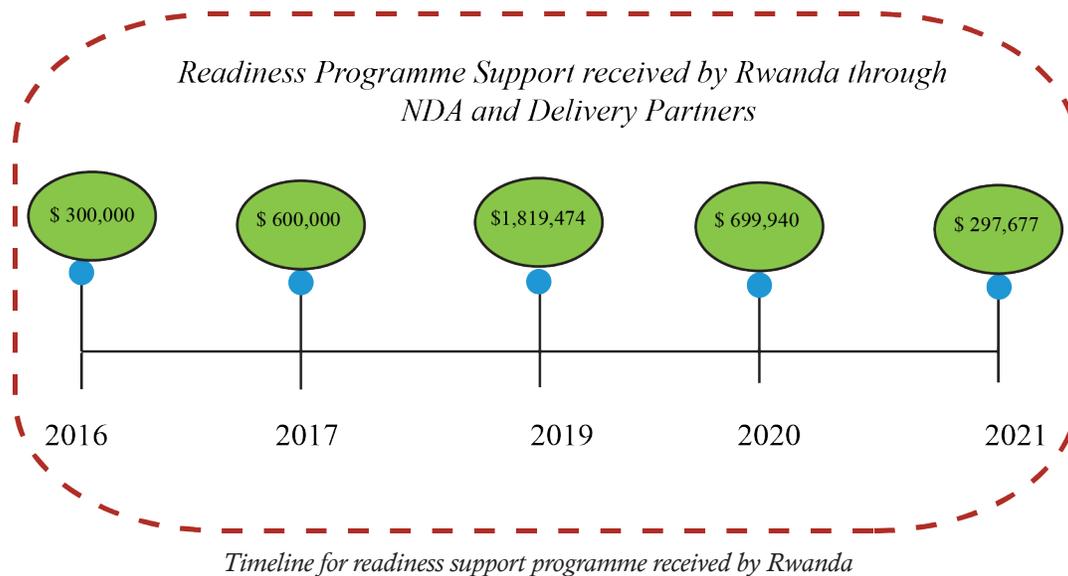
Readiness support is designed to help developing countries exercise ownership of climate change funding and integrate it within their national climate action plans. Support can be directed toward a range of outcomes to strengthen country-driven engagement with the Fund, including:

1. Establishing or strengthening the NDA function in settings where the NDA has limited capacity and resources;
2. Developing the no-objection procedure required for NDA approval for all GCF project activities within their country;
3. Articulating country programmes and identifying a pipeline of fundable projects;
4. Supporting stakeholder engagement, through national and regional dialogues;
5. Helping to identify and build the capacity of direct access entities to engage with the Fund;
6. Formulating adaptation planning processes; and Engaging and mobilising the private sector.

It also assists countries in undertaking adaptation planning and developing programming frameworks to build out their long-term climate action agenda.

All developing countries party to the UNFCCC can access the GCF Readiness Programme, and through it, the Fund aims to ensure a minimum of 50 percent of its funding, it is targeted towards particularly vulnerable countries, including LDCs, SIDS and African States.





Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) with the support of delivery partners mobilized resources to implement 6 readiness projects. Since the GCF was established, Rwanda has received the readiness support of USD 3,755,025 as total. It started in 2016, when Rwanda received USD 300,000 as a readiness support for preparation of country programme and strategic framework for national engagement with the GCF.

In 2017, GCF approved USD 600,000 for readiness support to implement the Green City Development Project in Rwanda’s secondary cities, in which Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) was the delivery partner. Next in 2019, GCF approved the USD 1,819,474 for national adaptation readiness and preparatory support for building the resilience capacities in Rwanda. The project is under implementation with Global Green Growth Institute as a delivery partner.

In 2020, GCF approved again USD 699,940 for readiness support to capacitate Rwanda subnational level actors in Green Growth and Climate Resilient Strategy. This project is also under implementation with GGGI as the delivery partner.

Then now this project named “*Strengthening Rwanda’s capacity to access GCF funds through the assessment of readiness needs, updating country programme, capacitating national*

*stakeholder and renewal of the Direct Accredited Entity (DAE) accreditation*” was approved at USD 297,677. This new Readiness Support Programme will be implemented over the next 18 months focusing on 2 main results: Readiness Needs Assessment Report for the next 5 years and Updated Country Programme & Strategic Framework for National Engagement with GCF.

At the end of the day, this will benefit a wide range of stakeholders and increase national awareness of GCF and other climate finance opportunities which will lead to the effective and inclusive implementation of key national policies and strategies including the national strategy for the transformation of the green growth and climate resilience strategies as well as the National Determined Contributions.

This readiness project will provide the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: The NDA capacity to institutionally coordinate climate change with stakeholders will be strengthened.
- Outcome 2: Country programming process will be strengthened.
- Outcome 3: Direct access to climate finance: The Ministry of Environment will have established the capacity to maintain the GCF’s accreditation standard necessary for the extension of its accreditation.
- Outcome 4: An increase in Climate finance strategies and project pipeline strengthened



## The launch of the readiness and preparatory support programme for national engagement with the GCF

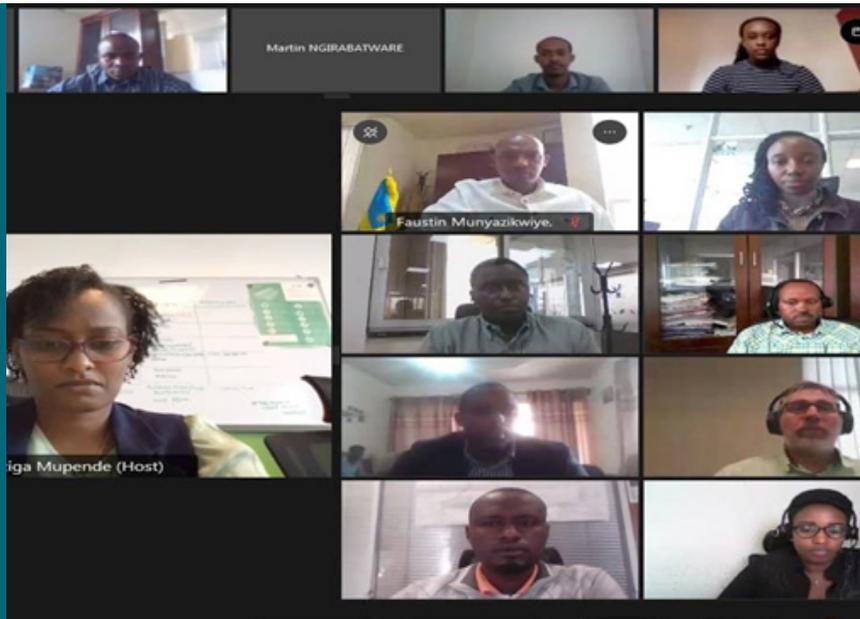


Photo: Participants during the launch of the readiness support programme of GCF in

As part of stakeholder's engagement and increase of project awareness, an inception workshop was organized and held virtual on 10th September 2021. This workshop served as an official kick-off and as introduction of the project as well as the consolidation of preliminary feedback from key stakeholders and partners on implementation.

Responding to the need to bridge the identified and existing gaps, a readiness and preparatory support project (RPSP) named: "Strengthening Rwanda's capacity to access GCF Funds through the assessment of readiness needs, updating country program, capacitating national stakeholders and renewal of DAE accreditation" was developed by the NDA and approved by the GCF in December 2020.

Mr Faustin Munyazikwiye, the Deputy Director General of REMA, in his opening remarks stated that "The implementation for this project will require extensive stakeholders engagement and consultation, we really account on your contribution!"

This workshop was a suitable moment to share what was done so far from other readiness support programme approved by GCF to Rwanda and understand the engagement journey of Rwanda to the GCF. In fact, the project implementation kicked off in July 2021 with setting up the modalities of project management,

recruitments, and stakeholder's engagement.

During the workshop, it was highlighted that, the proper coordination is required, including the strengthening of the national coordination team, by engaging other members. This is a critical point to look at through this project, which is an opportunity that will increase the chance of accessing the funds from GCF.

It was indicated that the projects in pipeline to be submitted are still many, and it is important to prioritize because the Direct Access Entity in Rwanda is one, which is the Ministry of Environment.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) representative highlighted that, it was good to be engaged in the process of the readiness programme proposal, and the ministry of agriculture is ready to work hand in hand during the project implementation.

During the workshop it was mentioned that the accreditation of the Rwanda Development Bank is at a good stage. When it will be accredited to the GCF, this will be a solution specifically to the private sector. During the closing remarks, the Deputy Director General, stated that REMA will strengthen its coordination capacity and engagement of other stakeholders.

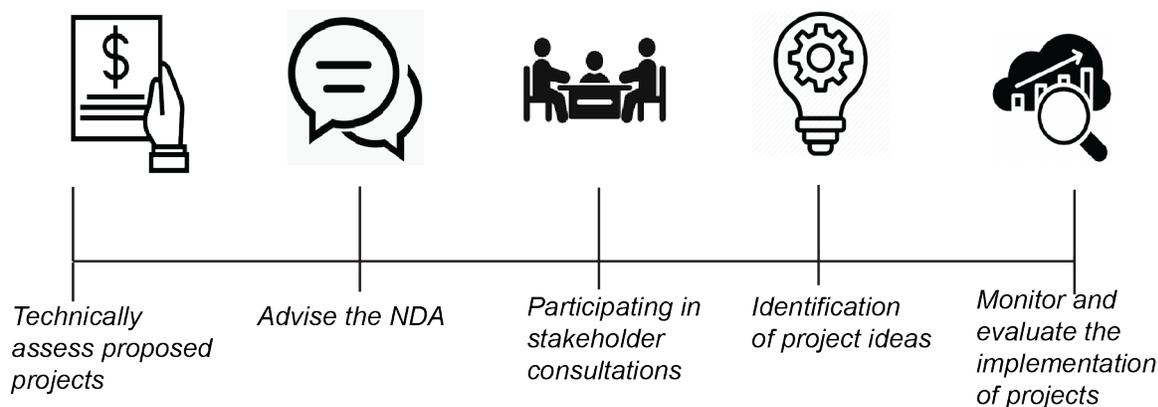


Figure: National Coordination Team Role

The Government of Rwanda represented by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning nominated the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) to be the National Designated Authority (NDA) for GCF in 2014. Thereafter, in 2015, a National Coordination Team (NCT) was established to support the performance of the NDA.

The national coordination team ensures the systematization of stakeholder engagement and the decision-making process. It supports the NDA in the effective implementation of its tasks, especially the identification of country priorities for GCF funding and the preparation of the Country Programme and Strategic Framework for engagement with the GCF, the implementation of the No-objection procedure, and the nomination of Direct Access Entities among others.

In addition, the NCT contribute to the establishment of the Country programme and strategic framework for the GCF funding.

To ensure the NCT’s efficiency and in order to get different ideas from different stakeholders, the NCT was refreshed to include other member organizations such the development bank, government institutions, civil society, so that the team can be inclusive and draw multiple views on the project proposals.

to be submitted to the GCF, in order to ensure the project to be implemented and reflect the national priorities.

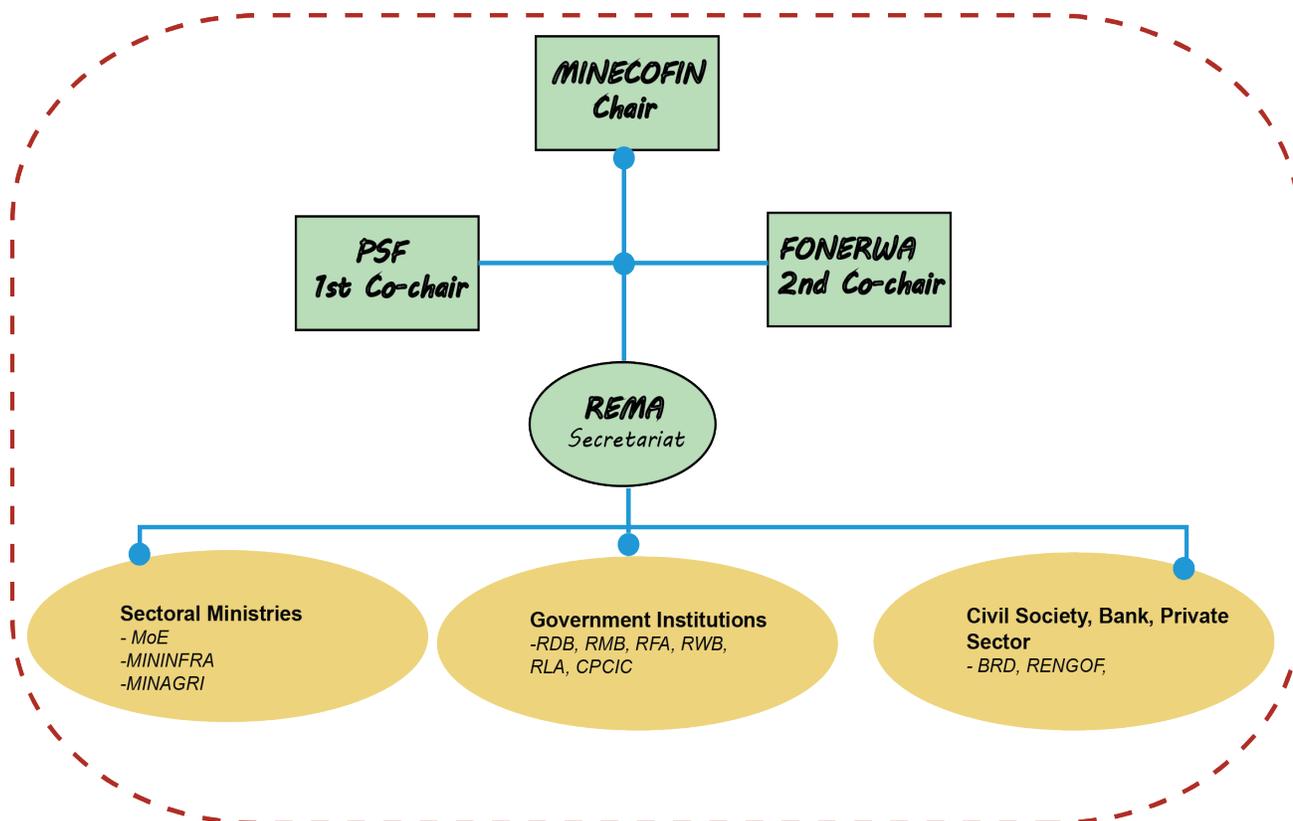
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*“The National Coordination Team was refreshed to add other relevant members and increase the inclusiveness to in order to draw many ideas”*

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Originally, the national coordination team was made of 6 members, which is Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) as chair, Private Sector Federation (PSF) as vice chair, Rwanda Environment NGOs Forum (RENGOF), Ministry of Environment (MoE), Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) and Rwanda Environment Management Authority as the National Designated Authority (NDA) and act as secretariat of NCT. On the next page, we present the current national coordination team that was refreshed.





The National Coordination Team is composed of:

1. Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning/MINECOFIN (Chair);
2. Private Sector Federation /PSF (1st Co-chair),  
Rwanda Green Fund/FONERWA (2nd Co-chair);
3. Rwanda Environment Management Authority/REMA (Secretariat);
4. Rwanda Environment Non-Government Organization Forum/RENGOF;
5. Ministry of Environment/MoE;
6. Development Bank of Rwanda/ BRD;
7. Ministry of Infrastructure/ MININFRA;
8. Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources/ MINAGRI;
9. Rwanda Development Board /RDB
10. Rwanda Mines, Petroleum, and Gas Board/ RMB;
11. Rwanda Water Resources Board /RWB;
12. Rwanda Forestry Authority/ RFA;
13. Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority/ RLMUA; and
14. Rwanda Cleaner Production and Climate Innovation Center.



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