

# Africa Climate Change Fund

## Fourth Call for Proposals on Gender Transformative Methane Reduction

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### CONTEXT

##### What are the Bank's priorities?

The African Development Bank's Strategy for 2024–2033 sets out two key objectives which are supporting inclusive growth and a transition towards green growth for African countries. The Bank's High 5 priorities are to: light up & power Africa; feed Africa; industrialize Africa; integrate Africa; and improve the quality of life for the people of Africa; and Gender Strategy for 2021-2025. Project Proposals should be aligned with one or more of these priorities.

##### What are NDCs, Paris Agreement Alignment, Long Term Strategies, and sectoral strategies?

At the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP21) held in Paris in December 2015, countries put forward the post-2020 climate adaptation and mitigation actions they intend to take, called the Nationally Determined Contributions towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as well as Long-Term Strategies. Please learn about the NDC of the country and Long Term Strategies where your project will be developed.

**Sectoral Plans and Strategies:** Individual countries often develop specific strategies for key sectors like energy, transportation, infrastructure, finance, and others. These sector-specific plans outline the country's prioritized objectives and actions for maintaining emissions within a Paris-aligned pathway. Your project should be aligned to country sectoral strategies where they are available.

##### What is the ACCF's Gender Transformative Approach?

From 2021 the ACCF has shifted towards supporting Gender Equality and Climate Resilience (GECR) projects. The ACCF's commitment to GECR is driven by an understanding of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, a relatively underexplored area. To this end, we have adopted a feminist principle of **Gender Transformative Approach (GTA)** and **Rights-Based Approach (RBA)**, reflecting the conviction of development practitioners and donors around the world including the AfDB, that genuine gender equality requires all individuals (women and men, boys and girls) to fully enjoy their rights, and addressing the root causes of gender inequality and power imbalance for sustainable development.

##### What is the focus of the fourth Call for Proposals?

The fourth Call for Proposals (CFP4) for the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF or Fund) focuses on Gender Transformative Methane Reduction (GTMR). Thus, the Fund is seeking innovative and impactful gender transformative proposals that are focused on:

Addressing gender-specific challenges and vulnerabilities to address the ways in which gender roles adequately and proportionally influence the ability of women and men to equitably mitigate against methane emission and adapt to the impacts of climate change, exacerbated by methane emissions.

- Supporting African countries to transition to gender transformative methane reduction and climate resilient, low carbon development, and scale-up access to climate finance.

Please refer to the guidance note for detailed information on the focus areas of the call.

#### HOW TO APPLY TO THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Eligible applicants should visit the ACCF Fourth Call for Proposals (CfP4) online application portal to sign up. The Call for proposals will be conducted solely on the online grant management website. Only concept notes submitted online will be considered.

The application process consists of three stages:

### **Stage 1 – Eligibility Questions:**

1. Create an account on the application site and choose your preferred language, either English or French.
2. Click on "apply" to start your application and enter the title of your project.
3. Complete and submit the eligibility questions (see full list of eligibility questions in Annex 1). You will receive an email notification regarding the eligibility status of your application. If your application is ineligible, it ends here. If eligible, you can proceed to Stage 2.

**Note: It is advised to complete Stage 1 early and not delay until the deadline because completing Stage 1 of the application process does not mark the end of the process. Only after successfully completing the eligibility form would applicants then be able to download the concept note template from the portal.** The second stage of the application process, which requires the development of a project concept note, requires even more time to complete. **If your application is eligible at the end of Stage 1, you will receive a notification to this effect via email. You will also receive a notification via email if your application is ineligible.**

### **Stage 2 – Submission of Concept Note:**

1. Log in to the application platform.
2. Download the Project Concept Note template from the application platform.
3. Fill out the Project Concept Note template (see copy in Annex 2) with your project details, using guidance from both this guidance note and the template itself.
4. Compile all pertinent supporting documents into a single file and attach it to the annex of your concept note.
5. Upload your completed Project Concept Note along with all relevant annexes as one file, then click "submit"
6. An initial screening of all concept notes received by the deadline (refer to estimated timeline for the CFP4 below) will be done by Independent Experts against the established criteria (below).

### **Stage 3- Submission of Project Proposal:**

- Shortlisted concept notes will be invited to submit full project proposals for evaluation. Proponents will have approximately 30 days to prepare their full proposals. Applicants whose concept notes are not selected will be notified.
- Proposals will be evaluated by independent experts against established criteria. Top ranked proposals will be selected for further appraisal. Full proposals not selected for appraisal will be notified.
- Project appraisals will be carried out by the Bank's technical and fiduciary experts (led by the ACCF Secretariat) through a desk review, unless an in-person review is deemed necessary.
- Proposals that successfully complete appraisal will be submitted to the ACCF's Technical Committee (TC) and or Oversight Committee (OC) for consideration and approval. Proposals that are rejected at the appraisal stage will be notified.

No guarantee of funding is implied by a proposal being moved forward to the project appraisal phase, as authority to approve proposals lies wholly with the ACCF's governing bodies.

## **ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES**

### **Who are the eligible beneficiaries?**

#### **External beneficiaries:**

- i. Governments Ministries Departments and Agencies and Subnational Governments of Bank Regional Member Countries (see below for the list of eligible countries).
- ii. Regional or sub-regional intergovernmental bodies and other intergovernmental organizations including climate centers, river basin organizations, regional economic communities from the public sector. UN Agencies may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- iii. African Funds: Funds must be legally registered in an African country.
- iv. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations: please refer to the question on the eligibility of NGOs/CBOs.
- v. African research institutions: institutes must be legally registered in an African country and must have demonstrated credibility and track record.
- vi. Private sector may be considered on a case-by-case basis: Support high demonstration-scale activities where they are first-of-a-kind, sub commercial and require significant development work and are not commercially viable in the host country.

#### **Internal beneficiaries:**

- i. African Development Bank departments: Bank departments may submit proposals directly or collaborate with eligible external beneficiaries to support them in preparing high-quality proposals.

### **Can my consultancy firm/private company/social enterprise apply for funding?**

Consultancy firms are not eligible to apply; however, private sector and social enterprises may receive grants on a case-by-case basis for projects with high demonstration value. This applies, for instance, to projects that are first-of-a-kind, sub-commercial, and require significant development work. Examples include contributions towards the costs of piloting new technologies in methane abatement sectors, developing enabling infrastructure for public use (e.g., registries for accounting and tracking mitigation outcomes), piloting market and non-market approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and supporting sub-commercial investments in abatement activities, such as non-revenue generating methane destruction. The grant will be structured to cover the marginal costs of implementing such activities.

### **Can I submit a proposal in collaboration with others?**

Grant requests may be submitted by consortia, in which two or more institutions partner on a proposal to draw on the respective strengths of each institution and promote collaboration towards a common goal. The roles and responsibilities of each consortium member must be clearly defined, including identification of the lead member. All members of the consortium must be eligible beneficiaries.

### **What if one of the partners in the consortium is not an eligible beneficiary of the ACCF?**

All members of the consortium must be eligible beneficiaries. Any expertise required for the project's execution that does not reside within the consortium members may be contracted through a competitive procurement process during the project execution.

### **What are the conditions for UN Agencies to receive funds under the ACCF?**

UN agencies interested in ACCF financing must adhere to the established Fiduciary Partnership Agreement between the Bank and UN entities. Under this agreement, UN entities must apply as implementing entities, working with regional member countries as recipients to carry out the project.

## **NGO AND CBO ELIGIBILITY**

### **Can an NGO or research institution based outside of Africa apply?**

Only NGOs and CBOs legally registered in Africa are eligible. If an NGO/CBO's headquarters is registered outside of Africa but has a subsidiary, branch, or office with legal registration in an African country, the subsidiary/branch/office is eligible to apply. NGOs and CBOs will be required to provide evidence of valid legal registration under the laws of the African country in which they operate, as well as a certificate to carry out development work in the African country where the activity will be conducted (if different from the place of legal registration).

### **What does “demonstrate credibility and track record” mean for NGOs, CBOS, private sector and research institutions?**

The eligibility of NGOs, CBOs and research institutions depends on their credibility and track record in climate change, among other criteria. Such organizations shall:

- Be based in Africa.
- Provide evidence of valid legal registration under the laws of the Regional Member Countries (RMCs) in which they operate, as well as a certificate to carry out development work in the RMCs where the activity will take place (if different from the place of legal registration).
- Have been in existence for at least three years prior to the onset of the activity and possess appropriate organizational and management capacity, including a governing board.
- Demonstrate a sound financial system, including clear accounting and budgeting standards, financial statements, a transparent budgeting process, audited accounts, and other indicators that confirm their capacity to manage ACCF resources.
- Provide evidence of competence—based on past performance—to carry out the proposed activities.
- Demonstrate credibility and knowledge of local values, networks, and structures necessary to implement the activities.
- Be mission-driven institutions committed to advancing the continent's or national development priorities and not derive benefits purely attributable to the use of the grant proceeds beyond administrative and prime costs associated with the execution of the proposal.

### **Does the ACCF fund individuals for scholarships/studies or participation in international conferences?**

The ACCF does not fund individuals. Please refer to the eligibility question.

### **I have read through the eligibility criteria, and I am still not sure if my institution is eligible; should I still apply?**

The ACCF Secretariat is not in the position to answer every individual request about an institution's eligibility. You may wish to take the chance of completing the 5-page concept note. If your project is shortlisted, we will discuss it individually.

### **Can government/public entities such as local governments apply for funding?**

Yes

## **FUNDED ACTIVITIES**

### **What activities does the ACCF fund?**

The activities eligible for funding under the ACCF may include (but are not limited to):

- Services of national and international consultants
- Expert time (including beneficiary staff time if justified as set out below)
- Certain acquisition of office equipment necessary for the achievement of project outputs
- Preparation of studies, strategies and analytical pieces
- Stakeholder consultation workshops

- Participation in regional and international meetings or trainings necessary for the achievement of project outputs
- Certain technical assistance activities.
- Provision of training and capacity building
- Preparation of studies and strategies
- Knowledge management, communications, consultation workshops, regional and international meetings, advocacy, and outreach.
- Development or piloting of innovative or results-based climate financing instruments
- Small scale and simple works with no or low environmental and social impacts
- Sub-granting to approved consortium partners for approved activities
- Translation services
- Transportation fees
- Certain administrative costs and fees (between 3% and 5% of the overall project costs). Note: Grants will not cover office rentals.

**Ineligible expenditures** under the ACCF include the purchase of vehicles, land, land rights and real estate. **The grant funds cannot be used for the purchase of carbon credits.**

**If our project is selected, should we follow a procurement procedure to recruit consultants or can we work with experts already identified?**

Both options may be possible depending on the nature of the activities to be executed, but the Bank will usually recommend the recruitment of consultants through a competitive selection process. The selection and engagement of consultants and the procurement of any goods or works funded by the ACCF will follow the [African Development Bank's procurement rules](#).

**GENERAL INQUIRIES**

**Are all African countries eligible?**

The African countries that are eligible are the regional member countries of the African development Bank. Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**What measures are taken to ensure that FCCA-funded projects are sustainable and have a long-term positive impact on local communities?**

In terms of sustainability, communities are involved in implementation. The Fund ensures that a theory of change is clearly defined; the relevance of this theory is determined during project evaluation/appraisal and makes it possible to ensure sustainability and anticipate the impact on local communities.

**Where do ACCF's funds come from?**

ACCF's funds are provided by donors. Please refer to the Guidance Note for the list of current Fund donors.

**Can I submit a concept note in French or Portuguese?**

The ACCF accepts concept notes in English and French only.

**The ACCF is already funding a project in my country, can I still apply?**

Yes, you can still apply provided you meet the requirements.

**I submitted a proposal in response to the first and second CFPs that was not successful – can I apply to this fourth CFP?**

Yes, you can apply again following the requirements.

**What is the minimum and maximum duration of the project?**

There is no prescribed minimum or maximum duration. The majority of ACCF projects are between two to three years in duration.

**Is counterpart financing a requirement?**

Counterpart financing of at least 5% for external beneficiaries and 10% for Bank departments is required to demonstrate commitment and ownership by the project proponent. External beneficiaries should provide at least 5% counterpart financing, while Bank departments should provide at least 10%. For external proponents, counterpart financing may be in the form of in-kind contributions.

**If I am invited to submit a full proposal, am I guaranteed to receive a grant?**

No. Your proposal needs to be evaluated, appraised and then considered for approval by the ACCF's Governing Committees.

**If my concept note is shortlisted, what is the timeline for appraisal and approval?**

Concept notes must be received before midnight GMT on **29th November 2024**. Late submissions will not be considered. For Concept Note and Project Proposal submission dates refer to Table 1. Estimated timeline for the Fourth ACCF Call for Proposals in the Guidance note.

**If my proposal is approved by the technical or oversight committee, what is the timeline to begin execution?**

Once a project is approved for an external beneficiary, the Bank will enter into a letter of agreement with the executing agency. There may be conditions to meet before the first disbursement of funds, such as opening a special bank account for the project and establishing a project team. Additionally, a competitive procurement process may be required for services, goods, or works. The timeline can vary depending on the project's nature, but proponents should anticipate about 6 months before project execution begins.

**Can an eligible institution submit more than one application on different thematic areas?**

Submitting more than one application from the same institution is not prohibited; however, the ACCF is unlikely to fund more than one project from the same external institution simultaneously. Eligible beneficiaries are therefore encouraged to prioritize and identify one project for submission.

**Can I submit a project that will take place in several countries?**

Yes, multinational or regional projects are allowed if they are Regional Member Countries.