



Funding
Adaptation Action
in
Least Developed Countries

with Support from the Least Developed Countries Fund:
Looking ahead (2022-2026)

Introduction

The GEF's adaptation support in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is delivered through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). The LDCF is the only multilateral fund that focuses exclusively on the unique climate adaptation challenges of LDCs and is embraced by LDCs as their own. The fund has a strong track record of supporting LDCs to address adaptation priorities over more than two decades. It delivers targeted support to the world's most vulnerable countries, and their people and ecosystems.

In June 2022, the 32nd LDCF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council approved a *GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF for the GEF-8 Period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2026 and Operational Improvements*.¹ The strategy facilitates transformational adaptation toward achieving the Paris Agreement's global goal on adaptation, and wider engagement of partners based on the whole-of-society approach. The strategy adopted two financial scenarios, with \$1.0 billion floor as scenario A and \$1.3 billion as scenario B.

The LDCF will continue to rely on voluntary contributions. Several donors are considering multi-year pledging to enhance predictability, while continuing with annual and intermittent contributions.

Priority Support Areas

In the GEF-8 period, the LDCF is supporting LDCs across four key adaptation themes: 1) Agriculture, Food Security, and Health; 2) Integrated Water Resource Management to address water security, droughts, and flooding; 3) Nature-based Solutions; and 4) Early Warning and Climate Information Systems. Targeted support is provided in the following priority areas and entry points:

¹ GEF, 2022, *GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF for the GEF-8 Period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2026 and Operational Improvements*, Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.32/04/Rev.01.



- scaling up finance
- strengthening innovation and private sector engagement
- fostering partnership for inclusion and whole-of-society approach.

The LDCF seeks to enhance partnership with vulnerable groups such as women and girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, to facilitate inclusion and locally led action.

Types of Support

Recognizing the Glasgow Climate Pact decision to double adaptation finance by 2025, the initial access cap for the LDCF in the GEF-8 period is \$20 million of grant-based support for each LDC. This doubles the \$10 million cap in place for the GEF-7 period. With this, the cumulative LDCF access ceiling since LDCF inception will increase to \$60 million per country.

Up to 10 percent of additional resources have been earmarked to support regional and global projects and initiatives. Similarly, support from the LDCF for the highly innovative Challenge Program is increased with up to \$40 million available.

Dedicated Program Support

The strategy also introduces Dedicated Programs: 1) Communication and Visibility Enhancement, 2) Outreach and Capacity Support for the LDC Planning and Programming to enhance access, and 3) Organizational Learning and Coordination. These programs seek to enhance the impact and effectiveness of the LDCF.





Technology transfer, innovation and private sector engagement have continued to be a focus of these GEF trust funds since their inception. The Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation has supported 19 medium-sized projects to date. An additional 13 winning project concepts were announced at COP29 and are invited to be submitted for approval with a GEF Agency. This program is successfully engaging a growing set of private sector actors and other climate innovators in GEF climate adaptation programming through the LDCF and SCCF.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, and supporting land and ocean health. Its financing enables developing countries to address complex challenges and work towards international environmental goals. The partnership includes 186 member governments as well as civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth, with a focus on integration and inclusivity. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$25 billion in financing and mobilized \$145 billion for country-driven priority projects.