

ACCESS SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

There are series of opportunities available to Nigerians to fund bankable projects especially those that fall within the Environment and Sustainable development programmes. It is within this area that the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) falls.

The SCCF was established under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2001 to finance activities, programs, and measures relating to climate change that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the Climate Change Focal Area of Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and by bilateral and multilateral funding Agencies.

The Special Climate Change Fund consists of four different funding windows:

- a) Adaptation;
- b) Transfer of technologies;
- c) Energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and
- d) Economic diversification for fossil fuel dependent countries.

The Climate Change Fund is to serve as a catalyst to leverage additional resources from bilateral and other multilateral sources, and it is expected that the activities to be funded should be country-driven, cost-effective and integrated into national sustainable development and poverty-reduction strategies; such as the projects and programmes that are included in the NV20:2020 and the Transformation Agenda.

The Special Climate Change Fund **adaptation** projects are to support the implementation of adaptation actions in non-annex 1 parties (developing countries). The project areas to support include:

- a) Water resources management;
- b) Land management;
- c) Agriculture;
- d) Health;
- e) Infrastructure development;
- f) Fragile ecosystems (including mountain ecosystems);
- g) Integrated Coastal Zone Management; and
- h) Climatic disaster risk management.

The **Technology transfer** under the SCCF focuses on the transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies, concentrating on technologies to reduce emissions or atmospheric concentrations of green house gases, in line with the recommendation which guides each country's National Communications Technology Assessments (TNAs) and other relevant information. The SCCF can be used to support:

- a) implementation of the results of technology needs assessments;
- b) technology information; and

- c) capacity building for technology transfer; and enabling environments

PROCEDURES FOR ACCESSING SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- “ The project proponent develops a concept note for a project and request assistance from an Implementing Agency of the Global Environmental Fund (GEF), e.g. World Bank, UNIDO, UNDP, etc;
- “ The proponent secures the endorsement of the national GEF Operational Focal Point-The Director (Planning Research and Statistics of the Federal Ministry of Environment);
- “ Projects over USD 1 million are referred to as **Full-sized Projects** (FSP); those of USD 1 million or below are referred to as **Medium-sized Projects** (MSP).
- “ For FSPs, submission to the GEF under the SCCF starts with a Projects Identification Form (PIF) obtainable from the Operational Focal Point of GEF, followed by Chief Executive Officer of GEF’s Endorsement Form.
- “ MSPs may start with the completion of a form for The GEF’s CEO endorsement. Once the form is endorsed, the required fund is released to the Implementing Agency.
- “ The coordination between the stakeholders should be established early in the process and prior to submission of a Funding request to the GEF. The request must be consistent with the GEF Public Involvement Policy. The application for funding will be submitted through the selected GEF Implementing Agency.

In the case of Full-sized Projects (FSP), the steps of the SCCF project cycle include submission of a PIF, including a Project Preparation Grant (PPG, this is optional). After the PIF has been approved by the SCCF Council, the GEF Agency then assists the projects proponent to develop the project fully into a detailed Full Project Document (FPD). Once the GEF CEO endorses the project, implementation can commence.

Likewise, the Medium-sized Project (MSP) requires only the approval of the FPD by the GEF’s CEO to commence the project implementation. However, if the proponent desires to access a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) an approved PIF will be required. The GEF Agency works very closely with the GEF Focal Point at each successive step, and ultimately assists the country in implementing the project.

PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- “ Effective public involvement should enhance the social, environmental, and financial sustainable of projects.
- “ The responsibility for assuring public involvement rests with the government represented by the Federal Ministry of Environment (PRSD), Project Executing Agencies, with the support of the Implementation Agencies.
- “ Public involvement activities should be designed and implemented in a flexible manner, adapting and responding to recipient countries’ national and local conditions and to project requirement.
- “ Public involvement activities will be carried out in a transparent and open manner. All GEF-financed projects should have full documentation of public involvement.

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING FUNDS

1. The knowledge of climate change is weak in the government circle especially in budgeting and planning for the activities at the three tiers of government; and integration into existing national development policies is often overlooked;
2. Weak capacity to prepare bankable project proposals that will meet the requirements to access the fund;
3. The skills to develop coherent, robust project proposals are often lacking and this makes it very difficult to articulate a strong case for funding to a potential donor.