

Africa Climate Change Fund Third Call for Proposals on Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Guidance Note to Applicants

Introduction

In Africa, inequalities between women and men are among the greatest in the world. African women and girls are among the world's poorest and have the highest rates of illiteracy. Women's participation in the formal labour sector is low, and in many parts of the continent discrimination against female entrepreneurs, workers and managers negatively affects their productivity and results in large disparities in income between women and men. In agriculture, which is heavily dominated by women, women's productivity is 30 percent lower than men's because women lack access to vital inputs, and in most cases, they do not own land. Unless Africa invests massively in gender equality, it will neither sustain its growth nor meet its development goals. To achieve this vision, the [Bank's Ten-Year Strategy \(2013-2022\)](#) recognizes the need to reduce gender inequalities by "*strengthening women's legal and property rights, promoting women's economic empowerment, and enhancing knowledge management and capacity building*" on gender equality. These priority areas, defined and agreed in broad consultations with African countries, form the pillars of the Bank's [Gender Strategies for 2014–2018](#) and [2021-2025](#).

The impact of climate change is further exacerbated in Africa due to the heavy reliance on natural resources and on subsistence rainfed agriculture for livelihoods by the majority of the population with low adaptive capacities. Climate change impacts men and women differently, largely due to their gender-differentiated relative powers, roles and responsibilities at the household, community and societal levels.¹ Overall, women and girls experience greater risks, burdens and impacts of climate change, which further exacerbates pre-existing gender inequalities. According to the AfDB's [Gender Strategy \(2021-2025\)](#), women tend to be overly burdened with household work and caring for children, the sick and the elderly. Women are often responsible for gathering and producing food, collecting water, meeting hygiene needs and sourcing fuel for heating and cooking. Climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, have made it even more difficult for women to perform these tasks. Besides, women and girls are more likely to be exposed to disaster induced risks and the impacts of climate change than their counterpart men and boys, limiting the control they have over their lives and access to basic resources. Extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have a more significant impact on the poor and most vulnerable, especially women that comprise 70% of the world's poor.

The third Call for Proposals (CFP3) for the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF or Fund) focuses on **Gender Equality and Climate Resilience (GECR)**. Thus, the Fund is seeking innovative and impactful gender transformative proposals that are focused on:

- i. Addressing unequal access of women and men to the resources that are needed to adapt to climate change and mitigate GHG emissions, and to adequately and proportionally address the ways in which gender roles influence the ability of women and men to adapt to climate change and mitigate GHG emissions; and

¹ UNDP (2017) Overview of linkages between gender and climate change.

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

Gender Transformative Approach (GTA)

The GTA would focus on the effectiveness of social targeting, to make gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of vulnerable groups effective in project interventions by:

- i. Addressing the specific constraints that limit the effective participation of women and girls in project activities;
- ii. Identifying specific mechanisms to remove the obstacles which hinder the access of disadvantaged and minority groups to use of, and control over land and other productive resources, and supporting participation in the definition of economic structures and policies [and the productive process itself].
- iii. Designing WITH and implementing concrete actions FOR young people, rural women, and other vulnerable groups to empower them in climate change adaptation and mitigation processes; and
- iv. Working WITH and supporting boys, young men, and men to embrace positive masculinities and to promote gender equality, while also achieving meaningful results for them.

The intermediate outcomes of the CFP3 are:

- i. Enhanced equal opportunities for women's entrepreneurship and equal employment in selected African countries.
- ii. Increased advocacy by women and women groups and their participation in planning & policy making for gender-transformative climate change adaptation for climate-resilient agriculture, access to clean energy and WASH in selected African countries.
- iii. Increased economic diversification and empowerment for women and youth in selected vulnerable communities in Africa.
- iv. Improved women's leadership role as actors of change in the transition to low carbon & gender transformative climate change adaptation among vulnerable communities for replication and up-scaling in other African countries.

Focus Areas

Proposals should be aligned with the:

- i. Policy, strategies and priorities of the Bank including the:
 - **Ten (10)-year strategy**, that aims for inclusive growth and a transition to green growth and the [High 5s](#) (which are priorities that *aim to light up and power Africa, feed Africa, industrialize Africa, integrate Africa, and improve the quality of life for the people of Africa*);
 - Bank's **Gender Strategy (2021-2025)**.
- ii. **NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** or related adaptation strategies of the beneficiary countries with clearly defined gender equality indicators and targets for effective gender transformative climate resilience.

Priority will be given to the following themes:

1. **Supporting mechanisms for climate finance that are adapted and accessible directly to women and women's groups in terms of:**
 - Supporting the development of innovative, high quality, gender transformative bankable projects mainstreamed in African countries' NDCs and NAPs or related adaptation strategies;

- Supporting the identification and strengthening of national institutions to access the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and Global Environment Facility for gender transformative climate change initiatives.
- 2. **Supporting increased participation, leadership, and influence of women and women’s groups in community-level, national and international climate change negotiations through:**
 - Supporting investment in women’s leadership, in gender balance on government delegations, and in advocacy on gender and climate change, and the participation of women and girls in decision-making processes and instances;
 - Supporting women’s networks and gender-focused NGOs in promoting gender-transformative climate change agenda and in keeping governments, climate funds, corporations, and other stakeholders accountable; and
 - Supporting the promotion of platforms to exchange lessons learned, good practices and case studies on research, formulation, and implementation of appropriate policies on gender transformative climate change among multilateral, regional, sub-regional, and government stakeholders.
- 3. **Supporting women and youth empowerment through small-scale or pilot adaptation initiatives adapted and accessible for women to build resilience of vulnerable communities in climate resilient activities such as:**
 - Promoting access to clean energy;
 - Promoting climate-resilient agriculture and economic diversification;
 - Empowering women in low-carbon sectors;
 - Creating opportunities and supporting youth and women including men and women working together (side-by-side) to address development needs in low-carbon sectors;
 - Improving access to water and sanitation;
 - Strengthening the resilience and productive capacity of women farmers through climate resilient practices; and
 - Supporting innovation.
- 4. **Supporting mainstreaming of gender equality considerations adapted and accessible to women in sub-national, sectoral-level, and national policies and programs, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).**
 - Conducting rigorous, multi-scalar, participatory and holistic gender analyses that identify ways to address root causes of gender inequality and context-specific constraints as an intrinsic part of designing Gender Transformative Climate Change Action (GTCCA).
 - Supporting governments and other stakeholders in developing Climate Change Gender Action Plans (CCGAPs) to demonstrate the transformative potential of gender equality,
 - Supporting governments in developing Gender Mainstreaming Guidance Notes for the integration of climate change prone sectors (Agriculture, Energy, Forestry, Water) in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Adaptation Communications, and overseeing the integration of gender mainstreaming into the different sectors.
 - Providing country-level support to integrate international policy decisions of gender mainstreaming in climate change into national policies, NDCs, NAPs and Adaptation

Communications by providing clear evidence and messaging, strengthening country-level gender focal points, and encouraging support for policy instruments in national governments.

Grant amount and funding envelope

The funding envelope available for this call is USD 6 million in the form of grants, and the Fund is seeking concept notes for projects and programs in the range of USD 250,000 – USD 1 million.

Eligible beneficiaries

This call for proposals is open to all eligible beneficiaries of the ACCF, including African governments², regional organizations, African funds, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and research institutions³, as well as African Development Bank's departments. Bank departments may submit proposals directly⁴ or may work with eligible external beneficiaries to support them in preparing high quality proposals. Proposals from consortia are allowed, as long as all members of the consortium are eligible beneficiaries.

Eligible activities

Grant resources from the ACCF may be used to support the following activities, among others: consultant or expert fees, project proposal development, design and development of Theory of Change, Logical Framework, M&E System and Learning Plan, trainings, workshops, consultations and participation in regional and international meetings, communications, outreach, advocacy, translation services, office equipment and transportation fees, and certain administrative costs and fees.

Selection process and timeline

- An initial screening of all concept notes received by the deadline will be carried out by the ACCF Secretariat against the established criteria (below). Concept notes not selected will be notified.
- Shortlisted concept notes will be invited to present full project proposals for evaluation. Proponents will be given approximately one (1) month (30 days) to prepare a full proposal.
- Proposals will be evaluated by the ACCF Secretariat 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 (i.e. the Technical Committee (reviews and approve proposals up to US\$ 500,000) and or Oversight Committee (reviews and approves proposals above US\$ 500,000 up to US\$ 1,000,000)).

Co-financing

² Including sub-national, local, and municipal governments.

³ To be eligible for funding, NGOs and research institutions must have a registered office in Africa

⁴ Proposals from Bank departments must demonstrate value addition beyond the regular work of the Bank and may not be used to supplement department budgets.



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Counterpart financing of at least 5% for external beneficiaries and 10% for Bank departments is strongly encouraged to demonstrate commitment and ownership by the project proponent.

Apply for a grant

Eligible beneficiaries are invited to fill the concept note template on the [ACCF THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSAL PROGRAM](#) before **midnight GMT on July 23, 2021**. **Concept notes should be submitted online via the ACCF Grant Management Tool**. All sections should be completed; **incomplete concept notes will not be considered.**

About the ACCF

The ACCF was established by the African Development Bank in April 2014 with an initial contribution of € 4.725 million from the Government of Germany to support African countries, to build their resilience to the negative impacts of climate change and in transitioning to sustainable low-carbon growth. The ACCF was able to secure an additional funding commitment of € 4.7 million from the Government of Italy at the end of 2015 and a commitment of € 2 million from the Government of Flanders, Belgium in 2016, which brought the total contributions to the ACCF since its inception to over € 11.4 million. These commitments allowed the ACCF to scale-up to a multi-donor trust fund. Additionally, in 2020 the Fund successfully mobilized additional resources of about \$9.274 million from the Government of Flanders (€2.256 million) and from two new donors, Global Affairs Canada (CAD 7 million) and Government of Quebec (CAD 2 million). These additional resources will continue to support African countries to scale up climate finance readiness activities to access more resources from climate funds to implement their climate actions.

To date, the ACCF has approved 15 small grant projects for a total of about USD 8 million. The approved projects are supporting 16 African countries (i.e. Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Eswatini, Lesotho, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Swaziland, Sudan, Uganda, and Zanzibar (Tanzania)), via individual country and multinational projects to strengthen their capacities to access international climate finance, and implement small-scale adaptation projects to enhance their resilience.

For more information

Please see our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#), and for more information, contact the ACCF Secretariat at africaclimatechange@afdb.org.

Estimated timeline for the Third ACCF Call for Proposals

Date	Action
June 23, 2021	Launch the Call for Project Concept Notes
July 23, 2021	Deadline for concept note submission
July 24 – August 14, 2021	Screening of the Concept Notes completed by the Secretariat and the Request for Full Proposals sent to shortlisted proponents
September 13, 2021	Deadline for submission of full proposals (about 30 days to submit full proposal)



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Mid-October 2021	Evaluation of full proposals completed by the Secretariat and feedback sent to proponents.
October 2021 – December 2021	Appraisal of best-scoring proposals and submission of proposals for approval in a staggered manner.

Concept Note Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Yes/No	
A summary description of the project (Maximum 3 lines) provided	Yes/No	
All sections of Concept Note template filled in	Yes/No	
Concept note is within the theme of the call for proposals	Yes/No	
Length of Concept Note - Maximum length of 5 pages	Yes/No	
Concept Note Assessment Criteria		Score Range (1-4) *
Assessment Criteria		Weight
Score		
1. Alignment with ACCF and AfDB priorities:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the concept aligned to ACCF priority areas, AfDB priorities (including the High 5s, the 10-year strategy and Gender Strategy 2021-2025)? 	5.88%	/4
2. Alignment with national policies:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Concept aligned to National Development Plan, NDC and NAP? 	5.88%	/4
3. Project concept viability:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project concept relevant, i.e. does it provide a solution to an identified gender inequality and climate resilience problem in the project target area? Is the project concept's viability from an economic, technical, social and environmental perspective convincingly described? Does the concept note convincingly explain how the concept will contribute to the fulfilment of the SDGs and create positive development long term benefits for the target beneficiaries? Does the project's long-term plan consider institutional sustainability, strengthening of capacity and ownership of the project? 	23.5%	/16
4. Innovativeness:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are both gender transformative change and climate resilience and/or the business concept innovative? i.e. does it have the potential to improve the quality of life for vulnerable people including women and girls, and tackle climate change in your country more effectively than existing approaches? Is the innovativeness well-described and convincing? 	11.76%	/8
5. Does the theory of change and logical framework include the following qualities: stakeholder participation in ToC and LF development, comprehensive analysis, power and gender relations, formulation of outcomes, outputs and their related assumptions and indicators.	11.76%	/8
6. Does the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System and Reporting include the following essential components:	11.76%	/8



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and establishment of indicators, M&E human & financial resources, Plan for sex/age disaggregated data collection and analysis, and Plan for reporting, feedback and use of results. Effective mainstreaming of gender transformative climate resilience. 		
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7. Gender Equality and Climate Resilience relevance:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the concept note focus on gender transformative adaptation? i.e. Does it address the roots of vulnerability and exclusion through action that changes the fundamental attributes of a system in response to climate and its effects? Is the proposed gender transformative climate change action relevant and feasible given the proposed approach, scope, time frame and financial resources of the project? 	11.76%	/8
8. Technical capacity to effectively manage the project.	5.88%	/4
9. Financial/administrative capacity to effectively deliver project services	5.88%	/4
10. Co-financing: What % share of the total budget is co-financed and by who?	5.88%	/4
TOTAL	100%	Max 68

* Rating is based on score range of 1-4: Highly satisfactory (4); Satisfactory (3), Unsatisfactory (2); Highly unsatisfactory (1). Each question scores 1- 4 points.

A minimum score of 60/68 is required for Concept Note to be approved. Reviewers may ask for supplementary answers or evidence where necessary or at the reviewer's discretion.

Please note, for reasons of resource use efficiency, the ACCF Secretariat regrets that it will NOT share the results of reviews with applicants nor undertake to provide detailed feedback on individual applications.