

Frequently Asked Questions on the Least Developed Countries Fund



What is the focus of the Least Developed Countries Fund?

The Least Developed Countries Fund finances the additional costs imposed on the Least Developed Countries to address their special needs under the Climate Convention. The Fund gives priority to adaptation to climate change.

How much money is available under the Least Developed Countries Fund?

At present, a total of \$115 million has been committed by 14 donor countries to implement the urgent and immediate adaptation actions identified by the National Adaptation Plans of Action. The amount will increase as donor countries continue to make voluntary contributions to the Fund.

Does the Least Developed Countries Fund apply the incremental cost to adaptation?

No.

Does the Least Developed Countries Fund apply the Resource Allocation Framework?

No.

What is “additional cost”?

For purposes of the Least Developed Countries Fund, Convention guidance provides that additional cost is the cost imposed on vulnerable countries to meet their immediate adaptation needs.

How do I calculate the additional cost?

You can justify a grant request by specifying the costs of urgent and immediate adaptation needs over a development baseline; or use a short cut, the sliding scale.

What is a sliding scale? Is it a conditionality of the Least Developed Countries Fund?

A sliding scale is a streamlined procedure, based on the assumption that adaptation costs can be approximately estimated through a proportional scale, which includes the Least Developed Countries Fund grant and baseline existing development financing. This option can be an easier and faster way to calculate the additional cost.

Is the GEF imposing the conditionality of co-financing of adaptation to poor countries?

No. However, as adaptation measures are often integrated into larger development programs (e.g., in agriculture or health), existing development financing provides de facto cofinancing on the ground.

Does the GEF finance the full cost of adaptation?

The Least Developed Countries Fund includes an option for full-cost funding, in response to Convention guidance. However, based on experience, examples of stand-alone adaptation rarely exist.

Who is eligible to apply for the Least Developed Countries Fund?

All Least Developed Countries can apply.

Does my country need to complete a National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) before accessing the resources of the Least Developed Countries Fund for NAPA implementation?

Yes. After supporting the preparation of the NAPA, the Fund will finance urgent and immediate adaptation measures as identified and prioritized by each NAPA.

Least Developed Countries have limited capacity to make project proposals and in the past have experienced serious difficulties in accessing GEF resources. Is the GEF doing anything to improve this situation?

Yes. For Least Developed Countries in particular, the project cycle has been significantly streamlined, making it easier to access the resources of the Least Developed Countries Fund. The publication, *Linking Adaptation to Development*, explains in plain language the

goals and the scope of GEF's support to adaptation. Additional steps to improve communication and access are under development.

What is the first step to access these funds?

Contact an Implementing or Executing Agency of the GEF. They will facilitate the process of submitting the project and accessing the funds.

The GEF's Implementing Agencies:

the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank.

The GEF's Executing Agencies:

the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

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