



## AU-AIP MULTI COUNTRY GCF READINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER INVESTMENTS

**Module 2: Introduction to Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Country Programming**



# Module 2: Introduction to GCF and Country Programming



By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Understand the role of GCF in the global climate finance landscape.
- Identify the main actors in GCF's ecosystem.
- Understand the process for accessing GCF funding.
- Understand the main access modalities available for securing GCF funding.
- Recognize the different financial instruments available and project sizes.
- Understand the purpose and structure of GCF Country Programming process.



# What is the Green Climate Fund (GCF)?



## Green Climate Fund

GCF is the world's largest dedicated climate fund mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways.



## Established in 2020

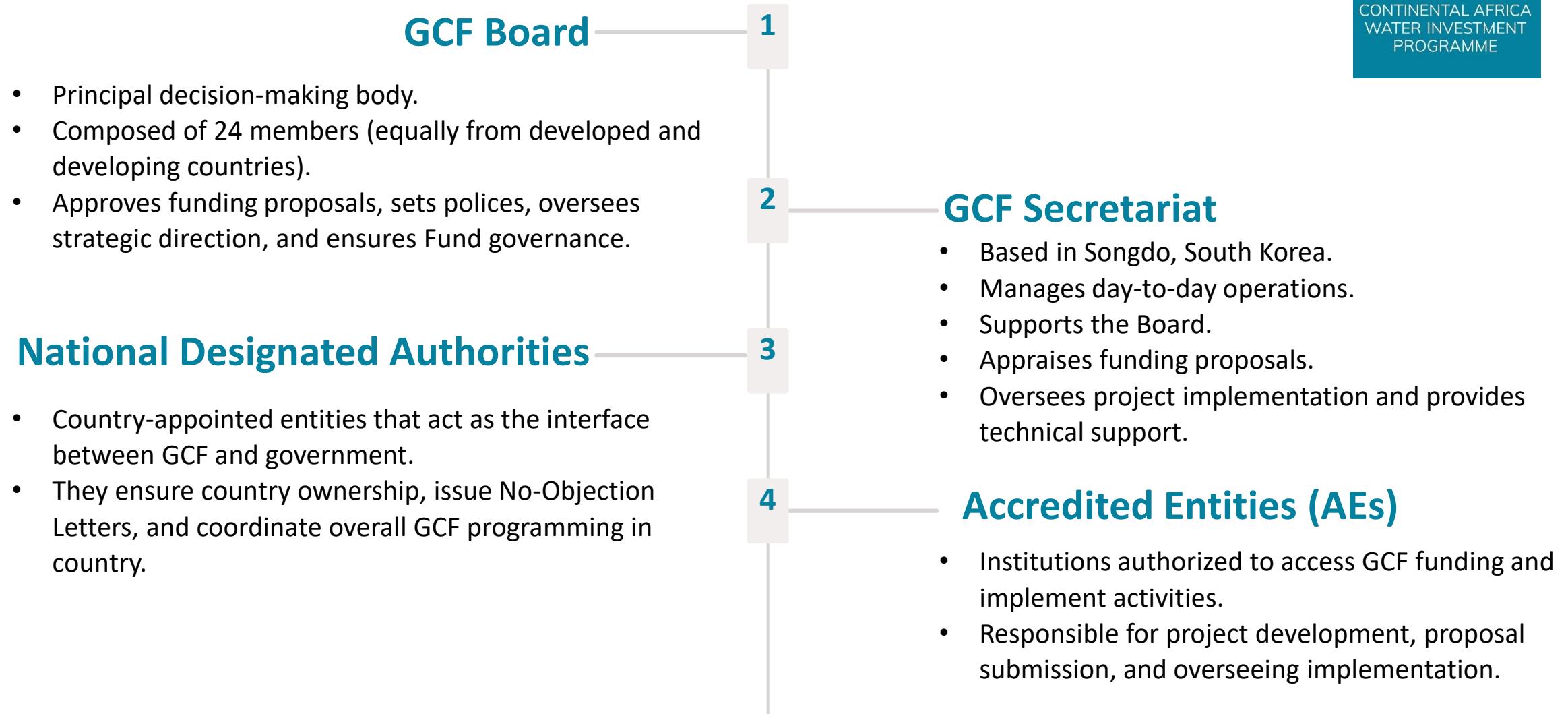
The GCF was established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 16th Conference of Parties (COP) in 2010.



## Current Portfolio

As of 2024, the GCF has a portfolio of 297 projects across 133 countries, with a total commitment of USD 16.6 billion.

# Who are GCF's Main Actors?



# Who are GCF's Main Actors?



## Executing Entities

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- Entities that deliver project activities on the ground under the oversight of an AE.
- They may include government agencies, NGOs, private sector organizations, or development institutions. They may be national, regional, or international organizations.

## Co-Financers

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- Providers of complementary financial resources deployed alongside GCF funding.
- Co-financers may include governments, development banks, private sector investors, philanthropic organizations, or bilateral donors.

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## Delivery Partners (DPs)

- Institutions tasked with supporting NDAs and project proponents in implementing Readiness activities and PPF grants.
- DPs do not need to be accredited.

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## Independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP)

- Conducts technical assessments of proposals against GCF investment criteria before Board decisions.

# Who are GCF's Main Actors?



## Accreditation Panel (AP)

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- Evaluates entities applying for GCF accreditation to ensure they meet GCF fiduciary, environmental, social, and gender standards.

## Private Sector Facility (PSF)

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## Independent Units

- Independent Integrity Unit (IIU),
- Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM),
- Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU).

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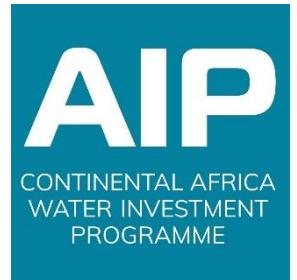
- A specialized funding window within the GCF to mobilize private sector investment in climate action, particularly in developing countries.

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## PSAA Applicant

- Entities seeking to be accredited under the Project-Specific Assessment Approach (PSAA) to implement a specific GCF project or programme.
- These applicants are assessed against fit-for-purpose standards only for the proposed activity and do not receive general accreditation status.

# Who can Access GCF Funding?



All developing countries that are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are eligible to access GCF financing.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), African States, and other climate-vulnerable developing nations.

Within countries, a wide range of institutions can access GCF resources, either directly or indirectly.

Accredited Entities (AEs), which may include national ministries, development banks, NGOs, UN agencies, or international financial institutions.

Entities without accreditation may pursue funding through the Project-Specific Assessment Approach (PSAA)

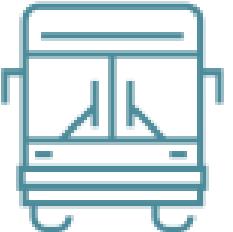
# GCF's Strategic Impact Areas



## Mitigation



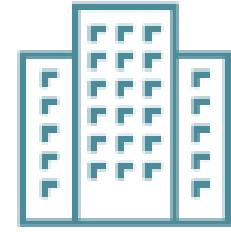
Energy generation  
and access



Transport



Forests and land use



Buildings, cities, industries,  
and appliances

## Adaptation



Health, food, and  
water security



Livelihoods of people  
and communities



Ecosystems and  
ecosystem services



Infrastructure and  
built environment

# GCF's Investment Criteria

- GCF evaluates potential projects based on six investment criteria to ensure they deliver high-impact, transformative climate results while aligning with the Fund's mandate.
- These criteria guide the GCF Board and technical experts in assessing the potential value, effectiveness, and sustainability of proposed interventions.



# GCF's Financial Instruments



## Grant

Non-repayable funds for specific projects or activities.



## Equity

Direct investments in projects or companies to generate returns.



## Loans:

Low-interest loans with favourable terms.



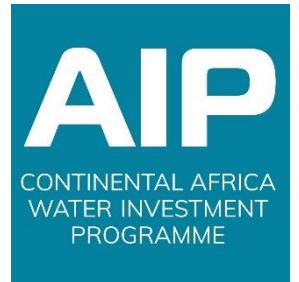
## Guarantees:

Risk mitigation instruments to encourage private sector investment.

# GCF's Project Sizes



# What are GCF's Funding Modalities?



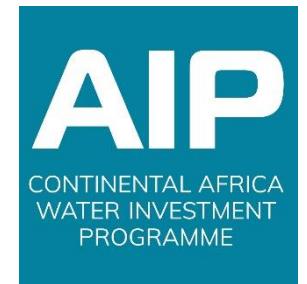
## Direct Access:

An avenue through which national or regional entities based in developing countries can access GCF resources directly without going through international intermediaries.

## International Access:

Where countries access GCF funding through international Accredited Entities, such as multilateral development banks, UN agencies, and international NGOs. These entities are already accredited and often have experience managing large-scale climate finance.

# Avenues of Access?



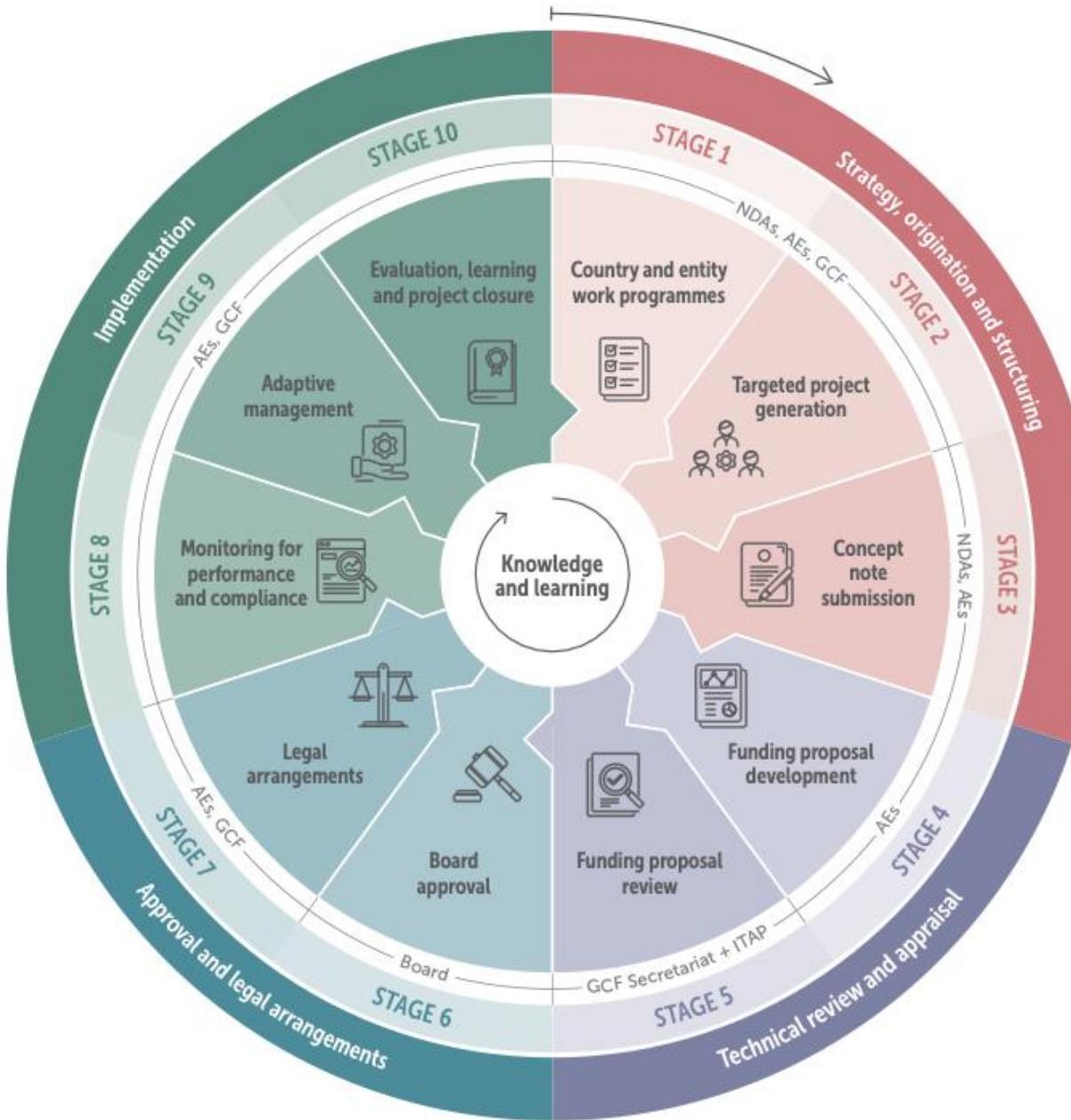
Avenue	Description	Typical Use
<b>Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP)</b>	Provides grants to build institutional capacity, strengthen NDAs, support stakeholder engagement, and develop project pipelines.	Institutional strengthening, country programming, and early-stage project development.
<b>Project Preparation Facility (PPF)</b>	Offers funding (up to USD 3 million) for detailed project preparation activities such as feasibility studies and financial structuring.	Preparing full proposals.
<b>Regular Project Modality</b>	Standard route for submitting full funding proposals through Accredited Entities.	Projects requiring comprehensive review and due diligence.
<b>Simplified Approval Process (SAP)</b>	Streamlined modality for small-scale, low-risk projects with simplified documentation and faster review. Provides up to USD 25 million of GCF financing.	Micro and small-scale projects, especially in adaptation or community-level actions.

# Avenues of Access?



Avenue	Description	Typical Use
Enhanced Direct Access (EDA)	Allows national entities to directly manage resources and make sub-granting decisions under devolved authority.	Empowering local institutions with funding decisions, often for community or ecosystem-based projects.
REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP)	Provides ex-post payments to countries for verified emission reductions from deforestation and forest degradation.	Supporting national efforts under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, tied to robust MRV systems.
Project-Specific Assessment Approach (PSAA)	Enables non-accredited entities to access GCF funding for a single specific project by undergoing a one-time, fit-for-purpose assessment.	Targeted access for entities without full accreditation, particularly for piloting high-impact projects.

# Process for Accessing GCF Funding



# GCF Country Programming



A Country Programme is a strategic document developed by the National Designated Authority (NDA) or focal point that outlines a country's climate priorities and proposed pipeline of projects for GCF support.

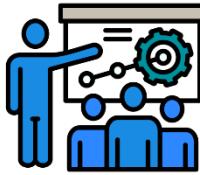
- Country Programme is a key GCF project origination tool.
- It is the first stage in the GCF Programming cycle.
- Funding Proposals for projects are generated from the country programmes.

## Key Objectives of a Country Programme



### Project Origination

- Support a country-driven pipeline development process, which seeks to identify transformative project ideas to be funded by GCF



### Institutional Capacity

- Identify institutional needs to build and strengthen capacity



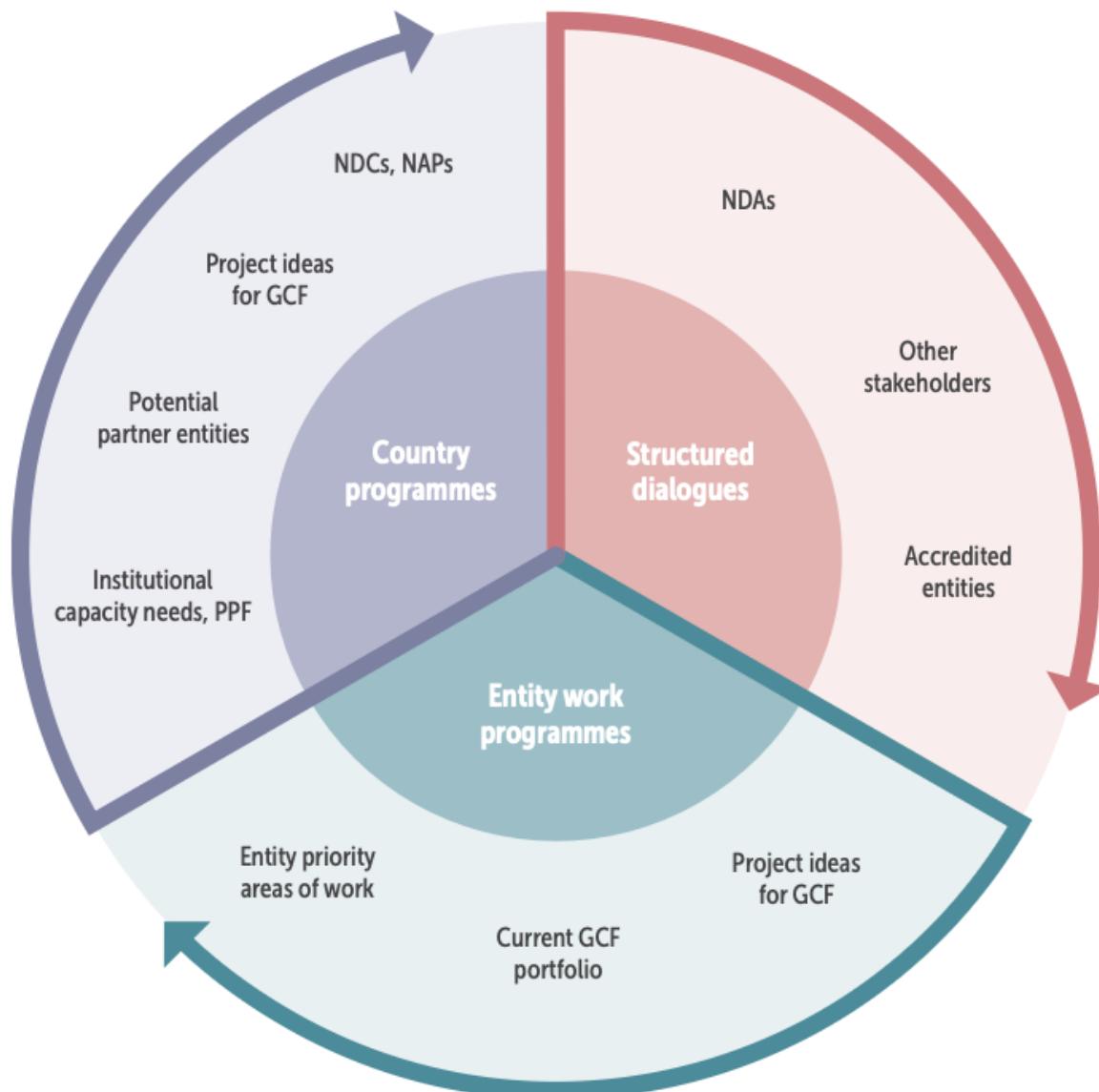
### Stakeholder Engagement

- Facilitate dialogue between all stakeholders in a way that reflects the highest level of country ownership

# GCF Country Programming



## GCF Origination Tools



THE END