

GREEN CLIMATE FUND READINESS PROGRAMMES IN NAMIBIA



The GCF Readiness Programme is a funding mechanism offered by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It supports developing countries by enhancing their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning frameworks, enabling them to plan, access, and utilize climate finance effectively. In Namibia, the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) of Namibia, as a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Accredited Entity since 2015, has been implementing several Readiness programmes to help with:

- Strengthening the roles of NDAs or Focal Points and preparing Direct Access Entities for accreditation.
- Developing strategic frameworks like National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), investment pipelines, and project concept notes.
- Enabling knowledge sharing and transformative, country-owned climate action.

Namibia through the EIF is implementing the following readiness projects:

POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR CLIMATE ACTION (NAM-RS-005:)

Project Title: Developing Key Legislation, Policies, and Concept Notes for Climate Action in Namibia

Funding: USD 499,985, NAD 9 424 717.25

The Readiness 5 project supports Namibia in creating the policy and technical groundwork for transformative climate action. Its main focus is on advancing the Namibia Green

Hydrogen Programme and updating the National Climate Change Policy to align with modern climate challenges and opportunities.

The project aims to:

- Develop concept notes for large-scale renewable energy and climate-resilient projects.
- Conduct feasibility studies for hydrogen and wind energy opportunities.
- Strengthen Namibia's climate policy framework to attract investment from the Green Climate Fund and other financiers.

KEY ACTIVITIES

a. Pre- Feasibility Studies

- Building a New Green Hydrogen Plant
- Purpose: Develop a utility-scale green hydrogen facility in the Karas Region for local use and export.
- Goal: Contribute to global decarbonisation efforts and help countries reach net-zero by 2050.
- Output: Identified the most suitable development sites within the Southern Corridor Development Initiative area, excluding Tsau Khaeb National Park.

b. Neckartal Green Scheme – Irrigation & Fertilizer Production

- Purpose: Establish a large-scale irrigation and agricultural scheme powered by green hydrogen technology.
- Benefits: Boost national food security and open export opportunities for Namibia's agricultural products.
- Link to Hydrogen: Utilises by-products from green hydrogen production for fertiliser manufacturing.

c. Offshore Wind Energy Development

- Purpose: Harness Namibia's offshore wind potential to produce renewable electricity.
- Integration: Supports hydrogen production and strengthens the national clean energy mix.
- Strategic Role: Enhances Namibia's renewable energy portfolio and energy security.

NAM-RS-006: STRENGTHENING NAMIBIA'S INSTITUTIONS TO ACCESS CLIMATE FINANCE DIRECTLY

Overview

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) provides vital international funding to help countries respond to climate change. However, to access these funds directly, local institutions must meet strict requirements and processes known as "accreditation."

The NAM-RS-006 project supports Namibia by helping key national institutions become accredited Direct Access Entities (DAEs). This means these institutions can apply for, receive, and manage GCF funding themselves, enabling faster, more tailored climate action that fits Namibia's unique needs.

Funding: USD 282,600, NAD 5,185,710

Why is this important?

Before this project, many Namibian institutions couldn't apply directly to the GCF because they didn't meet accreditation standards. Instead, they had to rely on international intermediaries, which often led to delays and less control

over how funds are used locally. Strengthening these institutions builds Namibia's ownership and capacity to design, implement, and monitor impactful climate projects.

Who are the institutions involved?

The project targets the following:

- Development Bank of Namibia (DBN): Focuses on financing large infrastructure projects like renewable energy, water supply, and resilient buildings. Once accredited, DBN can secure significant funding for these priority areas.
- Bank Windhoek: Plays a key role in supporting private sector climate investments by lending to companies working on clean energy and sustainability. Accreditation allows it to access the GCF's Private Sector Facility.
- Agricultural Bank of Namibia: Supports climate-smart agriculture and rural development. Accreditation opens doors to funding that can be re-lent to farmers to improve productivity and sustainability.
- Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF): One of Namibia's oldest environmental NGOs, NNF focuses on ecosystem management, conservation, and community-based projects, especially smaller-scale "micro" interventions.
- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT): The national designated authority that oversees climate finance engagement and policy coordination. MEFT's accreditation as a delivery partner enhances its capacity to manage projects directly.
 - ◊ Agribank's \$250 million climate-smart agriculture facility
 - ◊ NNF's \$10 million regenerative farming initiative
 - ◊ Bank Windhoek's \$50 million clean energy lending program
 - ◊ DBN's \$250 million urban water security infrastructure
- Climate Database: A national climate change project database is underway to track projects, improve reporting, and help policymakers make informed decisions.

Why This Matters for Namibia

By building strong, accredited institutions, Namibia can access international climate funds faster and more efficiently. This increases the country's ability to invest in vital areas like clean energy, sustainable farming, water security, and ecosystem protection. Ultimately, it boosts resilience, supports economic growth, and helps Namibia meet its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Impact for Namibia

These readiness programmes are preparing Namibia to effectively access and manage climate finance. They contribute to national climate goals, support green industries such as hydrogen, enhance policy frameworks, and empower local institutions to deliver impactful climate projects. In addition, the Development Bank of Namibia got its accreditation in June 2025, becoming the 2nd GCF-accredited entity in Namibia.





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