

SANBI GCF Funding Framework for the period 2017 - 2022

in support of SANBI's GCF programme of work

November 2017

1. Introduction

In October 2016, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was accredited as a Direct Access Entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). As an Accredited Entity, SANBI is responsible for presenting funding applications to the GCF, and then overseeing, supervising, managing and monitoring the overall GCF-approved projects and programmes. This accreditation opens up opportunities to build on experiences that SANBI has gained as South Africa's National Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund and to further support South Africa's Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation ambitions.

The purpose of this document is for SANBI, in its capacity as a Direct Access Accredited Entity of the GCF, to initiate a process of soliciting Expressions of Interest from institutions who may wish to make use of SANBI's services to present funding applications to the GCF.

In this regard this document:

- Provides an overview of the GCF, what it funds and its application processes;
- Contextualises the GCF programme of work in the South African Policy environment;
- Clearly sets out the criteria that will be applied to projects that SANBI will champion; and
- Explains the process that institutions wishing to utilize SANBI's services must follow.

SANBI aims to build a rolling pipeline development process that responds to in-country priorities, funding availability and lessons that emerge during pipeline development and project implementation.

2. The Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund was established by decision of UNFCCC COP 15 to scale up climate finance funding by raising USD 100 billion a year by 2020. To date, just under USD 9 billion has been raised by the Fund, for both mitigation adaptation activities.

At the GCF Board meeting held in Cape Town in February 2016, the Board adopted the following as the vision for the Fund:

To support the implementation of the Paris Agreement in developing countries: -

- by enhancing adaptive capacity and fostering resilience and making financial flows consistent with low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient development; and
- by making Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) the important reference point for the Fund's programming.

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2.1 The GCF Results Management Framework

The GCF’s Results Management Framework is the benchmark that is used to assess funding proposals. Investments that are supported by the GCF must contribute to the Fund’s eight impact areas as depicted in Figure 1 below, and achieve a range of fund impacts and outcomes (see Table 1).

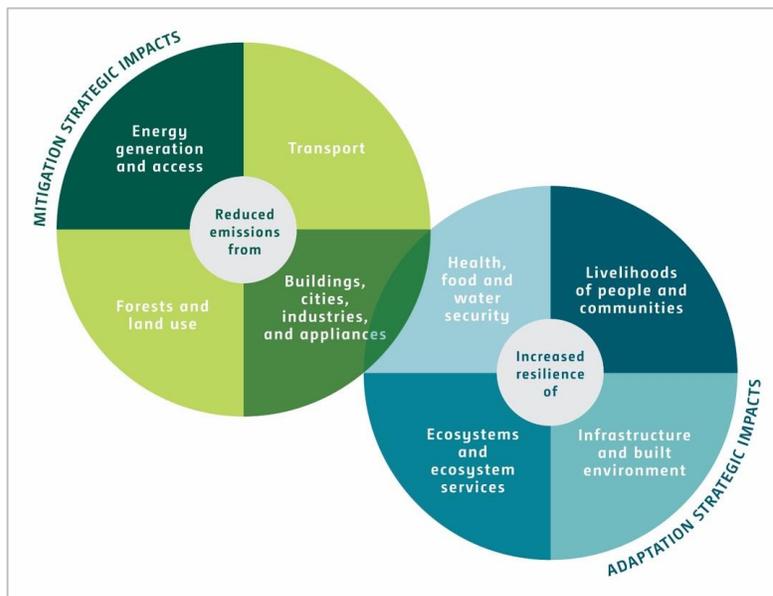


Figure 1: Sectors for climate change mitigation and adaptation (Source: GCF website).

Table 1: Fund level impacts and outcomes of GCF projects and programmes.

Mitigation Strategic Impacts	Adaptation Strategic Impacts
<p><i>Shifting to low-emission sustainable development pathways through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-emission energy access and power generation • Low-emission transport • Energy efficient buildings, cities and industries • Sustainable land use and forest management 	<p><i>Increasing climate-resilient sustainable development for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities, and regions • Increased health and well-being, and food and water security • Resilient infrastructure and built environment to climate change threats • Resilient ecosystems
Mitigation Outcomes	Adaptation Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased gender-sensitive low-emission development mainstreamed in government • More small, medium and large low-emission power suppliers • Lower country energy-intensity trajectory • Increased use of low-carbon transport • Stabilisation of forest coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened government institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive development planning • Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making • Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks • Strengthened awareness of climate threats and gender-sensitive risk reduction processes

Please also refer to the GCF website and GCF 101 guide for additional information¹:

¹ See: <http://www.greenclimate.fund/-/gcf-101-new-guide-on-how-to-access-the-green-climate-fund?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Fhome>

2.2 GCF investment criteria

The GCF has six investment criteria that guide its decisions. These are as follows:

- Impact/result potential: Potential of the programme/project to contribute to the achievement of the objectives and results areas of the GCF.
- Paradigm shift potential: Degree to which GCF can achieve sustainable development impacts beyond one-off project or programme investments by replicating and scaling them up.
- Needs of the recipient: Financing needs of the beneficiary country.
- Country ownership: Beneficiary country ownership of and capacity to implement a funded project or programme (including policies, climate strategies and institutions).
- Economic efficiency: Benefit-cost ratio of activity, translated to a measure of impact per US dollar delivered by the Fund.
- Efficiency and effectiveness: Financial soundness of the activity.

Additional information about the investment criteria is available on the GCF website².

3. The Process for Submitting Proposals to the GCF

The GCF makes use of Accredited Entities to develop funding proposals and oversee, supervise, manage and monitor their respective GCF-approved projects and programmes, and project proposals can only be submitted to the GCF through these Accredited Entities.

These Accredited Entities can be Direct Access Entities and International GCF Accredited Entities. Direct Access Entities are sub-national, national or regional organizations that need to be nominated by developing country National Designated Authorities (NDAs) or focal points. In South Africa, this is the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). To date, there are two accredited Direct Access Entities in South Africa, SANBI and the Development Banks of South Africa (DBSA). In addition to SANBI and the DBSA, many other International GCF Accredited Entities are able to work in South Africa.

The GCF has no country cap, and no limitation on the number of projects a country or Accredited Entity may submit for approval.

Project proposals are submitted to the GCF via a two-step process: Initial Concept Notes and subsequent detailed Funding Proposals. These may only be submitted to the GCF via Accredited Entities, and only once they have secured 'no objection' letters from the relevant NDA. In South Africa, the process of obtaining such no objection letters involves the Accredited Entity approaching DEA (i.e. the NDA), who in turn consults with relevant DEA branches and sector departments. The DEA Climate Change Branch has an important role to play in verifying that project proposals are aligned with and contribute substantially to South African Climate Change Adaptation and/or Mitigation priorities.

Upon submission to the GCF, projects are subjected to a rigorous review by the GCF Secretariat, who can call for further information, studies and/or clarification. Once projects are cleared by the Secretariat, they are tabled before the GCF Board for approval.

² See page 5 of the relevant GCF Board document, available at:
http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/24943/GCF_B.07_06_-_Investment_Framework.pdf/dfc2ffe0-abd2-43e0-ac34-74f3b69764c0

4. The South African Policy Environment

In line with GCF requirements, SANBI's anticipated programme is nested within South Africa's climate change priorities and finance needs, as outlined in several policy documents. These are in turn outlined in national policy, plans and strategies that are further outlined below.

4.1 The National Development Plan (NDP 2030)

The National Development Plan 2030 envisions a transition to an environmentally sustainable, climate resilient, low carbon economy and a just society. In this regard, in line with the Long Term Mitigation Scenarios (LTMS), the target is the stabilisation and reduction of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions from 'business as usual' by 34% in 2020 and 42% by 2025. In this regard, South Africa has to reduce its carbon emissions, in line with its international commitments, while maintaining its competitiveness in the global economy. This can be done through, for example, coordinated planning and investments in infrastructure and services that take account of climate change and environmental pressures, and make communities more resilient and less vulnerable.

The NDP identifies climate change as a major factor that will influence the context in which South Africa operates. As a significant risk to South Africa's development future, climate change needs to be considered in planning and critically, in deciding which investments in sectors such as agriculture, energy and others to prioritise. One of the challenges highlighted by the NDP is the need to balance the security of energy supply with climate change mitigation. Climate change is also flagged as an issue affecting economic development opportunities in sectors that will be affected by changes in rainfall and temperature (e.g. agriculture, forestry, etc.). The NDP proposes adequate support for the most vulnerable communities, significant investments in conserving and restoring ecological infrastructure, and adaptation technologies in the water and human settlement sectors. Furthermore, the NDP supports the development of Early Warning Systems, mainstreaming adaptation planning into all planning activities and the creation of sustainable work opportunities through undertaking adaptation activities. City planning particularly needs to incorporate resilience. The NDP makes specific mention of the need to "actively support the development of plans that cross municipal, and even provincial boundaries that would promote collaborative action in fields such as biodiversity protection, climate-change adaptation, tourism and transportation". It states that government has a key role to play in developing the necessary skills and institutional capacity to support the transition.

The NDP recognizes that to transition to a low carbon economy, trade-offs will have to be made as the country requires space to grow the economy to overcome the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality. It will also require climate investment support from the international community in line with UNFCCC obligations.

4.2 National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP)

The National Climate Change Response Policy is a policy response that is intended to promote adaptation and mitigation measures that will make development more sustainable, both in socio-economic and environmental terms, with the following objectives:

- To effectively manage inevitable climate change impacts through interventions that build and sustain South Africa's social, economic and environmental resilience and emergency response capacity.
- To make a fair contribution to the global effort to stabilise greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere within a time frame that enables environmentally sustainable socio-economic development.

In respect of adaptation, the policy advocates for the use of a risk-based approach to identify and prioritize short to medium term adaptation interventions to be outlined in sector plans. It recognizes the use of ecosystem services for society to adapt to climate change; known as Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA). It recognises that South Africa can

only reach the desired climate change policy response with requisite support in finance, technology and technology transfer and capacity building.

4.3 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

The Paris Agreement was adopted on 12 December 2015 at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21). South Africa has ratified the Agreement, which is a universal, legally-binding framework for internationally coordinated effort to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C (UNFCCC, 2015). Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement depends on voluntary targets to meet mitigation contributions through “Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)”. These represent each country’s highest possible ambition towards mitigation, recognising the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities of countries in the light of different national circumstances.

The Agreement emphasises that “adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems” .

The NDC which South Africa submitted to the UNFCCC in terms of Article 2 of the Convention notes South Africa’s vulnerability to climate change and its commitment to address its impacts in a manner that is based on science and equity. It sets out a series of goals for achieving the Country’s adaption and mitigation objectives, and indicative costs for doing so.

4.4 National Adaptation Strategy (NAS)

South Africa’s (draft) National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) “is intended to be the cornerstone for climate change adaptation in the country and to reflect a unified, coherent, cross-sectoral, economy-wide approach to climate change adaptation.” It recognizes the likely impacts that climate change will have on socio-economic development and its potential to undo many hard-won development gains made in the past two decades, and advocates for the integration of climate change adaptation responses in all of South Africa’s economic systems and sectors.

The vision of the NAS is:

To transition to a climate resilient South Africa, which will follow a development pathway guided by an ongoing process of anticipating, planning for and adjusting responses to changes in climate and the environment, as informed by priority development needs.

It notes that ‘Adaptation responses will be developed through collaborative processes and supported by the best scientific information available. Institutional arrangements for climate change adaptation will facilitate coordinated implementation that optimises development outcomes, necessary transformation, and the interlinked needs of adaptation and mitigation imperatives’.

The NAS sets out priority areas for responding to climate change (see Table 2) and provides guidance for adaptation efforts in South Africa, including the likely funding requirements of the identified priorities. It further identifies the water, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, biodiversity and ecosystems, human settlements, health, disaster management, mining and extractives, energy, and transportation and public infrastructure sectors as priorities for adaptation action. An important objective of the NAS is to ‘allow resources to be sought and allocated in a more deliberate way’.

Table 2: Priority areas from the National Adaptation Strategy.

Adaptive Measures	Enabling Measures
<p><i>Strategic priority 1: Reduce human vulnerability and build human adaptive capacity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 1.1: Design and deliver targeted climate change vulnerability reduction programmes in human settlements for at-risk individuals and communities. • Sub-priority 1.2: Capacitate and operationalise South Africa’s National Disaster Management Framework to strengthen proactive adaptive capacity, preparedness, response and recovery. • Sub-priority 1.3: Launch an enhanced climate change public health flagship programme to build a healthier, more resilient population. 	<p><i>Strategic priority 5: Ensure institutional support for climate change adaptation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 5.1: Create formal climate change legislation and policy for adaptation. • Sub-priority 5.2: Integrate climate change adaptation within existing development planning and implementation processes.
<p><i>Strategic priority 2: Reduce economic vulnerability and build economic adaptive capacity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 2.1: Build resilience in key sectors against climate change-related water variability. • Sub-priority 2.2: Expand successful resilience-building programmes and projects, including development initiatives, to other areas with similar environments. • Sub-priority 2.3: Investigate the potential for expanding sectors and kick-starting new industries that are likely to thrive as a direct or indirect result of climate change effects. 	<p><i>Strategic priority 6: Enhance public-private-civil society collaboration and stewardship</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 6.1: Launch an integrated development planning process that has a strong role for the private sector, the research and academic community, and civil society organisations.
<p><i>Strategic priority 3: Ensure resilient physical capital</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 3.1: Mandate that all public infrastructure be planned, designed, operated and managed after explicitly taking current and predicted future climate change impacts into account. • Sub-priority 3.2: Ensure that sectors traditionally focused on mitigation incorporate adaptation and climate resilience into their planning, and contribute to building resilience. 	<p><i>Strategic priority 7: Enable substantial flows of climate change adaptation finance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 7.1: Identify current strategies, plans and processes that enable adaptation finance and ensure their readiness to attract climate finance. • Sub-priority 7.2: Design and implement strategies that are systemic with broad reach and place adaptation on the highest national agenda to address barriers to accessing finance.
<p><i>Strategic priority 4: Ensure resilient ecological infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 4.1: Protect and conserve South Africa’s most vulnerable ecosystems and landscapes. • Sub-priority 4.2: Adopt climate resilient approaches to natural resource management and use to restore and maintain ecosystem goods and services. • Sub-priority 4.3: Strengthen land-use planning and management, including spatial planning, to protect livelihoods and promote climate resilience. 	<p><i>Strategic priority 8: Improve our understanding of climate change impacts and their development implications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 8.1: Grow the knowledge base of climate change impacts and solutions, and how these link with socio-economic development. • Sub-priority 8.2: Implement an effective M&E system to track and assess adaptation efforts across the country.
	<p><i>Strategic priority 9: Build capacity and awareness for effective action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-priority 9.1: Build adaptation capacity through training programmes to ensure climate resilience is integrated into socio-economic development. • Sub-priority 9.2: Develop and implement an effective communication and outreach programme.

4.5 South Africa's National Strategic Framework for the GCF (March 2017)

The Department of Environmental Affairs has prepared a Strategic Framework (2017) to guide alignment of climate funding to national priorities. The Framework for the GCF seeks to ensure that South Africa's GCF investment portfolio is aligned with national climate change response priorities, addressing both mitigation and adaptation to drive South Africa's transition to a climate-resilient economy and society and facilitate national social and economic development objectives. In particular, it seeks to ensure that GCF investments advance South Africa's climate change response objectives, as articulated in the NCCRP; contribute substantially to the NDP 2030 and contribute to achieving South Africa's international commitments captured in the NDC to the UNFCCC.

The Framework sets out a principle that the identification, development and implementation of individual climate change response measures, including programmes and projects, will be determined through comprehensive governance and stakeholder engagement processes that ensure alignment with national, provincial and local priorities, scientific rigour and long term scalability and sustainability.

Priority areas for the scaled-up implementation of South Africa's climate response are:

- Agriculture, food systems and food security
- Energy efficiency and energy demand management
- Carbon capture and storage
- Disaster risk reduction and management
- Health, land, biodiversity and ecosystems
- Low carbon, climate resilient built environment, communities and human settlements
- Low carbon climate resilient spatial development
- Low carbon, climate resilient transport systems
- Renewable energy
- Social protection systems and public works programmes
- Waste management
- Water conservation and water demand management

Minimum qualifying criteria for projects and programme to be included in South Africa's GCF country programme are as follows:

- Align with South Africa's GCF country programme priority areas as presented above.
- For adaptation response measures, significantly reduce vulnerability, build resilience and enhance adaptive capacity of communities and sectors most vulnerable to persistent and irreversible impacts in a manner which is responsive to local needs and conditions.
- For mitigation response measures, achieve a significant mitigation impact through reduced or avoided GHG emissions in sectors which have a high risk of GHG emissions (carbon) lock-in.
- Be transformative in design and scale:
 - Represent a significant departure from a business as usual; and
 - At programme level, have a national or provincial footprint; or directly benefit one million or more people; or have significant potential for scaling-up and replication at a national level.
- Realise significant social, environmental, economic and livelihoods benefits:
 - Enhance job creation, local skills and economic opportunities;
 - Enhance and protect the integrity and resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems; and
 - Enhance social inclusion, equity and the resilience of social systems and governance.
- Directly contribute to achieving South Africa's NDC and climate change response objectives as described in the NCCRP.

- At a programme level, utilise, demonstrate and/or test policy interventions, fiscal instruments and modes of implementation.
- Have high institutional readiness supported by clear governance structures and leadership to ensure coordinated and effective implementation.
- Be implementable and capable of delivering climate change benefits (GHG emission reductions/reduced vulnerability, enhanced resilience and adaptive capacity) in the short- and medium term.

5. SANBI's GCF Accreditation Profile and Core Competencies

5.1 SANBI's GCF Accreditation Profile

The GCF has a tiered accreditation system which classifies applicant entities based on the nature of their organizations and the intended scale, nature and risks of their proposed climate finance activities.

SANBI's GCF Accreditation Profile is as follows:

- Entity Type: Direct (national).
- Size: Micro (maximum total projected costs, including the GCF contribution and co-financing, of up to USD 10 million), and Small (maximum total projected costs, including the GCF contribution and co-financing, of above USD 10 million and up to and including USD 50 million)
- Fiduciary Standard: SANBI may manage, supervise and oversee the overall project or programme, either directly or indirectly through Executing Entities. SANBI may also disburse GCF funds as an intermediary through a competitive and transparent grant award process. SANBI is not accredited to carry out intermediate funding by providing loans, blending different instruments and resources, undertaking equity and/or providing guarantees.
- Environmental and Social Risk Category: SANBI is accredited to manage projects with environmental and social risk levels that fall into Categories C (Activities with minimal or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts) and B (Activities with potential mild adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are few in number, generally site-specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures). SANBI may not manage projects with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented (Category A).

Additional information about GCF's fit-for-purpose accreditation approach is available on the GCF website³.

5.2 SANBI's core competencies

SANBI's core competencies are drawn from its mandate and its experience in developing and implementing projects that deliver multiple and sustainable benefits to communities in an effort to respond to local adaptation needs and national climate change priorities.

SANBI was established in terms of Section 10(1) of the National Biodiversity Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004). It leads and coordinates research, and monitors and reports on the state of biodiversity in South Africa. The institute provides knowledge and information, gives planning and policy advice and pilots best-practice management models in partnership with stakeholders. SANBI engages in ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation,

³ See": http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/24946/GCF_B.08_02_-_Guidelines_for_the_Operationalization_of_the_Fit-for-purpose_Accreditation_Approach.pdf/1f57ef6b-b6c9-421c-aaf0-c35cc0e3f7a4

leads the human capital development strategy of the biodiversity sector and manages the National Botanical Gardens as 'windows' to South Africa's biodiversity for enjoyment and education.

SANBI has many years of experience as an Executing Entity of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and, since 2011, as the National Implementing Entity for the Adaptation Fund (AF) in South Africa. This includes piloting the development and overseeing the implementation of an innovative “Enhanced Direct Access” project funded by the AF since 2015. This experience has enabled SANBI to develop several insights into the factors that make projects relevant, sustainable and effective, and informs the processes that SANBI follows in project development and execution.

SANBI’s core competencies in natural resource management position it ideally to support GCF projects that make use of nature-based solutions to climate change in their responses, including Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) and Ecosystem based Mitigation (EbM) approaches. Ecosystem based Adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Ecosystem based Mitigation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to conserve and expand carbon sinks.

6. SANBI’s GCF Funding Framework 2017-2022

As a government entity with a mandate for biodiversity protection, as South Africa’s National Implementing Entity for the Adaptation Fund and as a GCF Direct Access Entity, SANBI is well positioned to support the design and scale up the implementation of climate solutions in South Africa.

SANBI has defined its GCF Funding Framework in response to its mandate, core competencies and experience, and in the context of South Africa’s Climate Change investment priorities.

In particular, SANBI will seek to support projects that best meet the following criteria:

Criteria that are directly informed by the GCF Results Management Framework

- Are transformative in design and scale, represent a significant departure from ‘business as usual’ and seek to shift systemic paradigms towards a green economy and climate resilience society.
- Align with relevant national and sub-national policies, plans and priorities (including South Africa’s climate change priorities and ambitions as set out in the NCCRP, NDP Vision 2030, South Africa’s NDC, NAS and South Africa’s National Strategic Framework for the GCF).
- Clearly respond to local vulnerabilities that have been identified through participatory processes and are based on the best available science and local knowledge.
- Support concrete and tangible adaptation actions that contribute to any of the GCF Adaptation Strategic Impacts, and deliver possible mitigation co-benefits that contribute to the GCF Mitigation Strategic Impacts (see Figure 1).

Criteria that are informed by South Africa’s National Strategic Framework for the GCF

- Advance the objectives of the NCCRP and the NDP Vision 2030.
- Align with the geographic and sectoral priority areas of South Africa’s National Strategic Framework for the GCF.
- Significantly reduce vulnerability, build resilience and enhance adaptive capacity of communities and sectors most vulnerable to persistent and irreversible impacts in a manner which is responsive to local needs and conditions.
- Are informed by comprehensive governance and stakeholder engagement processes that ensure alignment with national, provincial and local priorities, scientific rigour and long term scalability and sustainability.
- Align with South Africa’s key international commitments, such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the associated National Action Plan.

Criteria that are informed by SANBI's GCF accreditation profile

- Are grant based and able to provide justification for the funding requested on the basis of the full cost of adaptation, sustained impact and transformative change.
- Have no significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts.
- Have a maximum value of USD 50 million, including co-financing.

Criteria that are informed by SANBI's best practice and experience

- Respond to the needs of communities who are highly vulnerable to climate change, taking cognisance of local vulnerabilities such as those associated with gender and female and child-headed households.
- Are led by South African institutions.
- Are embedded in the priority programmes of government (local authorities, provinces and national sector departments) and/ or the private sector.
- Are explicitly supported by institutions that have the mandates and commitment to sustain project investments beyond the GCF investment period.
- Are explicitly supported by communities who are envisaged to be project beneficiaries.
- Promote multi-disciplinary approaches, cross-sectoral linkages, and vertical and horizontal integration.
- Include (but not necessarily be limited to) nature-based solutions to climate change in their responses, including Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) and Ecosystem based Mitigation (EbM) approaches.

Projects will be assessed on their contribution to building adaptive capacity by enhancing the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities, and regions; increasing health and well-being, enhancing food and water security, enhancing social inclusion, equity and the resilience of social systems and governance and improving the resilience of infrastructure, the built environment and ecosystems to climate change threats. **Projects with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented will not be considered for support.**