



Tonga NDA No Objection Procedure For Accessing the Green Climate Fund

I. What is a ‘No Objection’?

A ‘no objection’ is a condition for approval of all funding proposals submitted to the Green Climate Fund. This procedure of no objection – referred to as the No Objection Procedure¹ (NOBP) – is a Government of Tonga (GoT) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) process that is carried out by the National Designated Authority (NDA), which is the Ministry of MEIDECC, on all projects and programmes intending to apply for funding from the GCF.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the NOBP is to ensure consistency with national climate change strategies and plans such as the Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAP2) and the Tonga Climate Change Policy, the Tonga Strategic Development Framework (TSDF II) and all other country-driven climate-resilient approaches, to provide country ownership via effective direct and indirect public and private sector financing by the Fund.

III. Implementation Arrangement

The NDA has tasked the JNAP Secretariat under the Department of Climate Change, MEIDECC to coordinate and facilitate the NOBP as conceptualized in Figure 1 below. Details of the full NOBP is also provided herein with relevant documents annexed.

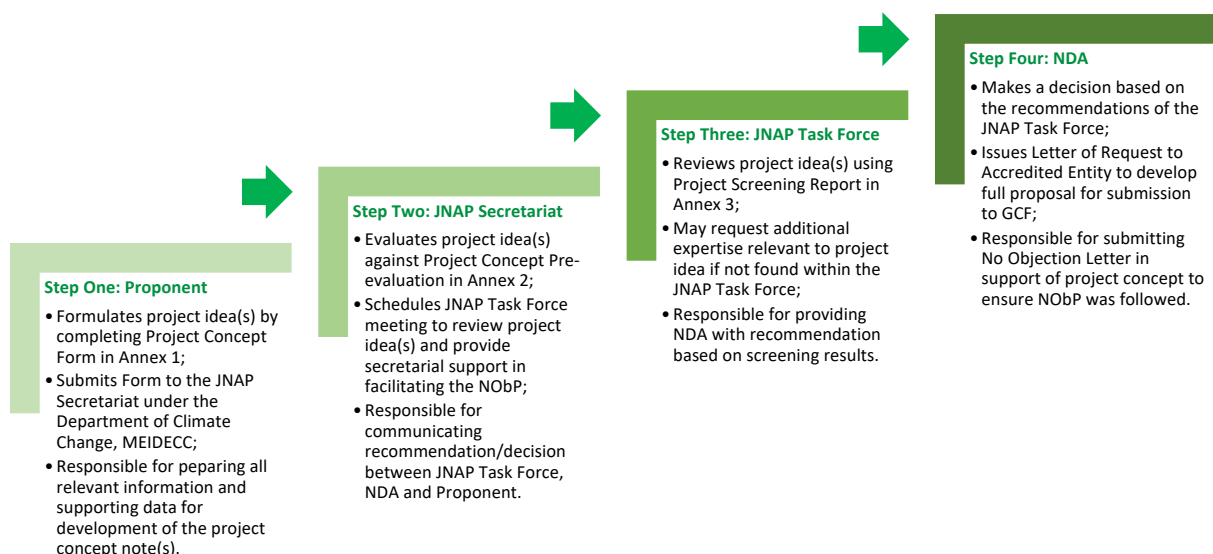


Figure 1: Tonga NDA NOBP Implementation Arrangement

¹ For more information, go to www.greenclimate.fund

1. **Proponent** – the organization with a project idea or concept that is responsible for completing and submitting the Proponent Project Form attached in Annex 1 to the JNAP Secretariat.

The proponent can be the executing entity (EE) or the accredited entity (AE) in partnership with a national entity to develop a project idea into a concept note and later into a full proposal. The national entity can be a government agency, non-government or private sector organization. There may be more than one EE or AE involve in a project.

2. **JNAP Secretariat** – reviews project idea(s) or concepts received from proponents against the Guiding Questions attached in Annex 2 and in close collaboration with the relevant division under the Department of Climate Change.

For any queries raised or incomplete information on the project idea/concept, the JNAP Secretariat is responsible for initiating timely communication with the proponent until Step One is complete and ready for review.

3. **JNAP Task Force** – working group of technical experts across the sectors under the JNAP responsible for reviewing the project idea/concept using the Project Screening Template attached in Annex 3.

The JNAP Task Force is to make recommendations based on the screening reports to the NDA for granting no objection letter of support for project idea/concept.

4. **NDA** – the National Designated Authority of Tonga to the GCF responsible for deciding on the JNAP Task Force recommendations.

The NDA is responsible for issuing a letter of request to the appropriate accredited entity to develop the project concept note and proposal against the GCF's standards. A No Objection Letter should be provided to the GCF Secretariat in conjunction with any submission of a funding proposal seeking funding.

Annex 1. Project Concept Form

Step 1 – To be submitted by the Proponent

Concept/Project Title:	
Implementing Organisation(s):	Project Contact Details:
Duration:	Status:
Total Funding:	Funding Source(s): Green Climate Fund
Current mode of financing: [e.g. through GoT]	Location & site(s):
Scope:	Project Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Readiness <input type="checkbox"/> SAP <input type="checkbox"/> Funding Proposal
Lead Gov't Ministry/Agency:	Other Gov't/Agency Partners:
Validation Letter(s) attached: Yes / No	
Thematic Area & Sector [Mitigation, Adaptation; Governance, Water, Agriculture, etc.]	
Rationale and Objective(s) [100 words max] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the rationale for the project? What is the baseline?• What is the primary need, and how was it identified?• Is this program building on any previous activities or policy?	
Description [1-2 paragraphs per topic max] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outline key project components• What related projects are being undertaken in the area?• Potential overlaps/duplication to be resolved• How will it be implemented?• Will the project fund local positions? Where?	
Project Feasibility Analyses and Risk Assessments: (attach if available)	

- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Assessment**
- Cost Benefit Analysis**
- Technical Assessment**
- Vulnerability Assessment**
- Identified Risks and Solutions**
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL)**

How does the project link to GoT priorities? (CC-Policy, JNAP2, NDC, TSDF, Sector Plans, etc.)

Progress to date and current activities [100 words max]

Outputs and Outcomes: [awareness materials, guidelines & handbooks, certified trainings, etc.]

Project Sustainability/Exit Strategy:

Annex 2. Project Concept Pre-evaluation

Step 2 – To be completed by the JNAP Secretariat

- **How were the stakeholders and communities consulted, and what concerns and feedback were raised?**

- **Has the concept or project assessed potential environmental and social risks, and were the risks shared and discussed among stakeholders and agreed solutions to address those risks were identified?**

- **Does the project have the support of stakeholders and communities?**

- **What are the gender aspects of the project that provided equal considerations and opportunity to males and females?**

- **Is there similar work happening in the project's focus area? Have the differences, similarities or how existing and proposed activities complement or reinforce each other?**

Annex 3. Project Screening Report

Step 3 – To be completed by JNAP Task Force

Concept/Project Title	
Criteria	Guiding Questions
1. Project Rationale	<p>1.1 Does the idea/concept have a compelling rationale and clearly link to reducing climate variability or vulnerability?</p> <p>1.2 Has the primary need for the project been identified and justified?</p> <p>1.3 Is there sufficient evidence to support this, e.g. a study or a survey report?</p>
<p>1.1 Yes or No</p> <p>1.2 Yes or No</p> <p>1.3 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>
2. Project objective versus baseline	<p>2.1 Has the objective of the project/concept been clearly defined?</p> <p>2.2 Has a baseline been identified and clearly explained? For example, an emissions/vulnerability scenario discussed?</p> <p>2.3 Has the concept been explained clearly and how the baseline scenario will be improved?</p>
<p>2.1 Yes or No</p> <p>2.2 Yes or No</p> <p>2.3 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>
3. Policy coherence and alignment to national priorities, country ownership and national support	<p>3.1 Does the objective align with the national climate change priorities, strategies, and/or policy targets, i.e. the TSDF, JNAP2, NDC, National Climate Change Policy, Sector and/or Community Resilient or Development Plans?</p> <p>3.2 Does the concept assist with meeting targets for mitigation, adaptation and/or disaster risk management?</p> <p>3.3 Is national, sector or community support sufficiently evidenced, e.g. a letter of support from national counterpart(s) (i.e. line ministry and/or department, provincial counterpart, and/or other community-based institutions)?</p>
<p>3.1 Yes or No</p> <p>3.2 Yes or No</p> <p>3.3 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>
4. Implementing and executing entity background and capacity	<p>4.1 Do the implementing and executing entity(ies) have sufficient/suitable capacity and technical expertise in relation to the concept scope and its components?</p> <p>4.2 Do they have a track record/previous experience/credibility in similar work? Have they sufficiently justified this?</p>
<p>4.1 Yes or No</p> <p>4.2 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>

5. Risk management strategies	5.1 Have the risks and methods to address these been identified and justified? For example, financial or technical and operational, environmental and social or political, and other risks, etc.
Yes or No	Comments:
6. Consultation and multi-stakeholder engagement	6.1 Has sufficient consultation with all relevant stakeholders been undertaken and views considered? (Including donors, private sector, local communities and civil society). 6.2 Is there evidence of the consultation provided? i.e. a consultation report
6.1 Yes or No 6.2 Yes or No	Comments:
7. Potential overlaps or duplication with other existing activities or expected projects, including strategies to resolve (suitability of location)	7.1 Is the concept/project idea duplicating existing work? 7.2 Is it proposed that the project be implemented in an area that has already been supported by another project with similar activities? 7.3 How are these issues to be addressed if there is a likelihood of duplication? Comment below.
7.1 Yes or No 7.2 Yes or No	Comments:
8. Technical feasibility/evaluation	8.1 Is the project considered technically feasible? 8.2 Are the inputs (e.g. labour, materials, transport, etc.) to the project activities likely to produce the project outputs? 8.3 If the project involves a technological solution, has it been justified and why it is most appropriate for the project? Comment below.
8.1 Yes or No 8.2 Yes or No 8.3 Yes or No	Comments:
9. Reducing vulnerability and managing or minimising impacts	9.1 Does the project reduce the level of exposure to climate risks and the degree of vulnerability, and address the needs and vulnerability of the beneficiary population/sector? 9.2 Has a vulnerability assessment been conducted and what evidence is there? Comment below.
9.1 Yes or No 9.2 Yes or No	Comments:

<p>10. Economic and financial viability</p>	<p>10.1 Is the project considered to be economically and financially feasible? 10.2 Has an economic and/or financial feasibility/analysis been undertaken? If not yet, at what stage of the project preparation would these be carried out? Comment below.</p>
<p>10.1 Yes or No 10.2 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>
<p>11. Environmental and social considerations</p>	<p>11.1 Have potential environmental and social risks been considered? 11.2 Will there be sufficient environmental and social safeguards?</p>
<p>11.1 Yes or No 11.2 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>
<p>12. Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) considerations</p>	<p>12.1 Has gender, disability and vulnerable groups been adequately considered in the project? 12.2 Evidence of analysis? i.e. Gender Equality Analysis</p>
<p>12.1 Yes or No 12.2 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>
<p>13. Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)</p>	<p>13.1 Is the monitoring, reporting, evaluation and learning process sufficiently outlined? 13.2 Is there a satisfactory logical framework/theory of change (ToC)?</p>
<p>13.1 Yes or No 13.2 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>
<p>14. Sustainability measures and co-benefits</p>	<p>14.1 Is there an exit strategy and evidence that the project activities can be maintained after project funding? 14.2 Have the maintenance and cost implications for the government/community/private sector been sufficiently outlined? 14.3 Does the project clearly explain co-benefits? i.e. specific economic, social, environmental and gender-sensitive development impacts? (Examples include improved access, standard of living, public health, energy security or ecosystem health, etc.). Comment below.</p>
<p>14.1 Yes or No 14.2 Yes or No 14.3 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>

15. Impact potential	<p>15.1 Mitigation: Does the project contribute to a shift to low-emission sustainable development pathways? e.g. carbon emissions reduced and/or cost-effectiveness, i.e. total project cost compared to carbon emissions reduced.</p> <p>15.2 Adaptation: Does the project contribute to increased climate-resilient sustainable development? e.g. number of direct/indirect beneficiaries relative to total population.</p>
<p>15.1 Yes or No</p> <p>15.2 Yes or No</p>	<p>Comments:</p>
16. Paradigm shift potential	<p>16.1 Does the project have the potential to catalyse impact in the long-term and beyond the scope of the proposed project (potential for scaling-up and replication of the project, knowledge and learning, contribution to regulatory frameworks, policies and public planning, mobilization of other actors, market development and transformation)?</p>
Yes or No	<p>Comments:</p>
17. Efficiency and effectiveness	<p>17.1 Is the project economically and financially sound, taking into consideration the total funding requested, financing already or expected to be secured, any potential revenues and in-kind contributions?</p>
Yes or No	<p>Comments:</p>
Conclusion	
JNAP Task Force Member	<p>Recommended <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: _____ Signature: _____</p>

Annex 4. GCF Funding Windows Fact Sheet

1) Readiness & Preparatory Support Programme

Purpose	Funding programme to enhance country ownership and access to the Fund and to strengthen the institutional capacities of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDAs or focal points - Direct access entities - Effectively engage with the Fund
Resource Type	Grants Technical Assistance
Country Allocation (max)	1,000,000 USD / year / country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Including USD 300,000 per year to help establish or strengthen an NDA or focal point to deliver on the Fund's requirements 3,000,000 USD / country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the formulation of national adaptation plans and/or other adaptation planning processes.
Areas of support	(i) Establishing and strengthening national designated authorities or focal points; (ii) Strategic frameworks, including the preparation of country programmes; (iii) Support for accreditation and accredited direct access entities; (iv) Formulation of national adaptation plans and/or other adaptation planning processes.
NDA role	Submitted by the NDA in partnership with a Delivery Partner

2) Project Preparation Facility

Purpose	Support project and programme preparation requests from all accredited entities, especially direct access entities and micro-to-small size category projects
Resource type	Grants Repayable grants
Country allocation (max)	1,500,000 USD / project
Areas of support	(i) Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, as well as project design; (ii) Environmental, social and gender studies; (iii) Risk assessments; (iv) Identification of programme/project-level indicators; (v) Pre-contract services, including the revision of tender documents; (vi) Advisory services and/or other services to financially structure a proposed activity; and (vii) Other project preparation activities, where necessary, provided that sufficient justification is available
NDA role	Submitted by the Accredited Entity and followed up by the NDA

3) Pipeline Development

Purpose	
Resource type	Grants Repayable Grants Loans Equity
Country Allocation (max)	No cap
Areas of support	<p>8 Strategic Results Areas:</p> <p>A. Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy generation and access • Transport • Buildings, cities, industries and appliances • Forests and land use <p>B. Adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, food and water security • Livelihoods of people and communities • Infrastructure and built environment • Ecosystems and ecosystem services
GCF Investment Criteria	<p>(i) Impact potential – contributes to the results areas above</p> <p>(ii) Paradigm shift potential – catalyse impact beyond one-off project</p> <p>(iii) Sustainable development potential – environmental, social, economic co-benefits, gender-sensitive development impact</p> <p>(iv) Needs of recipient – vulnerability and financing needs of the beneficiary country and population in the targeted group</p> <p>(v) Country ownership – beneficiary country ownership of and capacity to implement a funded project or programme</p> <p>(vi) Efficiency and effectiveness – economic, financial soundness of the programme/project and cost-effectiveness and co-financing</p>
NDA role	No Objection Letter required

4) Private Sector Facility

Purpose	To maintain climate change mitigation and adaptation actions with private sector investment
Resource type	Grants Repayable Grants Loans Equity
Country allocation	No cap
Areas of support	<p>(i) Climate risk assessment models and tools</p> <p>(ii) Long-term debt, credit lines</p> <p>(iii) Equity to develop a project to full bankability</p> <p>(iv) Guarantees to bear specific risks</p>
NDA role	No Objection Letter required

Contact Information:

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www.climatechange.gov.to