Accessing GCF financing for sustainable energy projects in Africa

Online Training Program – Call for applications
Introduction.

The African Development Bank is delivering a training program to address the needs of African National Designated Authorities to access GCF funding for sustainable energy projects. The GCF is a core resource that is not being accessed to its full potential by African countries. At the same time, the potential for sustainable energy projects to invigorate electrification and climate change mitigation and adaptation remains underutilized.

Accessing GCF funding for sustainable energy projects requires distinct skill sets, knowledge, and resources. This training program will **equip participants with the knowledge, know-how and resources needed to successfully mobilize GCF funding for sustainable energy projects** through the development and submission of concept notes and proposals.

“Sustainable energy” is here taken in the sense of the Sustainable Development Goal n°7 i.e.:

- Ensure universal **access** to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- Increase substantially the share of **renewable energy** in the global energy mix
- Double the global rate of improvement in **energy efficiency**

The training will be delivered in two distinct sessions, one in English and one in French.

Description of the training program:

The training will be conducted online for a total of **28 hours delivered over 3 weeks in July and August 2021** (exact dates to be communicated to selected participants).

The training seeks to give participants in-depth knowledge on the GCF project lifecycle and build their capacity to develop a pipeline of sustainable energy projects for GCF financing. The program will cover a broad range of sustainable energy technologies, considering regional and country-specific challenges and opportunities. Participants will delve into the specific components of a GCF funding proposal and learn the logic of GCF funding. Participants will examine hands-on case studies of successful GCF proposals and concept notes to further complement the training.

The training program is divided into four thematic sequences, which progressively build understanding of the GCF funding process. Within each sequence, the learning modules will focus on specific themes that will combine presentations on knowledge and case studies as well as hands-on exercises that will have participants applying the specific skills.
The first sequence will introduce the training program and the GCF project lifecycle. Some of the modules will cover:
- Introductions of the participants to become familiar with backgrounds, work, and GCF projects
- The GCF Project Life Cycle
- An introduction to the concept notes and proposals of the GCF.

The second sequence will help participants build their skills with identifying, sourcing, and designing sustainable energy (SE) projects for GCF financing. Some of the modules will cover:
- An overview of various SE technologies and project concepts
- How to identify and plan of SE projects
- Resources for SE project design.

The third sequence will examine in greater detail the investment criteria for GCF projects. Some of the modules will cover:
- Developing a strong climate rationale in line with GCF investment criteria
- How to account for environmental and social impacts
- How to incorporate and operationalize gender constraints and opportunities.

The fourth sequence will focus on the financing components of GCF SE projects. Some of the modules will cover:
- Fundamentals of project financing for the GCF
- Assessing and addressing project risks
- How to approach financial and economic modeling and determining co-financing.
This training program targets **experts based in Africa that have direct involvement in the design and/or implementation of sustainable energy projects to harness GCF funding.**

In particular, it targets:

1. GCF National and Regional Accredited Entities (AEs) as well as organizations currently in the process of becoming accredited by the GCF
2. GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs)
3. Consulting and engineering firms providing services for the preparation of GCF concept notes and funding proposals.
4. Project proponents interested in accessing GCF funding through a partnership with the NDAs and AEs. The training will be delivered in two distinct sessions, one in English and one in French.

The program can accommodate up to 40 participants for the English sessions, and another 40 participants for the French sessions.

If more applications are received, participants will be selected based on their level of direct involvement in the preparation of GCF project proposals. The selection process will also seek to ensure a balanced representation from all regions across Africa, as well as a wide diversity of experience. Gender balance will also be taken into consideration.

To apply, please fill out this brief application questionnaire to allow us to better understand your experience, capabilities, and eligibility for the training program.

The deadline for applications is **July 9th, 2021, at 11:59 GMT**. Due to the large amount of applications, we will not be able to respond to each application. Successful applicants can expect to hear back within 2 weeks of the deadline. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. There is no fee to apply for or participate in the training program.

**Link to the application questionnaire**

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Hilda Mugoya hmugoya@cpcs.ca (for inquiries in English) or Mr. Ismael Ouedraogo iouedraogo@cpcs.ca (for inquiries in French).

Please copy Ms. A. Charlotte Eyong a.eyong@afdb.org in all emails.
Training organizers.

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The African Development Bank
The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group is Africa’s premier development financial institution. The Bank’s authorized capital is subscribed to by 54 regional member countries (RMCs) in Africa and 26 non-regional member countries (NRMCs). The Bank’s Climate Change and Green Growth Department and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Department, are leading the coordination of this training program.

CPCS Transcom Ltd.
CPCS is a Canadian-based consulting firm specializing and covering all aspects of the energy sector. CPCS undertakes projects dealing with, among many other areas: energy development strategies and policies; the structuring, development and implementation of bankable projects; market and institutional reform; and, transaction advisory. CPCS has decades of experience on the African continent, with offices in Abidjan, Dakar, Abuja, and Accra.