NABARD

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

NABARD's Experiences on GCF Accreditation Journey

Peer-to-Peer Exchange

IFAD
Investing in rural people

Agri-PDB Platform
Agricultural Public Development Bank Coalition

MAIIC
Malawi Agricultural & Industrial Investment Corporation plc

Agenda

GCF Architecture

- A **developing country** - access resources from GCF through an **Accredited Entity**.
- **Accredited Entities** (AEs) - partner with GCF and developing countries to develop and implement projects
- **Financial Instruments** - grants, contingent grants, concessional loans, equity, guarantees and results-based finance
- **National Designated Authorities (NDAs)** – interface between GCF and country.

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

Who can apply for accreditation?

NABARD

All Entities
International, regional, national and sub-national and public and private entities

Access Modality

Direct access modality: for regional, national and sub-national entities – nominated by NDA

International access modality: for international entities, including UN agencies, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and regional institutions

GCF's Assessment

- Fiduciary principles and standards
- Environmental and Social safeguards (ESS)
- Gender Policy

Basic fiduciary criteria

- Key administrative and financial capacities
- Transparency and accountability

Specialized fiduciary criteria

- Project management
- Grant award/funding allocation mechanisms
- On-lending/ blending

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

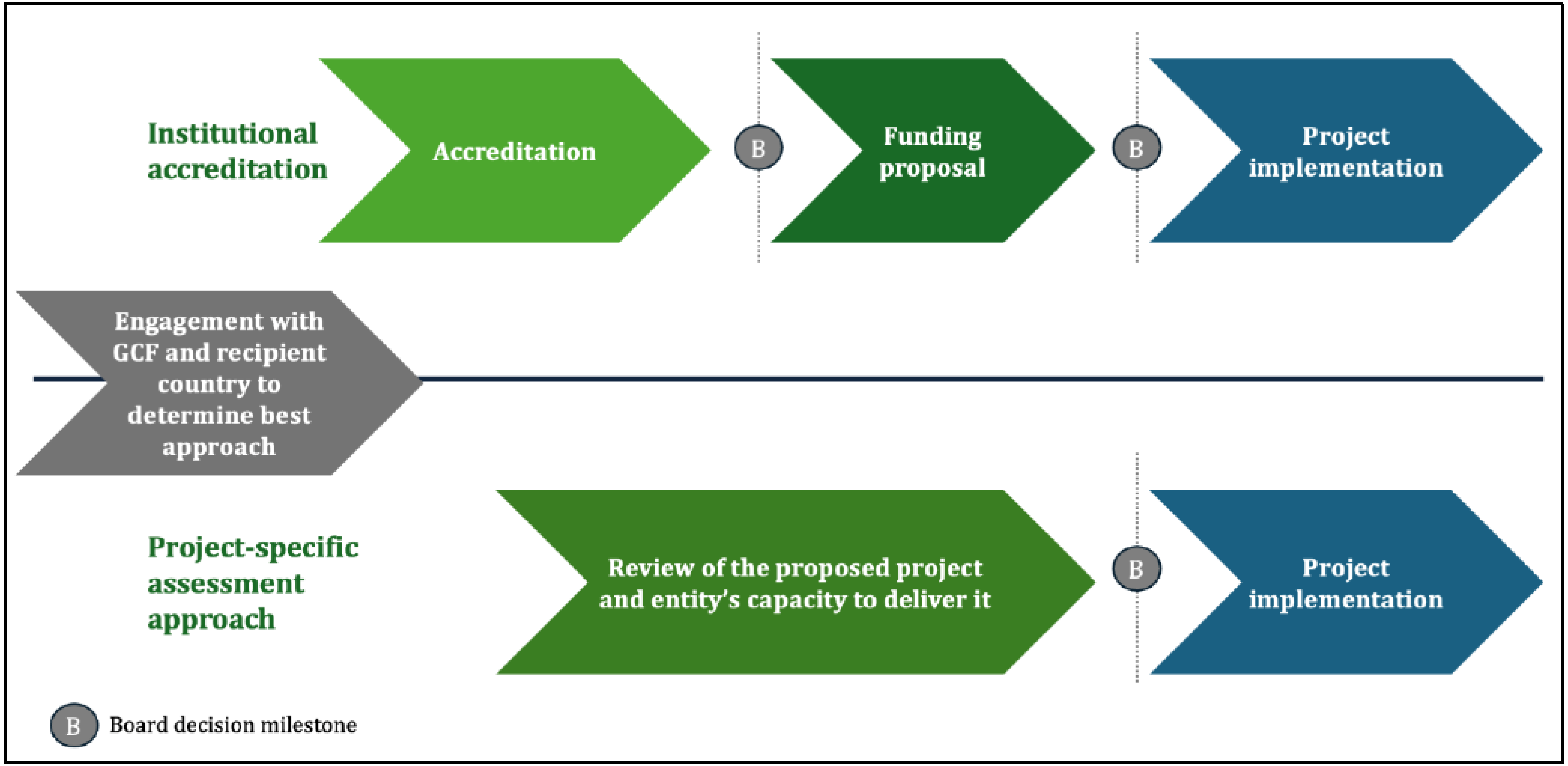
Revised Accreditation Framework

- Adopted in 2025 and effective from 31 October 2025
- Five-step process: nomination/self-nomination → pre-screening → application & fees → screening/review → Board decision.
- Pre-screening is now a mandatory entry point before a full accreditation application.
- Applications are organised into defined windows: two application windows per year, each open for two months.
- Review is designed around institutional readiness, predictability, transparency, efficiency and accountability.
- Accreditation no longer has a fixed term; ongoing monitoring and accountability replace periodic re-accreditation as the general model.

NABARD

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

Accreditation Approach of GCF



Accreditation Process

1. Government nomination or self-nomination

DAE – Govt Agencies : Nominated by NDA

DAE (non-govt.) : Self-nominate, in consultation with DAE

International Agencies : self-nominate

2. Pre-screening

Available year-round

Eligibility and capacity check

Invited for submission of accreditation applications, if passed.

3. Application and fees

Two application windows per year

two-month period

all required information and supporting documentation

Pay fee, if application is complete

4. Screening and report

Accreditation Panel (AP) and Secretariat will conduct the accreditation screening .

May seek additional information as needed

Respond timely

5. Board decision

AP recommends to Board

Board takes final decision

Confirmation certificate will be issued, if approved

Pre-accreditation preparation support under the country window of the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (Readiness Programme)

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

NABARD's Accreditation Journey

NABARD

- Accreditation date
  08 Jul 2015
- AMA execution date
  27 Jul 2017
- AMA effectiveness date
  31 Aug 2017
- Re-accreditation date
  19 Oct 2022
- Amended and restated AMA execution date
  01 Nov 2023
- Amended and restated AMA effectiveness date
  07 Aug 2024

NABARD's Accreditation Scope

Size : Large

ESS Category : Category B, I-2

Fiduciary standards :

- Basic,
- Project management,
- Grant award,
- On-lending/blending (Loan),
- On-lending/blending (Equity),
- On-lending/blending (Guarantee)

DCAS

Towards a Greener Future

Institutional Process

NABARD

1 ORGANISE	2 PLAN	3 ASSESS	4 MAP	5 EVIDENCE	6 RESPOND
Dedicated team + clear ownership	Accreditatio n workplan	Institutional gap assessment	requirements → existing processes	Controlled repository + records	Clarifications + functional sign-off

A. CONTROL THE WORK

- Formulate a dedicated team for the process.
- Create an accreditation workplan covering requirements, responsible departments, evidence, deadlines and status.
- Conduct the institutional gap assessment before applying.

B. BUILD ON WHAT EXISTS

- Map each GCF requirement to an existing institutional policy / process before creating anything new.
- Separate "policy gaps" from "implementation gaps" — they require different actions.

C. CONTROL THE EVIDENCE & RESPONSES

- Maintain a central, version-controlled evidence repository: policies, manuals, approvals, audit reports and sample project records.
- Maintain a question-and-response log for every clarification received from GCF.
- Clear every response with the functional owner and ensure it reflects actual institutional practice.

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

Composition of Accreditation Team

Senior Management

Risk / Compliance / Audit

Accreditation Coordination Unit

One nodal team to coordinate evidence, timelines, GCF interface, internal reviews and institutional memory.

Finance & Accounts

Legal & Governance

ESS & Gender

Project / Business Functions

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

Institutional readiness

NABARD

- ❑ Nominate an accountable senior officer with authority to coordinate across departments.
- ❑ Obtain clear management direction on the intended accreditation scope and strategic purpose.
- ❑ Ensure Board/committee oversight for policies, risk appetite, legal arrangements and material institutional commitments.
- ❑ Embed GCF-related responsibilities into normal governance—not as a parallel "climate project".
- ❑ Create escalation mechanisms for unresolved cross-departmental issues.
- ❑ Report progress periodically to the top management

Governance principle

Senior management owns the outcome; the nodal team owns coordination; functional departments own compliance.

Board role

Oversight, policy approval, risk and accountability—not day-to-day document preparation.

Avoid

A climate department carrying the entire accreditation burden while control functions remain detached.

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

Preparing for the Accreditation Panel

NABARD

- Expect questions to test whether the institution's stated systems are actually operational.
- Panel scrutiny may cover fiduciary systems, project management, ESS, gender, governance and specialized financial-intermediation functions, as applicable.
- Do not respond with policy language alone: provide a clear explanation plus evidence.
- Where a gap exists, explain the gap, risk, corrective action, responsible owner and expected completion.
- Use one institutional position—avoid contradictory answers from different departments.

Question

"How do you do this?"

Answer

Process + responsibility + evidence

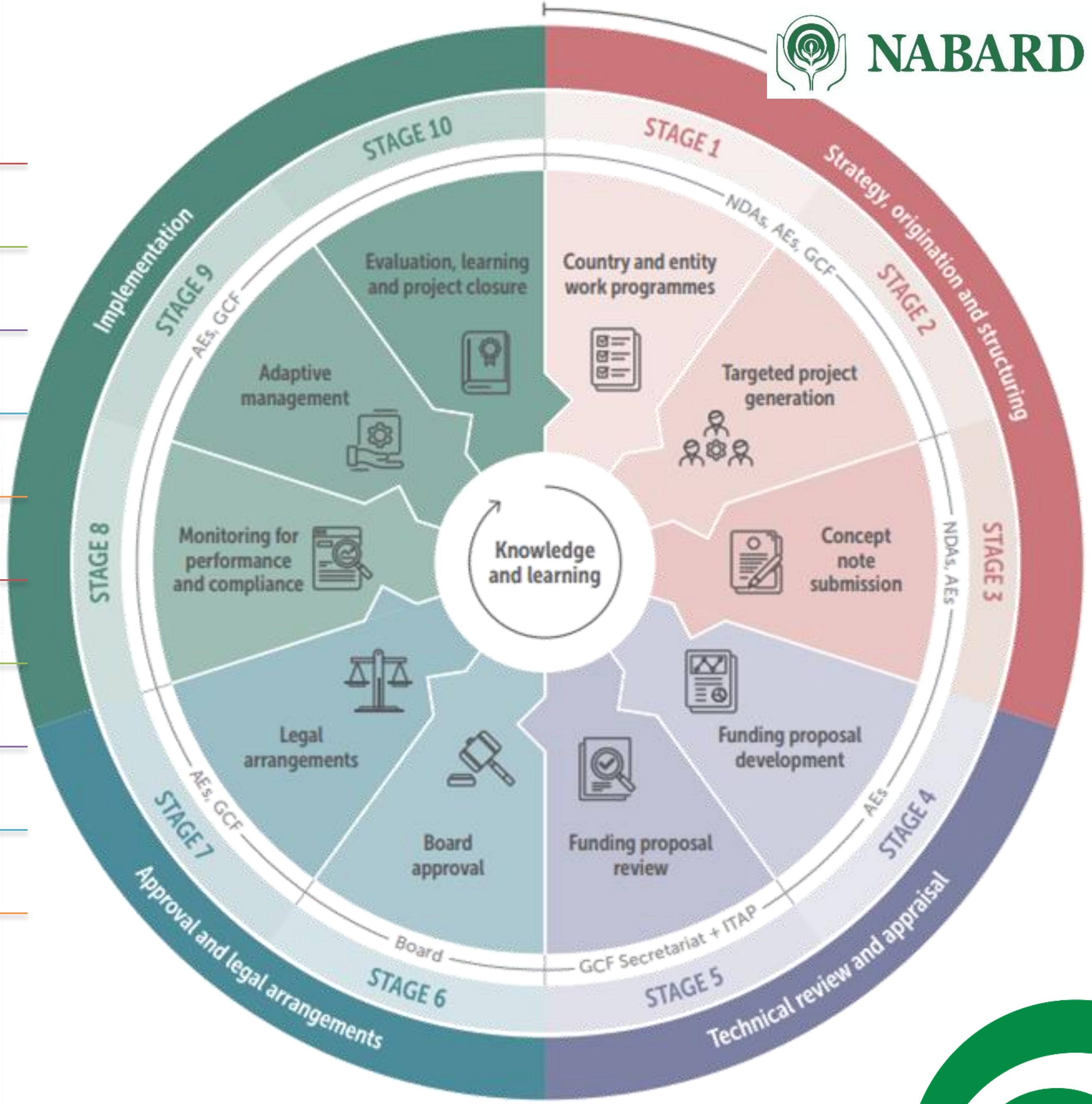
Best evidence

Actual transaction / project / audit / committee record

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

GCF Programming Cycle

1. Country and AE work programmes
2. Targeted generation of projects/programmes
3. Concept note submission
4. Funding proposal development
5. Funding proposal review
6. Board consideration
7. Legal arrangements and post-approval
8. Monitoring for performance and compliance
9. Adaptive management
10. Evaluation, learning and project closure



What Does a “GCF-Ready” Project Look Like?

NABARD

Climate rationale

✓ Clear climate problem & evidence
✓ Robust baseline
✓ Quantified adaptation / mitigation results

Investment case

✓ Six GCF criteria addressed
✓ Paradigm-shift pathway
✓ Development co-benefits
✓ GCF additionality

Financial structure

✓ Appropriate GCF instrument
✓ Financial / economic analysis
✓ Co-financing identified
✓ Mobilisation logic

Safeguards & inclusion

✓ ESS screening & due diligence
✓ Stakeholder engagement
✓ Gender assessment/action plan
✓ Grievance mechanism

Implementation readiness

✓ Clear arrangements
✓ Procurement strategy
✓ Results framework
✓ M&E and risk management

Country ownership

✓ NDA engaged early
✓ National policy alignment
✓ Stakeholder consultation
✓ NOL pathway

Final test

Is the project climate-driven, country-owned, financially justified, technically feasible, environmentally & socially sound, and capable of transformational results?

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

Requirements in the GCF proposal

NABARD

ADDITIONALITY OF GCF FUNDING
- Why GCF? Additionality component
- Project must co-finance on top of GCF

STRONG CLIMATE RATIONALE
- Climate impact of investment is key
- Scientific evidence to be provided

COUNTRY-DRIVEN APPROACH
- Alignment with nationally determined contributions
- Early country (national designated authority) engagement
- No-objection letter from MOEFCC

COMPLIANCE WITH GCF POLICIES
- Fiduciary standards
- Risk management
- Environment and social safeguards
- Monitoring and evaluation criteria
- Gender policy
- Legal standards

SIX INVESTMENT CRITERIA OF GCF

COMPLETENESS OF DOCUMENTATION
- Feasibility study
- Financial model
- Project timetable
- Gender analysis and action plan
- Environmental studies

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

Key Messages

NABARD

- Accreditation is an institutional transformation exercise—not a funding application.
- Start with a gap assessment and a clear institutional business case.
- Secure senior management ownership and create a strong cross-departmental coordination
- Demonstrate operational systems and evidence—not policies alone.
- Treat ESS, gender, fiduciary controls and risk management as core institutional functions.
- Decide accreditation scope strategically, based on real capacity and long-term objectives.
- Prepare systematically for Accreditation Panel scrutiny and clarification rounds.
- Build internal capacity and institutional memory so accreditation survives staff and changes.
- Project preparation comes next: accreditation creates the platform;

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

NABARD

Thank You

DCAS
Towards a Greener Future

Department of Climate Action and Sustainability (DCAS)
NABARD Head Office, Mumbai