



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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Sarah Champion MP  
Chair, International Development  
Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

4 August 2021

Dear Sarah,

At the oral evidence session on 20 July on the Committee's inquiry into Climate Change, Development and COP26, I undertook to provide you with some additional information.

There were three specific issues: 1) where time savings would be made as a result of the Simplified Approvals Process (SAP) at the Green Climate Fund (GCF); 2) an update on the Green Economic Growth programme; and 3) the European Capacity Building Initiative 'Women Negotiator Mentoring Initiative'.

### **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**

The GCF developed its Simplified Approvals Process (SAP) to reduce the time and effort needed in the preparation, review, approval and disbursement procedures for certain projects, in particular small-scale activities. Following a pilot phase, in which 23 projects for a value of \$208m have been approved through the SAP (74% in LDCs/SIDS/Africa), enhancements are being sought to further simplify and improve the process which could lead to approval times being reduced by over 100 days.

A proposal has been circulated to GCF Board Members for consideration ahead of the next Board meeting (October), which proposes a number of improvements to SAP which includes:

- 1) Expanding SAP eligibility to higher risk projects, thereby increasing the number of projects eligible;
- 2) Expanding SAP eligibility to projects seeking a higher volume of GCF finance (current ceiling is \$10m), thereby increasing the funding available and number of projects eligible;
- 3) Accelerating the approval of SAP projects through the use of written procedure between Board meetings, thereby reducing the time required for approval;

4) Further time savings could be secured through expanding facilitation support and financing for SAP project preparation including through tailored capacity building;

5) Further simplifying the documentation/information required for SAP proposals, and streamlining and accelerating the review process, thereby further reducing the time and effort needed to prepare and review SAP projects

6) Introducing 'fast tracking' of certain proposals, for example in climate impact areas widely demanded by developing countries or activities ready to be scaled up/replicated in coordination with other climate funds, thereby reducing the time/resource needed for project preparation

The UK strongly supports measures to improve access to GCF through an enhanced SAP and we are working with others to get this agreed at the Board meeting in October, in line with our risk appetite for the Fund.

### **Green Economic Growth Programme**

We have extended funding for the Green Economic Growth (GEG) programme to cover programme costs until December 2021. This was in response to a request from the Government of Indonesia to bridge the gap until alternative funding could be secured which would allow the programme to continue to its end date of September 2022.

### **Women Negotiator Mentoring Initiative**

The 'Women Negotiators' Network Initiative' is supported by the Climate Ambition Support Alliance (CASA) which the UK is supporting through International Climate Finance (ICF). CASA runs from 2019-2023 and is actively supporting the effective involvement and upskilling of women in the international climate negotiations process.



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