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GCF- SAP CREWS SCALING UP FRAMEWORK FOR EARLY WARNING

June 2023

FOREWORDS

In an era where the climate crisis is no longer a distant threat but an immediate reality, early warning systems (EWS) are crucial lifelines for communities bearing the brunt of extreme weather events.

Timely and reliable alerts of impending disasters not only make the difference between life and death, they have also proven to be a worthy investment. Economists estimate that every dollar spent on EWS can save ten in disaster-related costs.

The need for EWS is most urgent in the developing world. Almost 70% of all deaths from climate-related disasters have occurred in the 46 poorest countries, and one-third of the world's population—mainly in the least developed countries and small island developing states—lacks protection from EWS. In Africa, this figure increases to 60%.

Facing this challenge head-on, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has partnered with Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) to develop the GCF-SAP CREWS Scaling Up Framework for Early Warning. This initiative is laser-focused on deploying climate finance for EWS in developing nations. It is part of our ongoing efforts to streamline and accelerate access to GCF funds through the Simplified Approval Process, and is aligned with our strategic plan for the 2024-2027 programming cycle.

The framework is designed for impact. It accelerates approvals, strengthens partnerships in pursuit of common goals, and replicates successful EWS efforts where they are needed most, driving us toward the goal of Early Warnings for All.

This milestone lays the foundation for cooperation between GCF and CREWS. Together, we will enhance our joint support for Climate Information and Early Warning System (CIEWS) projects. We are building on what works and replicating CIEWS efforts that have demonstrated significant impact elsewhere through GCF support.

We will keep improving our efforts as we expand them. In the initial implementation phase, GCF and CREWS will focus on enhancing efficiency and maximizing impact, drawing on lessons learned and opportunities we identify. This collaboration will allow us to swiftly make enhancements to the speed and efficiency of our delivery.

I thank the CREWS team for their collaborative spirit and joint leadership in developing this approach. The more EWS we deploy, the more lives we can save, the more livelihoods we can protect, and the more information leaders have to make better decisions for a better future. The GCF is committed to closing significant information gaps and delivering investment impact in the countries and communities that need it the most.

Mafalda Duarte
Executive Director
Green Climate Fund

Driven by a changing climate, the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events and their widening impacts places an absolute requirement on us to move as fast as is possible to action at scale and with quality in increasing resilience.

Our collective aspiration to provide access to early warning systems to protect and enhance lives and livelihoods in the face of impacts of extreme events is central. Getting to scale and quality requires working in partnership with people and countries most exposed to impacts, including floods, droughts, heat and tropical cyclones and ensuring global climate funds and institutions are increasingly effective in enabling resilience to be strengthened at all levels. .

As a unique and specialised fund for climate action, it is the goal of CREWS to support countries and regions to build effective and sustainable early warning systems that are people-centered and enable anticipatory action. I am delighted to be able to promote coherence and collaborating with the GCF to find solutions together working with our strong network of national and regional entities.

The GCF and CREWS share the common objective of increasing resilience in developing countries and reducing risks of climate and disaster. 2023 has been a pivotal year with both funds joining forces to develop a structured approach for countries to benefit from simplified access to resources to effectively enhance their early warning systems. Our GCF-CREWS Scaling Up Framework for Early Warning is a collaborative undertaking to fast-track access to GCF finance through its Simplified Approval Process (SAP) for countries to scale-up CREWS successes.

I thank the GCF for this partnership. The United Kingdom is chairing CREWS and, shortly, also Co-Chairing the GCF Board and we look forward to seeing solid results under this Framework. We are challenging ourselves and our partners to be innovative and to think creatively so that we increasingly move from commitments to people-centred, sustainable results at scale. CREWS is entirely committed to playing its full part and I am deeply grateful we are sharing this challenge with partners.

Gerard Howe
Chair, CREWS Steering Committee

A. OVERVIEW

This Scaling-up Framework has been designed out of a collaborated effort to develop scale-up financing modalities for early warning systems (EWS). It follows decisions, in 2022, by the Boards of both the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS). The intention of the scaling-up Framework is to fast-track access to the GCF finance through its Simplified Approval Process (SAP) for countries with ongoing or recently completed CREWS projects.

At the UNFCCC COP27, in Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt, the Secretary-General of the United Nations presented an Executive Plan to achieve early warning for all within five years. The Plan calls for scaling-up financing on early warning systems. The call is aligned with GCF's programming strategy that recognizes that mitigation and adaptation efforts have to be scaled up. The CREWS Operational Plan 2021-2025 – Delivering At Scale also recognizes the need to scale up financing. The CREWS mission contributes to the GCF's results management framework Adaptation impact result areas.

This Framework is established to allow for enhanced country ownership of investments; scaling up successful actions financed by CREWS through the **GCF Simplified Approval Process (SAP)** funding proposals submitted by the GCF Accredited Entities (AEs); innovation by implementing tailored approaches; and enhanced sustainability of investments through delivering to scale and through leveraging additional financing.

The scope of this Framework is initially limited to the cooperation between GCF SAP-CREWS, which, through a process of piloting and gap-filling, can be subsequently updated to accommodate a phased approach to the scaling up of early warning across the full value chain, integrating, as relevant, other sources of financing and fostering of new partnerships.

In this context, this Framework offers both GCF-SAP and CREWS, a window of opportunity to increase access to early warning by scaling up financing for early warning through the fast-track access to the SAP which can provide funding of up to USD 25 million of GCF finance for projects and programmes that entails no to minimal environmental and social risks and impacts (Category C/I3 of the GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards framework), achieved through prior or on-going CREWS investments. Under this Framework, the complementarity and coherence in the design, execution and monitoring of CREWS and GCF-SAP action would be strengthened. Further, transaction costs and time efficiency would be reduced, especially for GCF Accredited Entities since the proposals would build on ongoing and proven effort of the CREWS investments and AEs could benefit from the technical support of the CREWS Implementing Partners during project preparation. AEs working together with CREWS provide opportunities for synergetic action with se and planned investments. Ultimately, proposals submitted to the GCF as a result of the implementation of this Framework are expected to benefit from a reduction of the time and efforts for the preparation and subsequent appraisal from the GCF and iTAP.

Finally, this Framework intends to significantly contribute to some of the key strategic areas identified by the GCF, particularly concerning enhancing access to GCF finance for EWS investments. As explained above, this increased access results from simplifying some of the requirements for GCF project preparation and appraisal (as detailed in section D). The benefits associated to the implementation of this framework are expected to be particularly relevant to GCF Direct Access Entities (DAEs) and vulnerable countries such as SIDS, LDCs and African States.

B. OBJECTIVE

The overall objective is to provide countries and GCF AEs an understanding of the process, incentives, and benefits to scale up successful early warning system CREWS projects via GCF-SAP projects.

More specifically, the Framework i) introduces the basic concept of what scaling up means in the context of the GCF SAP-CREWS cooperation, programming and project approval process; ii) an approach for identifying eligible projects for potential scaling-up with additional resources; iii) incentives and the benefits for AEs and countries ; and iv) the process and steps to operationalize the development of projects to be scaled-up under this approach.

C. SCALING UP IN THE CONTEXT OF GCF-CREWS PROGRAMMING

This Framework is prepared to scale-up existing CREWS-financed projects, which success can be built on, replicated and financed by the GCF Simplified Approval Process (SAP). The scaling up of the CREWS investments will build on projects that have produced successful results, are scalable and where high demand exists.

The definition of `scalable` in this context captures the expanding, adapting and sustaining successful policies, programs or projects¹ in the current CREWS projects while aligning with other ongoing and planned initiatives in the specific contexts, as well as leveraging opportunities for more effective scaling up and/or replication, to ensure quality of impact, scale and sustainability.

Widening geographical and early warning system elements scope: The scope of the GCF-SAP CREWS scaling-up framework covers several interrelated dimensions – quantitative, functional, and institutional² which will lead to impact at global, regional, national and community scale in line with CREWS value proposition and impact levels:

- i. **Quantitative:** A horizontal increase of the geographical spread through sequenced programming scaling up /scaling out of activities within the country or region (i.e., geographical and extending number of beneficiaries) to replicate the successful outcomes of phase 1 to a wider population.
- ii. **Functional:** A vertical increase in the scope of activity to address the remaining early warning gaps and to ensure it covers additional elements of the early warning value chain (see Figure 1) including integrating and/or enhancing early and anticipatory action in sectors such as agriculture as well as possible private sector engagement.
- iii. **Institutional Capacity Strengthening:** Scaling-up will build on the ongoing CREWS efforts of strengthening the capacities of the regional/national institutions for the four pillars of an effective early warning system. The scaling up action will be realized up or down the ladder from community to local to regional to national, and even supra-national institutions. At the national level, this institutional dimension would translate into for example strengthened or establishment of EWS strategic plans, increased budgets, human resource, and quality management systems.

1 Adapting the WorldBank (2005) definition of scaling up in “Reducing Poverty, Sustaining Growth: Scaling Up Poverty Reduction. Case Study Summaries,”

2 Uvin, P. and D. Miller (1994). “Scaling Up: Thinking through the Issues”



Figure 1: Early Warning Value Chain Pillars

Scaling up will require adjustments in the design of the initial scope including ensuring coherence and integration of activities with other sectors with early warning needs.

Country need, demand and leadership: The ongoing engagement with the regional or country projects, based on the CREWS Project performance reporting framework will allow the three current CREWS implementing partners (WMO, World Bank and UNDRR) of the CREWS projects (<https://www.crews-initiative-org/en/projects>), the NDAs, AEs and other collaborating partners to understand the existing level of demand and need and on what would be required to address the GCF requirements for SAP-able projects. The already established processes of multi-stakeholder consultations will accelerate necessary interactions on the design (or co-design) of the scaled-up project allowing necessary time to engage with the AE including GCF Direct Access Entities (DAEs), when available, that would submit the SAP Funding Proposal to the GCF.

Country ownership is a fundamental principle for the GCF and essential in each funding proposal submitted by the AEs. Similarly, for the CREWS projects, country ownership is already part of its value proposition for projects that are approved by the CREWS Steering Committee for funding support. Proposals submitted to the GCF will need to receive a No-Objection Letter (NOL) as per the no objection procedure adopted by decision B.08/10³. Each country in which the project/programme is to be implemented needs to issue an NOL via the GCF National Designated Authority (NDA), and are required to be provided to the Board for consideration as part of the project documentation. When the NOL is not presented to the Board for consideration, it will be requested within 30 days from approval.

3 <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/no-objection-letter-template>

Fostering new partnerships and maintaining synergetic action: In this context, scaling up includes fostering new partnerships and stakeholder engagement, and additional resources (financially and technically). Furthermore, this Framework considers the benefits for people and institutions exposed to climate extreme events and the need to enhance community-based early warning experiences for example through the current collaboration with institutions working on early and anticipatory action following a warning, which will be strengthened as well as with other strategic and communication partners. The needs and assessment of vulnerable target population will be aligned with the GCF investment criteria (“Needs of the Recipient”) to be considered for the selection of the projects. This is important for informing the CREWS operational procedures and in influencing project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of people-centered, risk-informed early warning services. As part of the consultation process during the proposal design phase (co-design), the AEs will engage with the relevant technical partners involved in early warning systems in the country of action. The strengthening of governance and institutional aspects that provide enabling conditions for scaling, such as political, policy and regulatory requirements and which are relevant to successful scaling of early warning interventions in the countries concerned have been identified as part of the success criteria and also part of the on-going capacity and institutional strengthening already undertaken by CREWS and which will be sustained and advanced during scaling up phase as required in each project context.

Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries: The estimation of actual number of direct beneficiaries would be based on the delivery of EWS services and products to targeted sectors (in target countries or regions); and based on access to improved forecasts and more timely early warnings. Through collaboration with the early and anticipatory action actors, the national disaster risk management (DRM) institutions, and NGOs, humanitarian agencies and UN partners on the ground for the development and implementation of MH-IBF-EWS, the indirect beneficiaries will be reached with relevant EWS. The projects under the framework are expected to have a direct scale of the number of beneficiaries in the target countries with the implementation of the scaled up proposal (Phase 2 project). This is aligned with the GCF Impact Potential Investment Criteria and will be a core element of the GCF SAP proposal. Finally, by focusing on preparedness, the interventions will contribute to early action; and therefore, working with partners that are supported by other initiatives and projects, direct and indirect beneficiaries of the population will benefit from the project. The scaling up Framework therefore adopts a people-centered co-design approach that integrates actors into processes of planning, implementation and monitoring action from first to last mile.

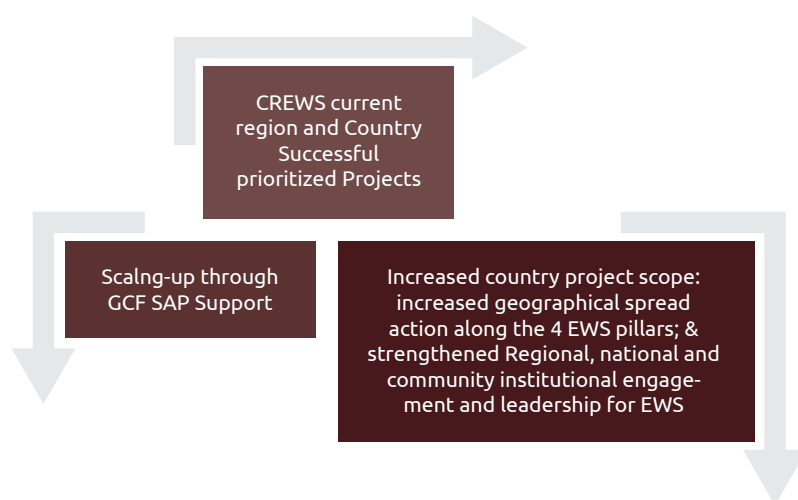


Figure 2: Scaling up process in the context of GCF-CREWS cooperation

The transition from the current CREWS action to the scaled-up action will remain seamless and planning for the scaling-up project can take place at any time during the implementation of the CREWS project – as a continuing action or as an additional EWS dimension, as long as the success criteria are met and demonstrated. CREWS is in continuous engagement with the projects and the EWS demands and needs are therefore easily identified and communicated by the countries.

Beyond the project timeline, sector-specific services will be scaled-up and replicated to other priority sectors building on the methodologies, capacity building, technical support and lessons learned from the current CREWS and scaled up CREWS GCF-SAP projects.

The scaling up Framework takes account of the regional dimension: CREWS has existing regional projects that will also be considered for scaling up. The CREWS regional projects integrate aspects that underpin collaboration, harmonization of approaches, and knowledge sharing, providing an opportunity for countries to leverage each other's strengths and capitalize on successful national initiatives.

D. BENEFITS & INCENTIVES

Under this Framework, financing opportunities are leveraged for more effective scaling up and/or replication, to ensure quality of impact, enhanced scale and sustainability of CREWS and GCF actions. It enhances complementarity and coherence in the design, execution and monitoring of CREWS and GCF-SAP action). The following benefits and incentives for countries and entities are expected:

1. **Enhanced access to further resources for early warning systems to enhance the impact of the GCF SAP-CREWS interventions** while optimizing available processes and resources. The Framework offers accelerated climate finance supporting the most vulnerable countries and enhancing climate information and EWS (eligibility criteria capture needs and vulnerabilities). The CREWS GCF-SAP scaling up will be based on the GCF-SAP threshold of USD 25million of GCF funding per project (not total project cost).
2. **Sustainability and continuation of results achieved by the CREWS interventions.** Project proposals will be fully fledged proposals, comprehensively covering the full value with sustainability aspects based on context and needs. This will take account of the EWS elements not covered under the first interventions by CREWS, but which are required by the country. Additionally, the scaling up will address the necessary expansion of the geographical scope.
3. **Reduced transaction costs and time efficiency in the overall project cycle.** The GCF-SAP investments build on the ongoing and proven effort of the CREWS investments. Some of the required phases, e.g., feasibility studies normally required will be accelerated given that existing networks will enable quick updates of required data or assessments. The GCF will also streamline the review of the proposals with a fit-for-purpose review by focusing on the scale-up elements of the projects that are added to the Phase 1 proposal.
4. **Synergetic action with other investments** (incl. other GCF investment modalities; bilateral funding; WB; AFD, ADB, UNDP; UNEP GEF, AfDB, IDB, etc.) providing opportunities to link with existing or planned investment in infrastructure, equipment and training.

Table 1. Summary of Scaling-up framework Benefits and Incentives

GCF	CREWS	COUNTRIES	AEs
<p>Contributes to the realization of the GCF Strategic Plan 2020-2023 through the different paradigm-shifting pathways to advance access to Climate Information and EWS;</p> <p>Transformational planning and programming; catalyzing climate innovation;</p> <p>Mobilization of finance at scale and coalitions and knowledge to scale up success.</p> <p>Alignment with other ongoing and planned initiatives in the specific regional/ country contexts.</p> <p>Coalitions and knowledge to scale up successes and enhance climate resilience and adaptation at global, regional and country levels.</p>	<p>Contributes to the realization of the objective of the CREWS Operational Plan 2021-2025 to deliver to scale;</p> <p>Offers a structured approach to facilitate the systematic scale-up of successful CREWS projects through simplified access to financing through the GCF Simplified Approval Process (SAP);</p> <p>SAP enhances complementarity and coherence in the design, execution, and monitoring of action by offering a sequenced fast-track process that accelerates funds for greater coverage of EWS;</p> <p>Contributes to the realization of the UNSG call for EWS for all in the next 5 years - CREWS projects will contribute to economies of scale;</p> <p>Opportunities for optimal use of investment resources available to enhance the geographical, and technical scope as well as institutional strengthening (i.e. quantitative, functional, and institutional dimensions).</p>	<p>Accelerated NDAs response to the UNSG call for “Early Warning for All” - countries can have an accelerated funding process for realizing the UNSG call for early warning for all.</p> <p>The project ideas and investments are already aligned with current and specific local EWS needs and planning – further action will promote country ownership and leadership⁴;</p> <p>Accelerated support for long-term planning and preparedness and promotion of climate-resilient development.</p> <p>Sequenced programming through access to further resources contributes to the achievement of sustainable ‘last mile’ effectiveness;</p> <p>New strategic partnerships and design of projects that cover the whole EWS value chain.</p> <p>Strengthened institutional capacities of the national meteorological and hydrological services NMHSs (who are the official and authoritative providers of early warnings.</p> <p>Possibility of advance submissions into a reservoir of EWS scale-up project proposals (‘Incubator’) – ready-to-go fundable projects.</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement mechanisms are already established (may require new partnerships to be engaged in some cases) and action is proven.</p> <p>Greater access opportunities for GCF funds through SAP.</p> <p>Simplified template with fewer questions. The review process is expected to benefit from a reduced time and efforts in the development and appraisal by the GCF.</p> <p>The proposals submitted under the framework can be directly as a Funding Proposal and start the GCF activity cycle at stage 5.</p> <p>Access to CREWS Partners’ leveraged technical support towards developing well-supported, climate-focused project proposals.</p>

4 DAEs encouraged to submit proposals - the engagement of DAEs fosters greater access to GCF resources for accelerated country response to the UNSG call for EWS for all within the next 5 years and leads to strengthened capacities for more effective delivery of EW services and anticipatory action. It is anticipated that the capacities of the national meteorological and hydrological services NMHSs (who are the official and authoritative providers of early warnings in line with UN Global Early Warning Initiative, endorsed in June 2012) will be strengthened.

E. PRINCIPLES & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Based on the definition of scaling up provided above, the following principles and criteria will enable the identification of successful CREWS projects for scaling up. This eligibility criterion is closely aligned with both the current GCF and CREWS value propositions and will be adjusted as necessary during the piloting phase of the Framework that will be undertaken by GCF-SAP.

Table 2: Principles and Criteria for selecting scalable CREWS projects

Basic Requirements	Means of verification
Principle/Criteria	
Project alignment with country climate policies and strategies.	
<p>The project is aligned with and contributes to the realization of the countries' national policies, strategies and plans.</p> <p>The project ideas and investments are already aligned with current and specific local EWS needs and planning (country-driven & demonstrates country ownership).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has made a contribution to the country's sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. (For example, the Project refers to and/or has contributed to either the national development plans, NDCs, or NAPs). • Evidence of target Country budget prioritization of investments in EWS; • Existence of, or ongoing efforts for an EWS Strategy or Plan; • The Project, i.e. need/demand, is identified by the country in consultation with the NDA including confirmation of their support to the Project/Programme and, when applicable, inclusion in their GCF Country Work Programme. • Evidence of EWS institutional and human capacity strengthening from the Phase 1 action – e.g. there is a demonstration of better EWS delivery and communication by the NMHSs and/or there is improved weather and climate services to the country/countries through the regional initiatives). • Evidence of gender-sensitive programming in the CREWS projects progress reporting • Country's commitment to comply with GBON standards through formally requesting support from the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF); evidence of leveraging to SOFF's financing priorities
Principle/Criteria	
Successful project review	
<p>The project can prove scalability through available a) updated Baselines, b) Progress reports/Annual reports and c) Evaluations (assessing the efficiency and quality of implementation and results of Phase 1 of the Project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to updated country baseline information (with changes in the Outcome and Impact indicators of the project in the CREWS phase 1); • Available semi-annual narrative report of activities/Annual results-based report (with information on progress in implementation, potential risks and lessons learned); • Available Mid-term evaluation and/or Final evaluation reports (reflecting contributions to the CREWS objectives & highlighting EWS gaps and areas for further interventions to be covered in the subsequent stages of implementation).

Basic Requirements	Means of verification
Principle/Criteria	
Project sustainability	
<p>The project provides evidence that the result or process supported by the project will be sustainable and has the potential for continuation or enlargement in terms of size and volume during the implementation and once the project is ended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress review and/or monitoring documents with highlights on current coverage and recommendations of necessary additional geographical and functional scope (additional elements of the early warning value chain and needs for anticipatory action); • Sustainability Plan (with exit strategy with evidence of how partnerships will be catalyzed especially the possible synergies with other infrastructure projects; • A robust Communication Plan to cover the EWS value chain and reach last-mile users (integrating any new strategic and communication partners) • Training plans (on EWS-related tools, products and services). • Operations and Maintenance (O and M) including plans for mobilizing innovative financing e.g. through private sector engagement;
Principle/Criteria	
Potential to maximize climate impacts	
<p>The project demonstrates evidence of potential for maximizing the climate benefits (increasing resilience and leading to reduction of climate and disaster risks) for the targeted communities and countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of plans to establish synergies or continue collaboration with planned or existing large regional or country infrastructure projects to catalyze further investments and leverage opportunities for national, regional, and global climate impacts. • The action builds on existing regional/country innovations and pilot interventions successfully implemented by other funds (to build on efforts and avoid duplication. • Evidence of systems for resilience linking to users – e.g. project engagement with the last mile actors (as necessary the integration of strategic and communication partnerships – • The project will result in new and/or additional beneficiaries. • Climate information accessible to socio-economic sectors⁵ - application of weather, climate and hydromet services by sectors – targeted EWS products and services; • Promotion of private sector engagement (desirable) - climate information accessible to insurance for decision-making and for business development support.

⁵ User sectors include: agriculture, aviation, construction, disaster risk reduction, energy, environment, health, marine, tourism, transport, urban, water

Basic Requirements	Means of verification
Principle/Criteria	
Leveraging potential	
The Project's partnership model demonstrates the collaboration of national technical agencies to avoid silos and competing objectives for funding between Hydromet, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping reports of planned and existing initiatives and highlighting linkages with the new proposed action; • Signed Letters of exchange, and Memorandum of Understanding allowing for the co-designing, implementation and monitoring of the EWS action with the relevant mandated public sector as well as the private sector actors as relevant; • Project Workplan reflecting the different roles and responsibilities of the different partners from the first-to-last mile of EWS; • Evidence of active and ongoing multi-stakeholder consultations including with non-accredited organizations - identifying synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts.

Both CREWS and GCF invest in country and regional projects; the CREWS investments in the regional projects vary: some of the regional projects have a specific focus on countries while other regional projects are purely regional in focus with no country-level interventions. It is therefore important that this scaling-up Framework considers the needs of countries under the regional projects taking account of the existing vulnerabilities and specific needs (e.g. through the country diagnostics studies).

In order to effectively align with the timeline for piloting the scaling-up Framework, Direct Access Entities are encouraged to express interest. To show documented evidence of the potential impact of the CREWS projects that are still under implementation, successful results will be determined through assessment/diagnostic reports, annual progress reports, mid-term reviews, and final evaluation and other reviews as relevant.

F. PROCESS & STEPS FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE SCALING UP FRAMEWORK

This Scaling-Up framework presents a catalytic scaling-up of successful CREWS projects (meeting the eligibility criteria presented under Section E). The process of operationalization takes account of both GCF and CREWS processes of programming and project design, preparation, review, and approvals in line with the existing standards and procedures as summarized in Figure 3 below.

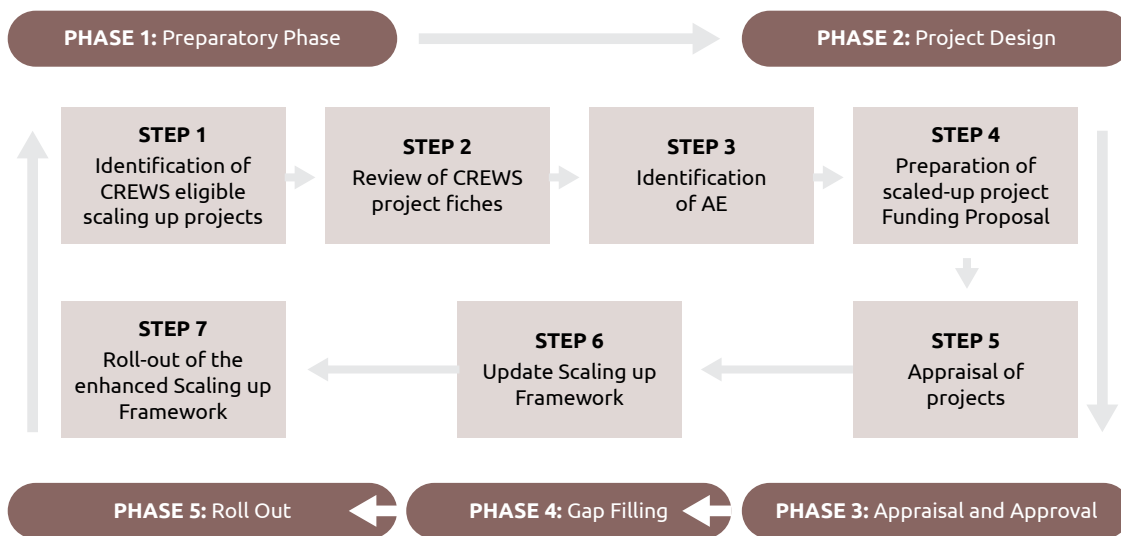


Figure 3: Operationalization process of the scaling up Framework

The stages and processes, (input, action, and outputs) including respective roles and responsibilities that will enable the roll-out of the scaling up Framework are presented below and will entail 7 key steps organized under 5 Phases:

1. Preparatory Phase;
2. Project design Phase;
3. Piloting -Review of project ideas/proposals, approval and fund disbursement;
4. Gap-filling and publishing of enhanced scaling-up Framework
5. Roll-out phase

1. PREPARATORY PHASE

Steps 1 Identification of eligible scaling-up projects and **Step 2: Review and approve the List of eligible projects.** This process will take place in the first 3 months. This preparatory phase will commence with the CREWS Secretariat applying the scaling-up principles and criteria to identify potential scaling-up projects and submit a pipeline of projects to the GCF-SAP Secretariat. This is an iterative process of consultation with the CREWS Implementing Partners, the CREWS secretariat, and partner countries. Once projects are prioritized and countries show interest, consultations should be held with GCF Secretariat as early as possible to have better understanding of the project idea, requirements for scaling-up, the available support for proposal preparation and the timelines.

Other factors that would be considered at this stage include (but are not limited to) the approval and implementation period of the CREWS projects, the contacts, and key agencies, the expected date for conclusion, the status of disbursement of the project funds, existing evidence of progress made by the project, lessons learned from the outcomes, the current EWS of the country, other EWS planned and on-going pilot initiatives or full-fledged infrastructure projects, level of institutional capacities for project management.

CREWS and GCF will also review the list of pipeline projects against the current GCF portfolio of projects including the GCF's pipeline projects in order to leverage potential funding opportunities that could be available, taking into account the GCF priorities and procedures applicable to the country contexts, as well as relevant compatibilities with the GCF SAP proposal approval process. In particular, taking note of the fact that the projects that are eligible for SAP should be micro or small-scale with minimal to no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts.

As relevant, the CREWS implementing partners will provide necessary technical advice and/or support to the NDAs and AEs in detailing the project idea based on their respective expertise and skills.

The existing monitoring and evaluation CREWS framework will be enhanced and will continue to be used. The GCF-SAP will also apply its existing monitoring and results framework.

2. PROJECT DESIGN PHASE

This phase covers **Step 3 (Identification of AE)** **Step 4 (Preparation of scaled-up project Funding proposal).** This entails the following:

- i. Expression of interest from countries and AEs leading to submission of the project idea/full proposal development in line with GCF-SAP requirements and the internal GCF procedures;
- ii. Engagement of the leading AE and NDA to start developing the Funding Proposal package, including preparation of timelines for the development of the FP and identification of technical assistance needs (if applicable); and
- iii. Submission of the SAP Funding Proposal to the GCF by the Accredited Entity;

The engagement with stakeholders should include implementing entities involved in phase 1 to the extent possible, with the objective of maximizing potential synergies and leverage know-how and existing support frameworks necessary during the stakeholder engagement for the preparation of the Phase 2 project.

Step 3 will be carried out by the GCF Secretariat with support of CREWS Secretariat. Furthermore, Step 3 entails close consultations between the GCF and CREWS Secretariats with the CREWS implementing partner for the selected projects. This is particularly important for the exchange of updated information regarding project outcomes, lessons, and potential EWS areas of need – once the countries selected for scaling up have expressed interest. In Step 4, Project preparation to commence through a GCF accredited entity. The scaled-up proposal would build on the lessons and/or outcomes of the CREWS intervention (which may be completed or ongoing).

3. APPRAISAL AND REVIEW PHASE

The Appraisal and Review Phase covers the activities under **Step 5 (Appraisal and Review)** and will take place between months 19-24. This step entails the submission of the scaled-up proposals by a GCF AE, GCF review, GCF Board approval & disbursement of funds. The target would be at least 3-5 GCF Board-approved projects from the list of CREWS priority projects that meet the eligibility criteria, receiving GCF-SAP funds. The SAP funds should be disbursed within 3 months of the GCF Board approval of the project.

The GCF steps and indicative timelines for project proposal reviews are shown below:

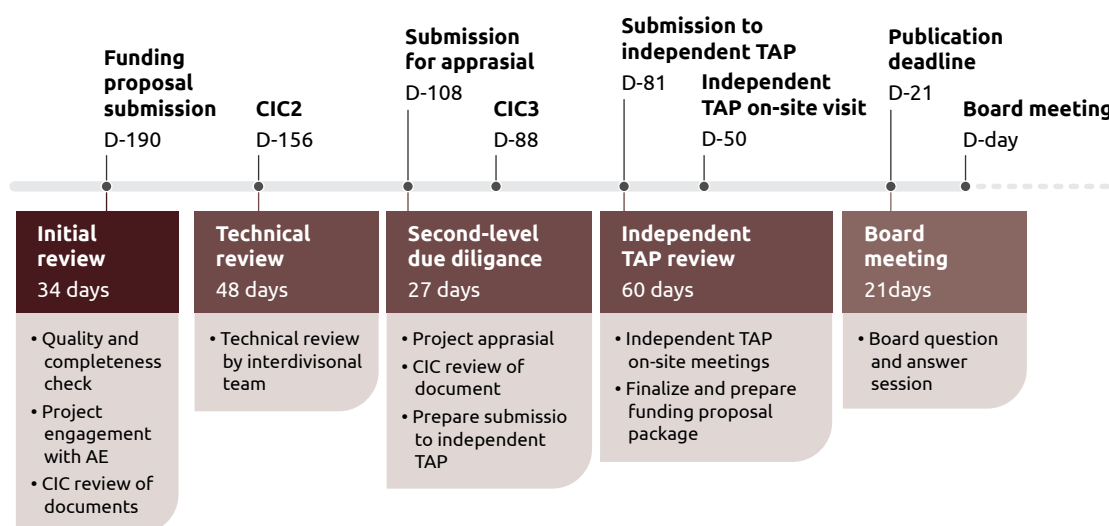


Figure 4: Summary of GCF process and timelines for project proposal review and approval

4. GAP-FILLING AND PUBLISHING OF THE ENHANCED SCALING-UP FRAMEWORK

Steps 6 (Updated Scaling-up Framework) will take place in the months 24-28 after funds disbursement to at least 3-5 GCF Board approved projects. Regional workshops could be organized to inform on the updated scaling up Framework and to share the lessons learnt. The Scaling-up Framework is a living document that will be adjusted and informed by the ongoing GCF SAP-CREWS operationalization through the identified projects - to ensure a continuous process of gap-filling (as necessary), further scale-up and sustainability of results. It is foreseen that every two years the lessons drawn from the GCF SAP-CREWS projects will be integrated into the Framework resulting in further refinement and/or adaptation to changing work programmes and development priorities or in alignment with EWS-related policies.

5. ROLL-OUT PHASE

The roll-out phase will commence after the initial 2 years (of testing and refining the scaling up Framework) and will involve the fostering of new partnerships, leveraging of additional resources to integrate innovative financing opportunities from both the public and private domains (enhancing partnerships) that could support and sustain bigger financing windows for the countries and regions.

The roll-out phase will target 3 to 7 projects (taking into account eligibility of both the specific country projects and multi-country /regional programmes).

As part of the roll-out phase, the current CREWS Monitoring and Evaluation (M and E) framework will be made more robust to accommodate the additional elements, to enable articulation and further integration of cross-cutting issues (including gender dimensions, governance and institutional strengthening) in the design, implementation and monitoring stages, as well as the alignment with the different global, regional and national development policy reporting.

Table3: Summary of the Steps for the Operationalization of the GCF-SAP CREWS Scaling up Framework

1. PREPARATORY PHASE (MONTH 1-6)	
STEP I: Identification of CREWS eligible scaling up projects Responsible: CREWS Secretariat	INPUT: CREWS Phase 1 current project portfolio
ACTION CREWS Secretariat: Apply the scaling up principles and criteria to identify potential scaling-up projects & submit priority proposals to GCF Consultations by the CREWS Implementing Partner, CREWS secretariat, CREWS program managers and beneficiary countries.	OUTPUT CREWS list of Eligible projects with a project fiche per project containing the following detail: including a description of the project objectives, key activities and main outputs, an estimation of the applicable GCF core impact indicators of the project, budget review; updated baselines; Mid-term and or final evaluation reports) and a gap mapping against the EWS value chain pillars
STEP II: Review of CREWS project fiches Responsible: GCF and CREWS Secretariats	INPUT: CREWS-List of eligible project fiches
ACTION GCF Secretariat review of CREWS priority list of eligible projects (Cross-check against GCF Pipeline and other standards/procedures and priority) GCF internal review to check alignment with SAP eligibility criteria , including a confirmation of the Country Ownership CREWS and GCF Secretariats to jointly confirm the pipeline of projects	OUTPUT GCF-CREWS Confirmed eligible SAP projects

2. PROJECT DESIGN PHASE (MONTHS 6-9)

STEP III:

Identification of AE

Responsible: GCF Secretariat

INPUT:

GCF-CREWS Confirmed eligible SAP projects

ACTION

GCF dialogue with AEs and NDAs to confirm interest and support to scale-up the eligible CREWS project.

(Timing recommended: in the final 2 years of the project implementation after Mid-term review report is available).

OUTPUT

Identification of GCF Accredited Entities to lead the Funding Proposal development

2. PROJECT DESIGN PHASE (MONTHS 10 - 18)

STEP IV:

Preparation of scaled- up project Funding Proposal

Responsible: GCF Accredited Entity

INPUT:

AE identified as sponsor of the GCF Funding Proposal

ACTION

The identified AE will establish a roadmap for the development of the Funding Proposal, including the possibility of support from Project Preparation Facility (PPF).

AE/NDA request CREWS Technical Assistance to support preparation of quality proposals

The GCF AE develops a Funding Proposal package for submission to the GCF

OUTPUT

SAP Funding Proposal submitted to the GCF Secretariat⁶

3. APPRAISAL AND APPROVAL PHASE (MONTHS 19-24)

STEP V:

Appraisal of projects

Responsible: GCF Secretariat and Accredited

INPUT:

SAP Funding Proposal submitted to the GCF

ACTION

GCF to engage with the AE for the review and appraisal of the Funding Proposal

GCF inform CREWS of the project development and endorsement by the GCF

CREWS Informs SC of selected countries and when GCF Board approves

Review of the GCF Funding Proposal by GCF, Board approval and fund disbursement to 3-7 projects

OUTPUT

GCF Board decision on the project approval

Project to start implementation

⁶ If PPF support is requested, a SAP Concept Note might be needed.

4. GAP-FILLING PHASE	
STEP VI: Update Scaling up Framework with lessons from Pilot Phase Responsible: GCF Secretariat, CREWS Secretariat	INPUT: Project /programme implementation progress review reports. Rapid review of the Scaling up Framework
ACTION GCF to engage with the AE for the review and appraisal of the Funding Proposal GCF inform CREWS of the project development and endorsement by the GCF CREWS Informs SC of selected countries and when GCF Board approves Review of the GCF Funding Proposal by GCF, Board approval and fund disbursement to 3-7 projects	OUTPUT GCF Board decision on the project approval Project to start implementation
5. ROLL-OUT PHASE (NEW CYCLE COMMENCES AFTER THE FIRST 24 MONTHS OF PILOTING THE FRAMEWORK)	
STEP VII: Roll-out of the enhanced Scaling up Framework Responsible: GCF Secretariat, CREWS Secretariat	INPUT: Enhanced scaling up Framework draft
ACTION GCF informs its Board on GCF-CREWS cooperation for scaling up through SAP CREWS informs SC on GCF-CREWS cooperation for scaling up through SAP and on approved SAP projects Apply GCF procedures for project submissions and review of full funding proposals and timelines GCF and CREWS to work on a communication plan	OUTPUT Enhanced Framework Roll-out following established GCF-SAP CREWS scaling project eligibility criteria

G. COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

The current GCF SAP-CREWS cooperation has an already established coordination mechanism with focal points within their secretariats responsible for overseeing the planning, development and operationalization of the scaling up Framework. A coordination and communication plan will be defined to enhance information sharing and flow especially with the SAP email account (sap@gcfund.org). Coordination and information exchange will be sustained and harmonized further to ensure timely and efficient exchange of information across the two secretariats and with the programme managers, implementing partners, AEs, national level projects focal points and related stakeholders. Both CREWS and GCF will further coordinate efforts related to project planning, design, monitoring implementation progress, monitoring and evaluation (including necessary joint evaluations).

At the level of planning, regular coordination meetings will be held to discuss the list of projects proposed for scaling up as described under Steps 1 and 2 above. The GCF and CREWS secretariats will also harmonize the necessary technical expertise needed to be leveraged and the necessary provisions will be aligned with existing processes and procedures.

Given that some of the activities undertaken under CREWS funding and GCF will overlap and remain complementary, efficient coordination and communication remain vital, especially in capturing lessons and knowledge sharing and making necessary adaptations (e.g. agreeing on which studies may need updating). The GCF and CREWS Secretariats will, therefore, ensure collaboration in generating and disseminating knowledge products, showcasing scaling-up interventions between countries and entities (cross-learning).

Both Secretariats will explore and identify opportunities for possible outreach (global, continental, country) and engagement with interested countries and entities involved in the financing, design, review, and implementation processes.

H. LEVERAGING POTENTIAL

Although this scaling-up Framework is in this initial phase focusing on scaling up CREWS' successful projects through fast-tracking through access to GCF SAP, it is not the only way to scale up CREWS funding hence other larger investments need to be leveraged. Once the Framework is demonstrated during the initial phase, it will continue to undergo a process of refinement including adjusting the eligibility criteria and being more adaptable to a phased approach to scaling up and scaling out.

The roll-out phase will involve not just the fostering of new partnerships, but also the leveraging of additional resources to integrate innovative financing opportunities from both the public and private domains to support and sustain bigger financing windows for the countries and regions for accelerating the realization of EWS for all. This scaling-up Framework, therefore, provides a great opportunity for the Scaling-up Framework on Early Warning and an important contribution to the Early Warning for All Initiative.



The CREWS Initiative gratefully acknowledges the support of:

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Austria



Canada



Finland



France



Germany



Luxembourg



Monaco



Netherlands



Norway



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