

USAID Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA)

Addendum 05 to the Climate Finance Annual Program Statement (No. 2024-0016-APS)

Scaling Innovative Green and Resilient Enterprises and Projects in Fiji and Papua New Guinea

Funding Opportunity Title	Scaling Innovative Green and Resilient Enterprises and Projects in Fiji and Papua New Guinea
Announcement Type	Addendum 005 under the CFDA General APS
Issuance Date	January 7, 2025
Deadline For Questions	January 27, 2025, 11:59pm EST
Close Date for Concept Notes	April 16, 2025, 11:59pm EST
Submit Concept Notes	Submission Portal

Section I – Background

Pacific Island countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change, lacking sufficient resources and capacity to effectively adapt. With limited access to domestic finance, the Pacific Island Countries need to secure climate finance to enhance climate adaptation efforts. However, they face challenges accessing multilateral climate funds due to institutional and human resource constraints. Additionally, SMEs in the region struggle to identify and implement necessary investments to reduce climate vulnerability, with many unaware of the risk climate change poses to their financial viability.

The USAID Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA) - Pacific Islands Green and Resilient Investment Activity, in collaboration with USAID, aims to strengthen Pacific Island Countries' capacity to access and manage climate finance for mitigation and adaptation efforts. This buy-in supports CFDA's Objective 1: "Develop and Scale Effective Partnerships and Solutions to Achieve Transformational Change. The Pacific Islands Green and Resilient Investment Activity will close on August 25, 2025.

Section II – Program Objectives

Through the *Scaling Innovative Green and Resilient Enterprises and Projects in Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG)* funding opportunity, CFDA is soliciting concepts from climate positive enterprises, accelerators, or projects that will deliver significant outcomes for resilience in Fiji and PNG.

Relevant concepts may include (but are not limited to):

- Scaling country-specific or regional funds that are focused on investing in green and resilient enterprises or solutions in either Fiji or PNG, or;
- Enterprises or organizations launching or scaling innovative solutions that have measurable climate adaptation and resilience outcomes, or;
- Existing incubators or accelerators seeking additional resources to scale to climate-positive enterprises or solutions.

Additional Requirement for Funds. Funds seeking CFDA grant funding are expected to adhere to a minimum 1:1 leverage requirement for any grant funding received through CFDA, where awardees will be expected to contribute or co-finance at least \$1 of capital for every concessional dollar contributed by USAID. For this opportunity, examples of leverage can include co-financing for the concept, non-USG donor financing, or non-USG investment capital that will be raised during the period of the grant. Leverage should be included in the applicant’s summary budget for the proposed grant activity.

Period of Performance:

The anticipated period of performance for the activities outlined above is through August 25, 2025. Applicants should propose a timeline commensurate with their technical approach.

Geographic Scope:

Successful applicants will demonstrate that they are launching or scaling funds, enterprises, accelerators, or solutions that benefit Fiji and/or Papua New Guinea. Regional and international organizations can be considered if the activities deliver significant resilience outcomes for Fiji and/or Papua New Guinea.

Available Funding:

Under this funding window, CFDA anticipates issuing multiple grant awards of up to USD \$200,000. CFDA may consider grants over this value if they present opportunities to mobilize significantly larger amounts of capital for climate adaptation outcomes. Grant funding may be used by firms or funds to cover start-up costs, operational expenses needed to launch/scale, and other administrative costs, build pipeline needed to secure investor commitments, technical assistance, or other catalytic uses in support of launch and investment. Grant award funding may not be used as debt or capital into the fund. U.S. organizations are restricted to awards up to \$500,000. Note that though applications are accepted on a rolling basis through the closing date, CFDA may close the solicitation sooner if sufficient successful applicants are selected prior to the close.

Eligibility:

Please reference Part 1 of the [CFDA General APS](#) for information on eligibility.

Concept Note Merit Review Criteria:

All applicants will be assessed using the merit review criteria below:

Merit Review Criteria	Points
1. Relevance & Feasibility	20
2. Climate & Development Impact	20
3. Additionality	15
4. Capital Mobilization	25
5. Women’s Economic Empowerment and Social Inclusion	20
Overall Rating (out of 100 points)	100

Merit Review Criteria Descriptions:

- 1) **Relevance & Feasibility:** Presents a well-defined capable concept that will deliver significant improvements in the resilience to weather events in Fiji and/or Papua New Guinea, commensurate with the size of the grant. Target sectors included, but are not limited to, agriculture and fisheries, ecotourism, energy, manufacturing, conservation, waste management, e-mobility, and water and sanitation. Concepts should have a well-articulated business case or model that is likely to be achieved or tested within the timeframe of the grant award. Concepts should include a thesis for additionality.
 - a. Fund-specific criteria: Funds should provide details on capital that will be rapidly deployed, including potential pipelines, as well as fundraising traction with potential investors. **20 Points**
- 2) **Climate & Development Impact:** The extent to which the investments to be made by the fund or investment vehicle would reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events and/or strengthen resilience to shocks such as floods, typhoons, and drought. Applicants must propose clear adaptation-related indicators.
 - a. Fund-specific criteria: Concepts should clearly state what percent of a fund's portfolio will be allocated to climate adaptation and preference will be given to concepts where 50% or more of investment capital will be deployed for climate adaptation investments. Fund concepts should include a thoughtful impact measurement approach integrated into fund management. Applicants must demonstrate development impact co-benefits of the investments made. **20 Points**
- 3) **Additionality:** Demonstrates a clear need for concessional catalytic financing and articulates how grant funding would help achieve the launch or scale of enterprise, project, or fund. Provides a clear articulation of the gaps in the funding concept, with a clear demonstration of how USAID grant funding will be instrumental in filling or helping to fill these gaps. **15 Points**
- 4) **Capital Mobilization:** Demonstrates corporate or other private sector commitment to meet the minimum 1:1 leverage (see General APS Part I, Section III). Priority will be given to concepts that demonstrate a realistic path to mobilizing additional private sector capital during or after the period of the grant award. Preference will be given to concepts that exceed the minimum leverage requirement and crowd-in additional stakeholders (donors, corporates, and civil society).
 - a. Fund-specific criteria: Demonstrable track record of raising and deploying capital, as well as successfully exiting investments. This should include successful experience launching at least one investment fund (or comparable instrument), preferably with private sector participation. Fund managers must have the capacity to carry out core fund administration tasks either directly or through a third party. Applicants should demonstrate their prior experience working in and knowledge of the Fiji or Papua New Guinea investment landscapes, or how that experience will be reflected in individual team members. **25 Points**
- 5) **Women's Economic Empowerment and Social Inclusion:** Demonstrates an approach that is gender-responsive and applies Do-No-Harm principles. Concepts should clearly articulate how grant funding will help advance the economic empowerment of women, both within the organization receiving funding, such as through diverse team composition, and across beneficiaries. For funds, concepts should clearly state what percentage of the funds portfolio is inclusive of women and preference will be given to concepts that apply a gender lens investing (GLI) approach to the investment process to advance gender equality across investment

decisions. For incubators and accelerators, preference will be given to concepts that clearly articulate how women-led and women-benefiting climate-positive enterprises or solutions will be prioritized through program activities. Recognizes and addresses issues faced by local communities, and/or other marginalized and underrepresented groups and adheres to USAID's Policy on Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. The approach should be aligned with the [principles for locally led adaptation](#). **20 Points**

Section III – Information on Applying

CFDA will review applications responding to the Addendum on a rolling basis through the closing date of the solicitation. Late applications will not be accepted.

CFDA will manage a streamlined application process that begins with applicants submitting a grant application that includes a detailed concept note and a high-level budget according to the instructions below. Periodically during the open solicitation period, as well as directly after the closing date, CFDA will assemble a merit review committee to review applications against the merit review criteria outlined below. As a result of the merit review committee, CFDA may engage shortlisted applicants in a co-creation process to clarify elements of the grant application (see “Co-Creation” in Part 1 of the APS). After this process, applicants will be notified whether their grant application has been rejected or approved, pending a pre-award risk assessment and negotiations.

Concept notes must be completed using the template provided in Annex A (Concept and Budget Template). Concept notes and budgets must meet the following requirements, or they will not be reviewed:

- Be written in English as a PDF or PowerPoint slide deck.
- Contain a maximum of 12 slides.
- Be a minimum of 9-point font.
- Include the APS Addendum name and number.
- Include address of organization and point of contact (including contact name and email information).
- Content must include and/or describe:
 - Cover page that includes an activity title, name of the organization, legal representative, country of legal residence of the organization, and Tax ID (TIN) numbers (maximum one slide)
 - Executive summary
 - Description of concept, sector focus, and anticipated climate adaptation impacts
 - Funds should describe investment structure and thesis and potential target portfolio companies
 - Description of additionality
 - Capital Mobilization (applicants should clearly state their anticipated leverage ratio)
 - Gender and social inclusion considerations, social and environmental risks and risk mitigation plans, as applicable
 - Company/organization profile, and proposed team staffing
 - Amount of grant funding requested (summary budget). Summary budgets should be presented in USD (maximum one slide) and include commitment to a **minimum 1:1 leverage**

- requirement.** Note that successful offerors will negotiate budgets in the local currency if they are operating in Fiji or Papua New Guinea, or USD for international organizations.
- o Estimated timeline for implementation of activities (maximum one slide).

The grant application must clearly distinguish between the funding/resources requested from CFDA, funding/resources to be committed to the grant activity by the applicant or other parties (i.e., leverage), and any third-party investment to be mobilized for the applicant's climate solution during or as a result of the proposed activity. Please see the chart in Part 1 of the APS for definitions of leverage and mobilization used by CFDA, as adapted from USAID's Private Sector Engagement policy and the climate finance mobilization indicators from USAID's Climate Change Standard Indicator Handbook.

Cost Merit Review Criteria can be found in [Part 1 of the APS](#).

Late or unresponsive applications will not be reviewed. Please submit all questions concerning this solicitation via the [Solicitation Question Submission Form](#). For general inquiries please email info@cfdaccelerator.com.

Section IV – Additional Indicators and Requirements

Successful applicant(s) will be required to report on activity progress and provide data for performance indicators and agree to the requirements listed below. Successful applicants must be able to provide data for the following investment mobilization and climate change adaptation indicators:

- Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for climate change outcomes (*disaggregated by climate sector; public v. private resources; investment type; investment source; and country*)
- Percentage of investment mobilized that is inclusive of marginalized and underrepresented groups (*disaggregated by group and mode of inclusion¹*)
- Number of people supported by the USG to adapt to the effects of climate change

Any applicants whose concept includes incubation or acceleration support, pipeline development, technical assistance to pipeline or portfolio companies, a project preparation facility, or other project capacity strengthening activity must also report the following:

- Number of institutions with improved capacity to assess or address climate change mitigation and adaptation issues (*disaggregated by climate sector and institution type*)
- Number of enterprises directly or indirectly supported by USG Micro, Small and Medium enterprise resources

Applicants may include additional indicators for the climate outcomes of their activity. Applicants are encouraged to review [USAID's Climate Change Standard Indicator Handbook](#) for indicators relevant to adaptation, clean energy and sustainable landscapes activities. Applicants with climate change mitigation outcomes are strongly encouraged to include indicators EG.12-7 or EG. 13-7 from the Climate Change Standard Indicator Handbook, as applicable. Applicants may also refer to other standards, such as the

¹ "Inclusion" is determined based on characteristics of the project receiving investment, such as whether it is owned or led by members of one or more marginalized/underrepresented group; is/was designed by them; employs or otherwise benefits them; etc. Complete definitions are available in the CFDA Monitoring, Evaluating, Collaborating, Adapting and Learning Plan (MECLAP) and in USAID's Inclusive Development resources.

Green Climate Fund Integrated Results Management Framework, or put forward their own outcome indicators if these are not aligned to their proposed activity. Grantees will be expected to contribute to CFDA's learning agenda related to nature-based solutions, adaptation, private sector climate investment, and other relevant themes. Contributions may consist of participating in interviews or events, facilitating access to local partners, collaborating on short technical documents or other learning products, or sharing relevant data. Details of these engagements will be specified during award negotiation discussions.