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# ARDB ACE-GFA MONTHLY BULLETIN

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## OVERVIEW

This bulletin provides an overview of the Cambodia Climate Finance Facility (CCFF), highlighting its objectives, core functions, target sectors, eligibility criteria, and early progress. It is intended for policymakers, financial institutions, and private sector stakeholders interested in how CCFF supports Cambodia's transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient, and inclusive economy.

## ABOUT ARDB ACE-GFA

The APRACA Center of Excellence – Green Finance to Agriculture (ARDB ACE-GFA) was established on August 8, 2024, within the Agricultural and Rural Development Bank to support the APRACA in advancing the agri-food sector. ARDB ACE-GFA is dedicated to driving sustainable agricultural development through the following key areas:

- Promoting green and climate finance initiatives tailored to the agri-food system
- Conducting research, training, capacity-building programs, and exposure visits for knowledge enhancement
- Organizing policy dialogues, forums, and publishing know-ledge-based reports to support decision-making
- Providing technical assistance and advisory services on sustainable and climate-smart financial solutions
- Enhancing collaboration, networking, and knowledge exchange among APRACA members and development partners.



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## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

### **The Cambodia Climate Finance Facility (CCFF)**

is a national climate finance platform that provides concessional lending and technical assistance to catalyze climate mitigation and adaptation investments. It addresses structural challenges in Cambodia's financial system, including limited appetite for long-tenor green lending, perceived high risks associated with new technologies, and gaps in project preparation.

**CCFF** is aligned with Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plans (NAP), and other climate and green growth strategies. By directing finance to projects that support these commitments, the Facility strengthens both climate resilience and sustainable economic development.

The Programme comprises a USD 100 million Lending Facility and a USD 9 million Technical Assistance (TA) Facility, providing long-term blended finance and capacity support to local financial institutions and private sector actors.

The CCFF targets high-priority mitigation and adaptation sectors, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, water infrastructure, and low-emission transport. It is designed to address financial, knowledge, and market barriers by de-risking climate investments and incentivizing green lending, thereby enabling a systemic shift toward sustainable finance in Cambodia.

The Programme is expected to deliver significant climate and development impacts, including reducing 11.1 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions and benefiting up to 1.3 million people through improved climate resilience and access to essential services. It also promotes inclusive

growth by supporting green job creation and allocating at least 30% of financing to women-led businesses.

In parallel, the CCFF strengthens Cambodia's financial ecosystem by building the capacity of the Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (ARDB) to become a national climate bank with direct access to international climate finance.



## KEY FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

**CCFF** operates through three core components to strengthen Cambodia's climate finance ecosystem:

### **Component 1: Institutional Development**

This Facility supports the establishment and operationalization of financing and Technical Assistance facilities, while enhancing ARDB's institutional capacity, governance, and risk management systems to position it as a national climate bank.

### **Component 2: Green Financing Facility**

The Facility provides long-term concessional financing to catalyze investments in priority sectors, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, low-emission transport, and water infrastructure, through two lending channels:

- **Direct Green Lending:** Delivers tailored financing to Cambodian-registered businesses for new or expanding green projects with demonstrated climate mitigation and adaptation benefits, particularly those underserved by conventional financing.



- **Wholesale Green Lending:** Extends financing to Local Financial Institutions (LFIs) to scale up green lending and mobilize climate finance across the broader financial sector.

### Component 3: Technical Assistance (TA)

A dedicated TA Facility supports both borrowers and financial intermediaries. Its functions include:

- Supporting the preparation and structuring of projects so they are bankable and investment-ready;
- Strengthening the capacity of LFIs to identify, assess, and manage green lending operations;
- Supporting compliance with environmental and social safeguards and gender requirements; and
- Providing training and tools for climate risk assessment, impact monitoring, and reporting.

By reducing knowledge and transaction-cost barriers, the TA Facility increases the number and quality of projects that can be financed and helps ensure that climate and social outcomes are achieved.

### Project Identification & Pipeline Development

Under the TA component, CCFF actively supports the development of a robust pipeline of climate-relevant investments by:

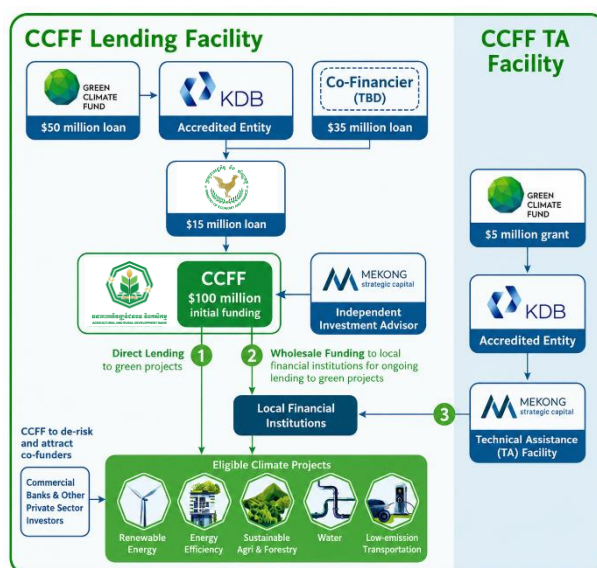
- Funding feasibility studies, climate risk and baseline assessments, and other preparatory analyses
- Supporting the preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and Gender Action Plans (GAPs), where required
- Engaging with project developers, sector agencies, and financial institutions to identify promising concepts and bring them to a bankable stage

This proactive approach helps ensure that available funding is matched with viable projects that align with the Facility’s climate and development objectives.

### TARGETED SECTOR AND ELIGIBILITY

CCFF focuses on sectors that are central to Cambodia’s economic development and highly exposed to climate risks. By providing targeted finance, the Facility supports projects capable of delivering significant mitigation and adaptation impacts. Eligible sectors include:

- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Water infrastructure
- Low-emission Transportation.



# CAMBODIA CLIMATE FINANCE FACILITY (CCFF)

## Sector Eligibility Criteria & Activities Guide

### 1 RENEWABLE ENERGY

#### MITIGATION

- Solar PV
- Wind power
- Energy storage
- Smart grids
- Solar pumps
- EV charging



#### CRITERIA

Up to 50MW capacity  
Net GHG reduction  
No fossil fuels

#### ADAPTATION

- Climate-proofing infrastructure
- Heat-resistant modules
- Energy storage
- Weather forecasting



#### CRITERIA

10% investment for adaptation measures

### 2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY

#### MITIGATION

- Efficient machinery
- Green buildings
- HVAC upgrades
- Smart lighting
- Low-carbon materials
- Digital systems



#### CRITERIA

20% energy savings minimum  
No fossil fuel extensions

### 3 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

#### MITIGATION

- Regenerative agriculture
- Organic farming
- Erosion control
- Agroforestry
- Reforestation
- Carbon sequestration



#### CRITERIA

Increase carbon stock or reduce emissions  
No deforestation

#### ADAPTATION

- Climate-resilient crops
- Drip irrigation
- Cold storage
- Flood/drought protection
- Monitoring tech



#### CRITERIA

Project-specific climate risk assessment

### 4 TRANSPORTATION

#### MITIGATION

- Electric vehicles
- Motorcycles
- Charging infrastructure



#### CRITERIA

Net GHG reduction  
Low-emission transition preference

### 5 WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

#### ADAPTATION

- Rural piped water
- Smart management
- Reservoirs
- Pipeline modernization



#### CRITERIA

Improve resilience to droughts, floods, water risks



#### GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Projects must contribute to climate mitigation and/or adaptation in Cambodia.
- Projects must be technically, financially, economically and environmentally sound.
- Compliance with national laws, regulations, and safeguard requirements is mandatory.
- Projects must demonstrate measurable climate impact and alignment with CCFF objectives.
- Full and accurate disclosure of project information is required.



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## CCFF IMPACT AND PROGRESS

The CCFF places strong emphasis on socio-economic resilience and gender empowerment through the following key initiatives:

### ***Socio-Economic and Gender Impact***

#### **❖ Job Creation**

The CCFF is expected to generate up to 1 million green jobs over its lifetime, while the official target stands at 256,007 jobs. Approximately 40% of these opportunities are reserved for women to promote gender equality and ensure women benefit directly from the transition to a green economy. The jobs, created through lending activities, include both full-time and part-time employment, particularly in sectors such as climate-resilient agriculture and energy efficiency. In addition, the CCFF supports workforce development through on-the-job training in specialized areas, including impact assessment and gender mainstreaming, helping build a more skilled, inclusive, and resilient labor force.

#### **❖ Water Security**

The facility aims to provide 749,135 people—primarily in rural Northeast and Southwest Cambodia—with reliable year-round access to clean water. Water systems are designed to withstand climate-related risks such as prolonged droughts and severe storms, while sourcing water from high-flow areas and applying treatment measures appropriate to local climate conditions to ensure long-term sustainability. These investments also support households, schools, and healthcare facilities, contributing to the reduction of waterborne diseases and improved community health. Importantly, the initiative

has significant gender benefits, as women in rural Cambodia are often responsible for water collection; improved access reduces this burden, allowing more time for childcare, education, and income-generating activities.

#### **❖ Livelihood Improvement**

The Programme seeks to support 36,128 beneficiaries, with at least 40% being women, in adopting improved climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. Smallholder farmers, particularly in the rice sector, are expected to increase productivity by approximately 25% through access to high-quality seeds and training in sustainable agricultural practices. Farmers are also expected to sell around 60% of their produce at premium prices—earning an estimated additional USD 217 per ton for organic or deforestation-free rice—while retaining the remaining 40% for household consumption, thereby strengthening food security. By increasing household income and providing more stable employment, the Programme also enhances financial resilience and reduces reliance on harmful coping mechanisms, such as selling assets or taking high-interest loans during climate-related shocks.

#### **❖ Gender Equity**

The CCFF requires that 30% of total loan financing—equivalent to approximately USD 52.05 million—be allocated to women-led businesses or enterprises that actively promote women's economic empowerment. Eligible businesses must meet specific criteria, including majority ownership (at least 51%) by women, women founders, at least 30% female representation in senior management, or a workforce composed of 30%–50% women supported by gender-

responsive workplace policies, including anti-harassment protections. Furthermore, 20% of grant financing under the Technical Assistance Facility is earmarked for gender-focused initiatives, including support for businesses in developing products and services that better address the needs of women customers.

### **Environmental Benefits**

The CCFF delivers significant environmental benefits through emissions reduction, sustainable land management, and climate resilience initiatives:

- **GHG Emissions Reduction:** The Programme targets the reduction, avoidance, or sequestration of 11.1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) over its implementation period.
- **Sustainable Land Use:** The facility aims to place 26,975 hectares of forests and agricultural land under improved low-emission and climate-resilient management practices.
- **Land Restoration:** A total of 18,790 hectares of degraded land is targeted for restoration.

- **Resilient Infrastructure:** The Programme seeks to enhance the climate resilience of approximately USD 138.8 million worth of physical assets, particularly within the energy sector.

Although the Facility has a multi-year horizon, it has already established clear targets and frameworks for measuring its contributions to Cambodia’s climate and development goals, economically and environmentally.

### **CONCLUSION**

The CCFF is a key instrument for advancing climate action and green development in Cambodia. By blending concessional finance with targeted technical assistance, it helps translate climate commitments into bankable investments that deliver environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Looking ahead, the Facility can play a central role in shifting from small, isolated projects toward a systematic pipeline of climate-aligned investments at scale, implemented in partnership with both public and private actors. With continued support, stronger project pipelines, and deeper participation from financial institutions, CCFF can help build a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable climate finance ecosystem for Cambodia.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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