

# Global Climate Change Alliance



Using Innovative and Effective Approaches  
to Deliver Climate Change Support to  
Developing Countries



European Commission



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Middle image: Tree felling for charcoal making, Democratic Republic of Congo

Lower image: Youngsters with mangrove seedlings, Hope Beach, Guyana

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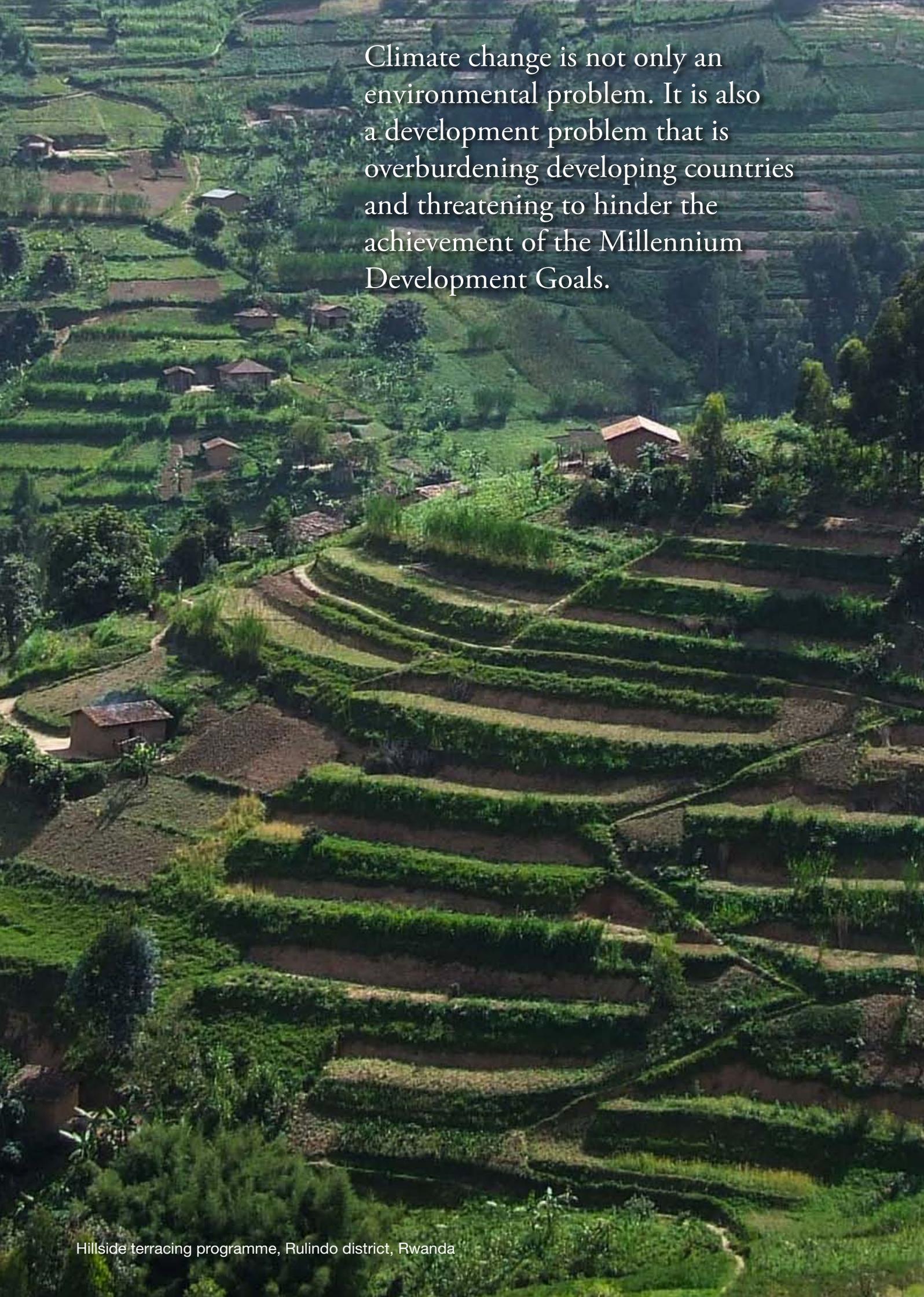
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An aerial photograph of a lush, green hillside in Rwanda, showing a series of terraced agricultural plots. The terraces are arranged in a curved, step-like pattern down the slope. Several small, simple houses with brown roofs are scattered across the hillside, interspersed with the terraces. The overall scene is vibrant and shows a well-maintained agricultural landscape.

Climate change is not only an environmental problem. It is also a development problem that is overburdening developing countries and threatening to hinder the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

# Foreword



Climate change is no respecter of national borders. It is a truly global issue that threatens every corner of the world. Yet the sad fact is that those countries in the front line against climate change are the poorest developing countries that have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions and have the fewest resources to tackle it.

Their plight is compounded by their reliance on natural resources through sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries, their vulnerability to more frequent extreme weather and a history of poverty and conflict.

The climate change threat is not receding. It is increasing. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that, even if emissions could be reduced to below half of 1990 levels by 2050, a temperature rise of up to 2°C would be difficult to avoid.

Unmitigated climate change beyond 2°C is likely to trigger a number of tipping points and lead to further accelerated, irreversible and unpredictable climate changes. Meanwhile the most vulnerable and poorest people around the world are already experiencing the effects of climate change: temperatures are rising, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, and water and food are becoming scarcer.

Climate change is, therefore, not only an environmental problem. It is also a development problem that is overburdening developing countries and threatening to hinder the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It could wipe out years of development efforts.

The EU is taking decisive action on addressing climate change and making it an integral part of EU development aid. In 2007, it established the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), its flagship initiative to strengthen dialogue, exchange of experiences and cooperation on climate change with developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States.

The GCCA promotes innovative and effective approaches to address climate change and makes sure through mainstreaming that it is at the heart of the development planning of partner countries. It also employs effective delivery methods such as budget support, ensuring full alignment with developing countries' agendas, the use of country systems and long-term capacity building, ownership, and sustainability.

With support from the GCCA, partner countries are implementing climate change programmes on

the ground, integrating climate change into national and sector strategies, reducing deforestation and disaster risks, and promoting adaptive agriculture and clean energy. Through the GCCA, the EU is spearheading the drive towards low-emission and climate-resilient development.

Under the GCCA initiative EU Member States including the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Ireland and Sweden, and the European Commission are joining forces to provide common donor support through joint financing and programming.

From 2008 to 2011, the GCCA has contributed over €200 million in support of more than 30 country and regional programmes in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. An additional 11 countries and regions are expected to benefit from the GCCA in 2012 and 2013.

This publication shows examples of the GCCA's wide-ranging programme and provides some early results and lessons learned. Having learnt those lessons and understood where our strengths lie, we can then set about achieving even more through the GCCA in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Piebalgs".



Cotonou Lagoon, Benin

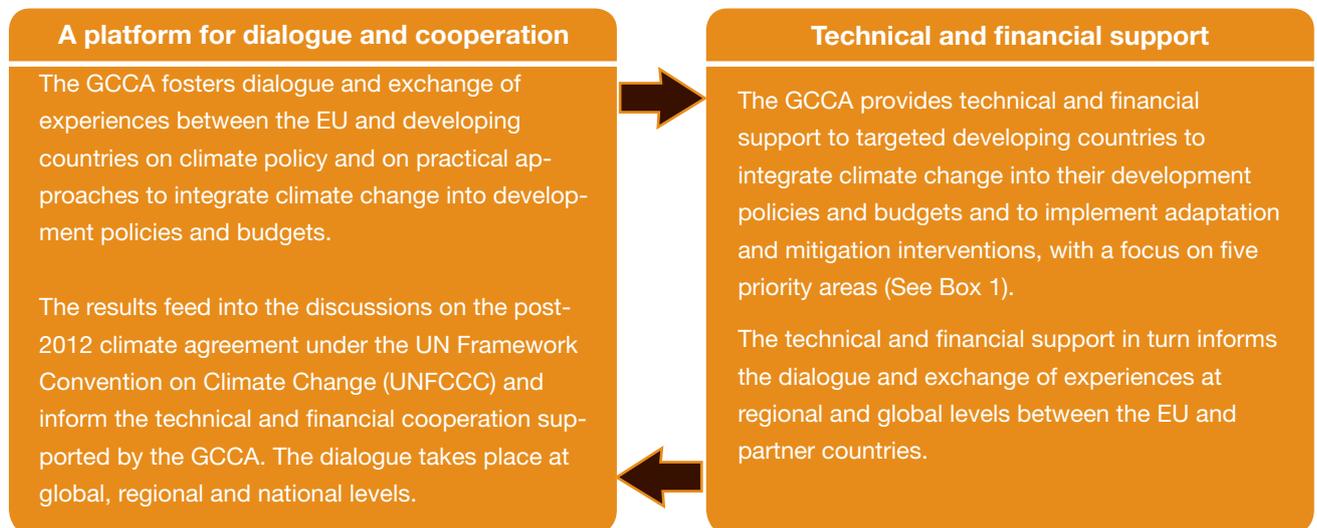
# About the Global Climate Change Alliance

## What is the GCCA?

The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) is an initiative of the European Union (EU) to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on climate change with developing countries most vulnerable to climate change.

The GCCA focuses on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are often the most affected by climate change but have the fewest resources to tackle it.

The initiative was launched in 2007 and is coordinated by the European Commission (EC).



**Diagram 1: The two pillars of the GCCA**

The GCCA focuses the technical support along **five priority areas**:

- 1 Mainstreaming climate change into poverty reduction and development efforts**  
The GCCA supports the integration of climate change into national development planning, from policymaking and budgeting to implementation and monitoring. This priority area, which focuses on institutional strengthening, is often combined with another priority, in particular, adaptation.
- 2 Adaptation.** The GCCA promotes the improvement of the knowledge base of the effects of climate change and the design and implementation of appropriate adaptation actions, in particular in the water and agriculture sectors. The GCCA builds on National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and other national plans.
- 3 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).** In LDCs 60% of emissions originate from land use change, primarily deforestation. The GCCA therefore supports solutions to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from deforestation and create incentives for forest protection, while preserving livelihoods and ecosystems depending on forests.
- 4 Enhancing participation in the global carbon market.** The GCCA aims to promote a more equitable geographic distribution of the **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** by building the capacities of partner countries, particularly in the field of energy.
- 5 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).** The GCCA seeks to help developing countries to prepare for climate-related natural disasters, mitigate their risks and limit their impacts.

**Box 1: The five priority areas of the GCCA**

# Why a Global Climate Change Alliance?

Scientific data analysed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides compelling evidence that climate change is happening and that the observed acceleration is the direct result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from human activity.

Projections of the effects of climate change show that LDCs and SIDS will be hit earliest and hardest. These are the countries and territories with the fewest resources to prepare for, and adapt to, these changes in their climate. This means climate change is a major threat to meeting

the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for many of these countries.

The Stern Report published in 2006 demonstrated that the world does not need to choose between averting climate change and promoting growth and development. Not acting on climate change will, in the long term, be a lot more costly to the global economy than acting on it now. The report explicitly highlighted the global imbalance in terms of the costs of climate change on the poorest countries and called for the international community to support them.

The EU has taken a lead in promoting international action to address climate change. In line with the IPCC's findings, the EU established the GCCA to tackle the urgent, linked challenges of climate change and poverty reduction in developing countries. With an emphasis on aid effectiveness and integrating climate change into national development planning, the work of the GCCA supports the adoption of purposeful action at national and regional levels as well as negotiations towards an international post-2012 agreement.

# How are needs prioritised under the GCCA?

The criteria to select countries that will benefit from the GCCA build on the Bali Action Plan (2007) which stresses the need for action on adaptation, particularly with LDCs, SIDS and African countries affected by drought, desertification and flooding.

To be eligible for GCCA funds, a country has to be among the 73 LDCs or SIDS recipients of aid. An assessment is made of each country's vulnerability to climate change, in particular its risk related

to floods, droughts, storms, sea level rise or glacier melting and the coastal zone elevation, taking into account the proportion of the population at risk. The importance of the agricultural sector, as one of the most sensitive sectors to climate change, is also included in this assessment, which uses United Nations (UN) and other expert sources.

The assessment also incorporates an estimate of the country's adaptive capacity using the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index as a source. Finally, eligible countries are assessed for their engagement in dialogue on climate change and expression of interest by their government to receive support from the GCCA.

Funds are then allocated to countries, based on availability of resources and on population figures.

## What are the key developments to date?



Farmer producing sunflowers, Malawi

From 2008 to 2011, the GCCA has committed over €200 million from the EC budget, the 10th European Development Fund, and from contributions from Ireland, Sweden, Estonia, Cyprus and the Czech Republic. This includes fast start finance pledged at the UNFCCC 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP) in Copenhagen in 2009. To date, fast start finance from the EC, Ireland, Estonia and Cyprus has provided €74 million to GCCA-supported interventions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

By the end of 2011, the GCCA will be funding programmes to address climate change in 25 countries across the globe. The GCCA is supporting the mainstreaming of climate change into national development planning in over half of these countries. It is supporting adaptation programmes in climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, coastal zone protection and land and water management. The

GCCA is also active in the fields of forestry, DRR, and clean energy. These programmes in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific are strengthening the capacity of some of the most vulnerable developing countries to tackle climate change.

As well as supporting individual countries, the GCCA is active at a regional level, supporting programmes that tackle climate change issues that cross the borders of individual countries. That means pooling resources, strengthening capacities, sharing knowledge and working in partnership with the regional organisations already in place to build on existing work and successes.

The global range of these GCCA supported programmes is illustrated in Map 1.

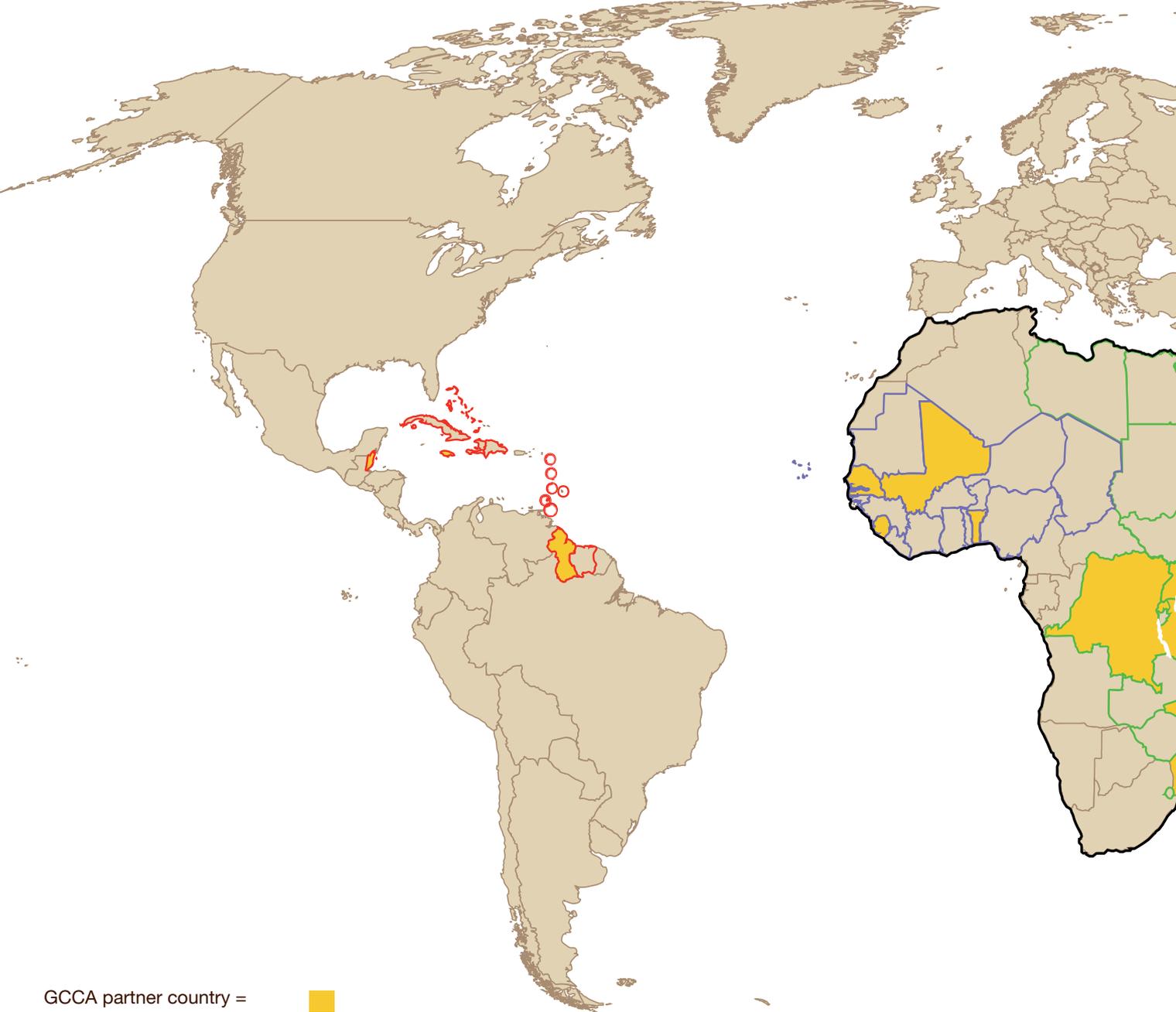
In its role promoting dialogue and the exchange of experiences, the GCCA is rolling out a programme

of events. It has organised regional conferences in Bangladesh in May 2010, in Addis Ababa in October 2010, and in Vanuatu and Belize in March 2011. The aim here has been to support wider EU initiatives working towards a shared vision on tackling climate change.

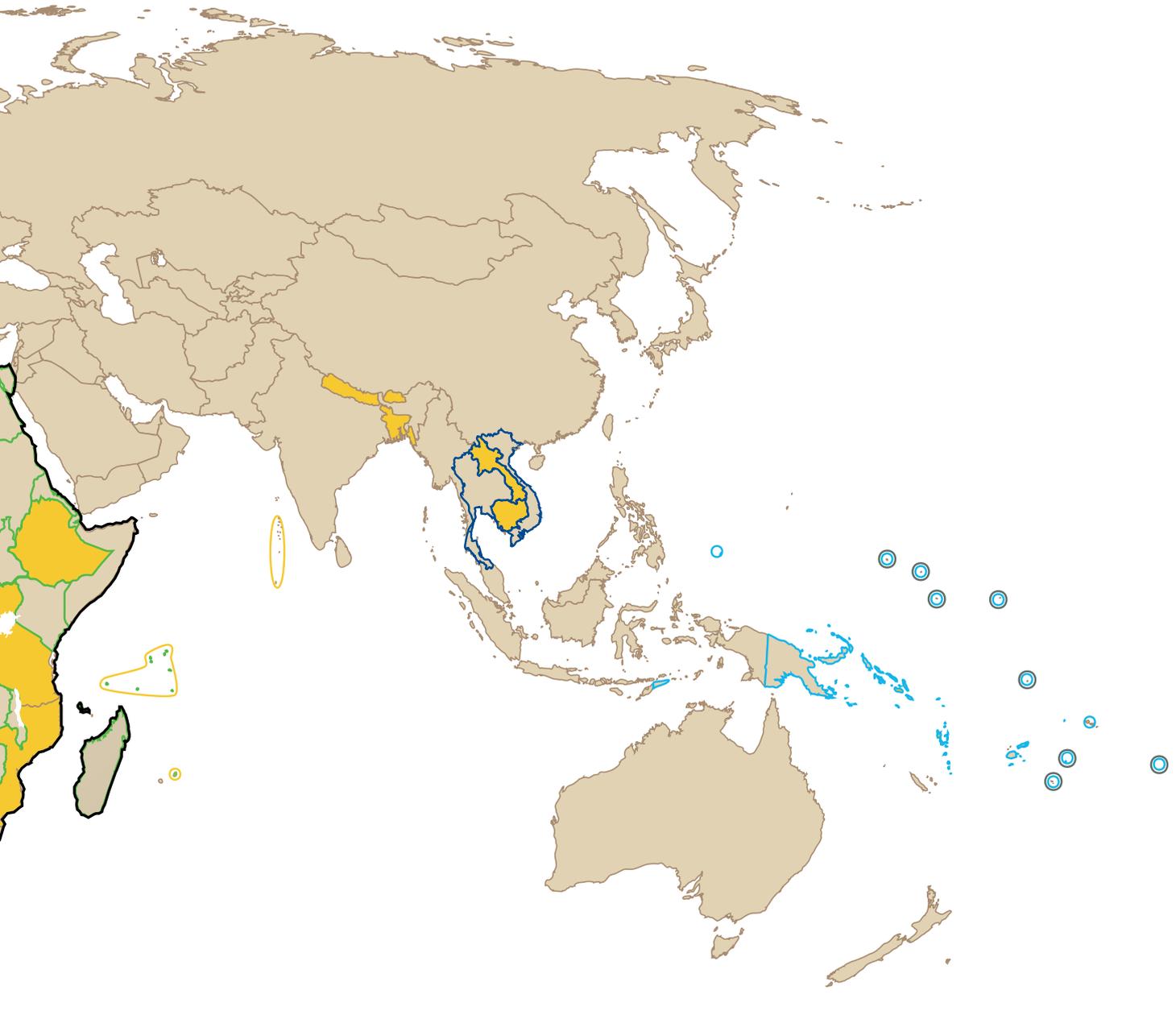
The GCCA is also organising regional workshops on mainstreaming climate change into national development planning and budgeting. It is expected that over 250 senior officials from ministries of finance, planning and environment will have received this training by the end of 2012. This is a far-sighted initiative to provide the planners and decision makers responsible for national policymaking and budgeting with the tools and expertise to ensure climate change is embedded in their countries' development policies and budgets.

From programmes delivering the changes needed to safeguard the future of countries most at risk from climate change, to initiatives that are promoting international dialogue and consensus on the way forward, the GCCA is paving the way for lasting progress on climate change.

# Map 1: Overview of GCCA supported programmes



- GCCA partner country =
- Regional programmes:**
- Lower Mekong Basin =
- Africa =
- Eastern and Southern Africa =
- Western Africa =
- Pacific =
- South Pacific =
- Caribbean =



What sets the GCCA apart is its emphasis on innovative and effective approaches to delivering climate change finance and addressing the capacity needs of partner countries.



# Using innovative and effective approaches

The GCCA was established to help developing countries tackle climate change in a way that integrates climate change with wider development objectives.

It is complementary to, but different from, other climate change funds or initiatives. What sets the GCCA apart is its emphasis on innovative and effective approaches to delivering climate change support and addressing the capacity needs of partner countries.

The GCCA is driven by a commitment to the principles of aid effectiveness established by the Paris Declaration (See Diagram 2) and the Accra Agenda for Action.

This commitment translates into a range of delivery methods and approaches, such as joint programming and financing, sector policy support programmes, climate change mainstreaming and budget support.

The GCCA's sharp focus on mainstreaming climate change into national and sector development planning and budgeting ensures that climate change is addressed in a systematic, long term and sustainable way. It ensures the use of country agendas and systems and fosters institutional strengthening and capacity building.

Mainstreaming also paves the way for budget support, a delivery method used and promoted under the GCCA. Budget support involves channelling funds directly to partner governments' treasuries subject to a set of agreed conditions. It fully uses country agendas and systems, encourages dialogue and ownership and allows partner countries to make best use of all available resources to tackle climate change in the context of poverty reduction and development more generally.

Another added value of the GCCA comes from a double layer of action: the dialogue and exchange

of experiences and the cooperation through country or regional interventions. This double stream enables the GCCA to promote the transfer of knowledge from the field, informing the international climate change debate and decision-making, at the highest level. It also ensures coherence between political commitments or internationally agreed principles like the MDGs and aid effectiveness and the way climate aid translates into practice.

Thanks to these innovations, the GCCA is in a unique position to help developing countries vulnerable to climate change respond to its impacts.

# Applying aid effectiveness principles

International development aid has not always delivered the expected development results on the ground. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was formulated in 2005 to address this and today over 100 countries adhere to it. The Paris Declaration is founded on five core principles – ownership; alignment; harmonisation; managing for results; and mutual accountability, as illustrated by Diagram 2.

These core principles underpin the GCCA approach to supporting partner countries. The GCCA promotes ownership and alignment

through support to climate change mainstreaming, the use of decentralised management, sector policy support programmes and budget support, as well as through dialogue.

The GCCA aims to complement and support ongoing frameworks and processes and it engages in joint financing and programming and partnership working whenever possible, supporting the harmonisation principle. The use of sector and budget support puts the focus on using effective performance assessment frameworks as each

tranche of aid is delivered once agreed criteria are met. This is in line with the Paris principle of managing for results. The GCCA is also committed to mutual accountability, sharing knowledge and lesson learning.

The Accra Agenda for Action of 2008 has built on the success of the Paris Declaration, with an emphasis on three main areas: ownership; inclusive partnerships and delivering results. These principles have shaped the GCCA approach to delivering climate finance and supporting countries most vulnerable to climate change.



Diagram 2: The five principles of the Paris Declaration

# Piloting budget support for climate change

In an increasingly complex climate finance landscape, the GCCA is piloting the use of budget support as a delivery mechanism to enhance aid effectiveness.

With budget support, aid goes directly to the partner governments' treasuries subject to agreed conditions. It is released to the countries in tranches as set eligibility criteria or targets have been reached. The objective is to fully support country agendas and systems, encouraging policy dialogue, political commitment, ownership and sustainability. Ultimately, climate change would be fully integrated into a country's overall development.

The GCCA is using various forms of budget support. Climate change programmes in the Seychelles, the Solomon Islands and Mauritius - which aim to integrate climate change into overall poverty reduction and development efforts - are delivered through general budget support. The GCCA also makes use of sector budget support when a programme is meant to address climate change at the level of a whole sector, from policymaking to budgeting and implementation. Typically, the GCCA enhances the adaptation or mitigation components of existing sector programmes. In Guyana, GCCA sector level actions have focused on the implementation of the National Mangrove Management Action Plan. In other countries there are different focuses.

In Samoa, it is the water sector; in Rwanda, land tenure; and in Bhutan, the natural resources sector.

The GCCA believes there is significant potential for increased use of budget support, as highlighted by Diagram 3 which shows the distribution of different aid modalities used to date. As climate change finance is expected to increase in the coming years, the use of budget support provides interesting prospects to improve the absorptive capacities of developing countries. A move from project specific to sector level support also leads to better climate risk management and helps to ensure that climate change adaptation is integrated into a country's overall development effort.

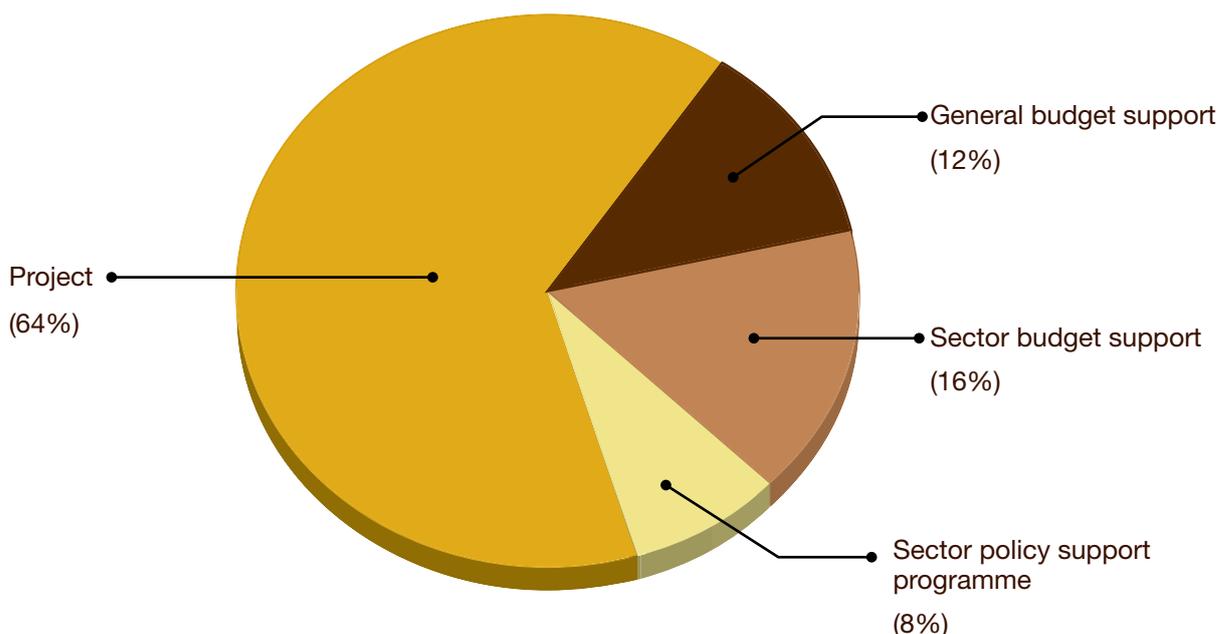


Diagram 3: Distribution of aid modalities used by GCCA interventions to 2011

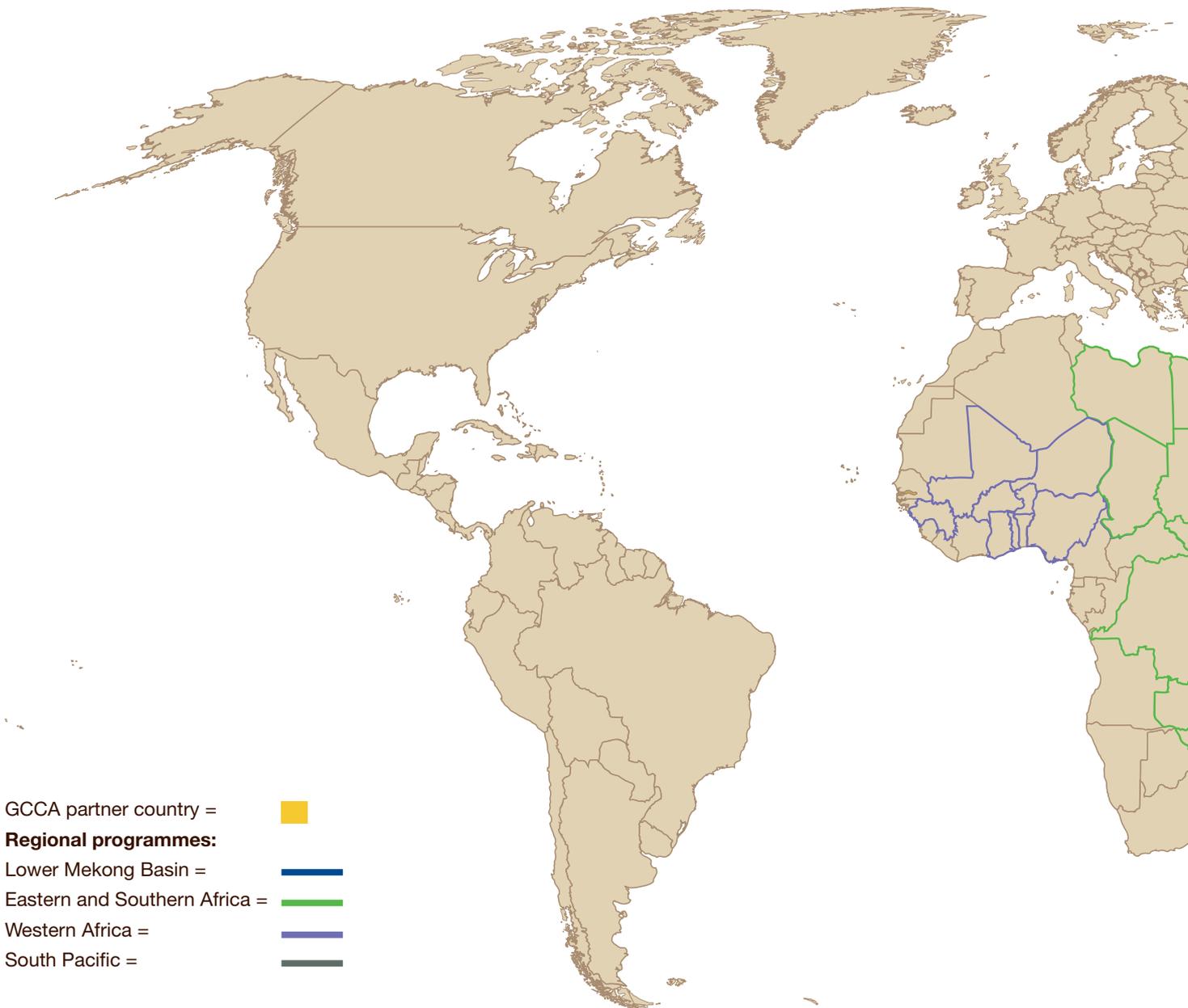
# Mainstreaming climate change

Climate change is inherently linked to all sectors of development and the achievements of the MDGs. That means climate change needs to be a central not peripheral consideration in national planning and development. This is the case for all countries, but it is particularly important for LDCs and SIDS, which often have fragile economies and face a range of different challenges with limited capacities to address them.

The GCCA is, therefore, committed to the practice of mainstreaming, which means embedding climate change into national and sector development planning and budgeting, as illustrated by Map 2 showing the GCCA mainstreaming interventions.

Mainstreaming is all about sustainability. It is a way of ensuring that partner countries are in a strong position to tackle the effects

of climate change not just today, but for years to come. Climate change mainstreaming translates the principles of aid effectiveness into practice through the use of country agendas and systems and by supporting institutional strengthening and capacity building in the long term. Mainstreaming also helps partner countries prepare the ground for possible future use of budget

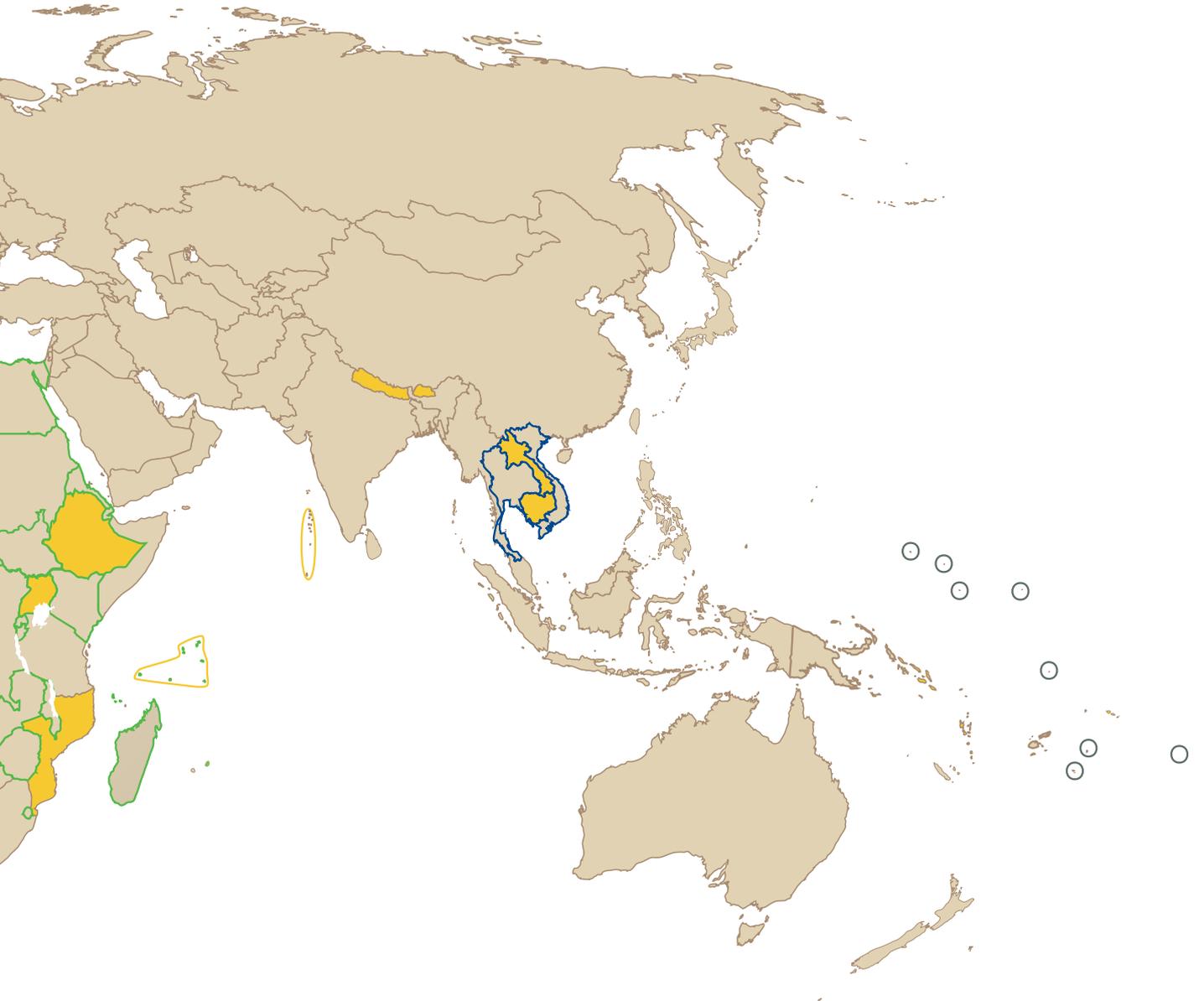


Map 2: Overview of GCCA mainstreaming programmes

support. In certain cases, such as Nepal, Vanuatu and the Pacific, the GCCA programmes explicitly aim at having future assistance for climate change being delivered through budget support, and for example, include in their activities governance and fiduciary risk assessments or the strengthening of public financial management.

Awareness raising and increasing capacities are also essential. The GCCA is spreading the word and passing on the tools and knowledge for successful mainstreaming through a range of initiatives at country and regional levels. These include country and regional programmes as well as a series of workshops all over the world which bring together senior climate experts and budgetary planners from

the ministries of partner countries. The workshops involve exchanging experiences and knowledge about mainstreaming and the tools to make it happen. The GCCA's vision is for a global effort to place climate change at the heart of national and regional policymaking and planning.



GCCA initiatives in developing countries across the world are making a difference in key sectors affected by climate change.



African children picking up fruits

# Making a difference at a country level



Coastal activities, Senegal

Since 2008, the GCCA has supported programmes that have enhanced the capacity of some of the most vulnerable countries in the world to tackle climate change. Reaching across continents and safeguarding livelihoods, the GCCA has channelled over €200 million in support of 32 programmes in over 25 countries and regions.

Africa, the continent which has contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions and is suffering acutely from the impact of climate change, has received a total of €108.4 million to date. This represents 54 per cent of the GCCA's total climate funding.

GCCA initiatives in developing countries across the world are making a difference in key sectors affected by climate change. Programmes that focus on climate change mainstreaming are under way in 13 countries including Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos and Nepal in Asia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Seychelles in Africa and Solomon Islands in the Pacific.

The GCCA is funding programmes addressing adaptation in climate sensitive sectors like agriculture in Uganda, coastal zone management in Gambia, Guyana and Senegal, land

management in Rwanda, and water management in Belize and Samoa. It is working at the local level in Tanzania.

In Mauritius, the GCCA is addressing the need for energy efficiency. It is funding forestry programmes in Mali, Benin, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo, addressing disaster risk reduction in Jamaica, and adaptation or mitigation more generally in Bangladesh, Maldives and Vanuatu.

Whatever and wherever the project, from the Pacific Islands to the heart of Sub-Saharan Africa, the GCCA supports national or sector priorities (See Diagram 4 and Diagram 5). At country level, the interventions of the GCCA are designed in close collaboration between EU Delegations and national governments, and they are shaped in close consultation with relevant stakeholders.

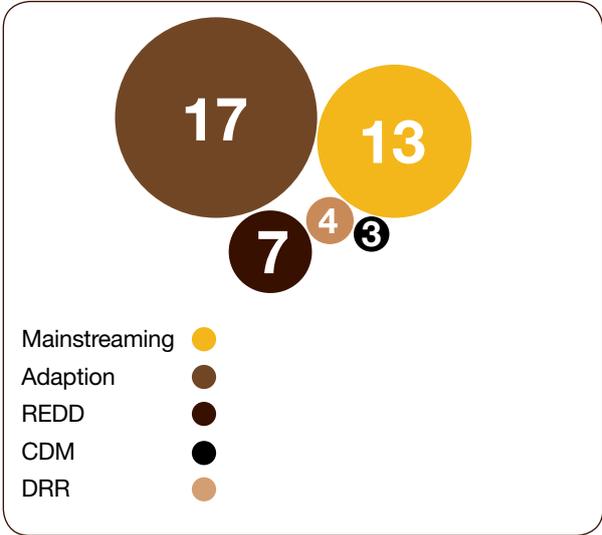


Diagram 4: Distribution of priority areas supported by the GCCA to 2011 (number of interventions)

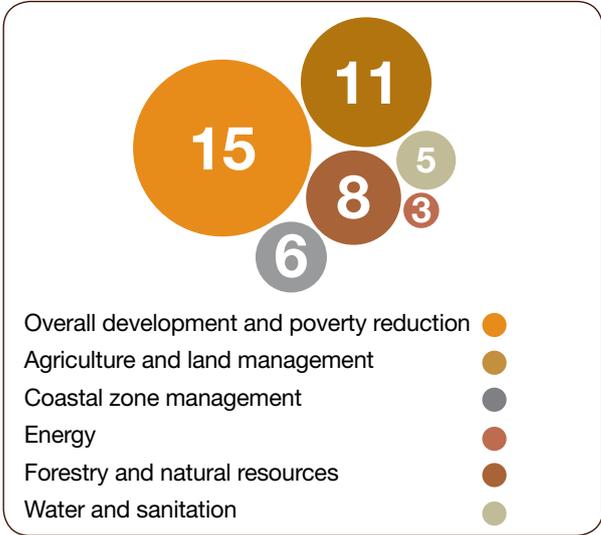


Diagram 5: Distribution of sectors supported by the GCCA to 2011 (number of interventions)

# Table 1: Overview of GCCA national programmes

Country	Partners	GCCA priority areas	Sectors	Budget	Duration
Bangladesh	The World Bank, Ministry of Environment and Forests	Adaptation; DRR	Overall development and poverty reduction  Agriculture; coastal zone management; infrastructure; land management; and natural resources	Total value: €92.3 million (GCCA: €8.5 million; UK: €69.7 million; Sweden: €10.2 million; Switzerland: €2.6 million; and Denmark: €1.3 million)	2011 to 2015
Belize	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, National Emergency Management Organisation	Adaptation	Overall development and poverty reduction  Water	Total value: €3.2 million (GCCA: €2.9 million; Government of Belize and UNDP €0.3 million)	2011 to 2014
Benin	UNDP, National Centre for the Management of Fauna Reserves National Geographical Institute, National Remote Detection Centre, Ministry of Environment, Habitat and Urbanism, Ministry of Interior and Public Security	REDD	Forestry	Total value: €8.3 million (GCCA: €8 million and UNDP: €0.3 million)	2012 to 2016
Bhutan	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Gross National Happiness Commission	Mainstreaming	Overall development and poverty reduction	Total value: €4.40 million (GCCA including €0.8 million fast start funding from Estonia)	2012 to 2016
Cambodia	UNDP, Cambodia Climate Change Alliance, Ministry of Environment	Mainstreaming	Overall development and poverty reduction	Total value: €6.07 million (GCCA: €2.21 million; Denmark: €0.37 million; Sweden: €1.45 million; and UNDP: €2.04 million)	2010 to 2012
Democratic Republic of Congo	Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism, Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, Centre for International Forestry Research	REDD	Forestry	Total value: €14.0 million (GCCA)	2012 to 2017
Ethiopia	Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Environmental Protection Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Mainstreaming; adaptation; CDM	Overall development and poverty reduction  Land management; and energy	Total value: €13.7 million (GCCA, including €8 million EC fast start funding)	2011 to 2015
Guyana	Ministry of Agriculture through the National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute	Adaptation; REDD	Coastal zone management	Total value: €4.165 million (GCCA)	2009 to 2014
Jamaica	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Planning Institute of Jamaica, Forestry Department, National Environment Protection Agency, Ministry of Housing, Environment and Water	Adaptation; REDD	Coastal zone management; land management; natural resources	Total value: €4.48 million (GCCA: €4.13 million; Government of Jamaica and UNEP: €0.35 million)	2010 to 2013
Lao PDR	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.	Mainstreaming; adaptation	Overall development and poverty reduction  Agriculture and land management	Total value: €6.2 million (GCCA €5.0 million and grantees €1.2 million)	2013 to 2016
Maldives	World Bank, Ministry of Housing and Environment	Adaptation	Overall development and poverty reduction	Total value: €3.8 million (GCCA) (Other contributions to the multi-donor trust fund include EU: €2.7 million and AusAID: AUD\$ 0.5 million)	2009 to 2013

Country	Partners	GCCA priority areas	Sectors	Budget	Duration
Mali	Ministry of Environment and Sanitation, National Forestry Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	REDD	Forestry	Total value: €6.215 million (GCCA: €5.65 million; and Government of Mali: €0.565 million)	2010 to 2016
Mauritius	Maurice Île Durable Commission. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Mainstreaming; CDM	Overall development and poverty reduction Energy	Total value: €3 million (GCCA)	2010 to 2013
Mozambique	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark (DANIDA), Ministry for the Coordination of the Environmental Action	Mainstreaming; adaptation; DRR	Overall development and poverty reduction	Total value: €47 million (GCCA: €15.2 million, including €5 million fast start funding from Ireland DANIDA: €31.5 million; and Government of Mozambique: €0.3 million)	2011 to 2015
Nepal	Department for International Development (DFID), UNDP, Ministry of Environment	Mainstreaming; adaptation	Overall development and poverty reduction	Total value: €19.4 million (GCCA: €8.6 million, including €0.6 million fast start funding from Cyprus; and DFID: €10.8 million)	2011 to 2014
Rwanda	Rwanda Natural Resources Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources	Adaptation	Land management	Total value: €4.555 million (GCCA)	2010 to 2012
Samoa	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Mainstreaming; adaptation	Water and sanitation	Total value: €3 million (GCCA)	2012 to 2015
Senegal	Directorate for Environment and Classified Establishments of the Ministry of Environment	Adaptation	Coastal zone management	Total value: €4 million (GCCA)	2010 to 2015
Seychelles	National Climate Change Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment, Transport and Energy, Seychelles Energy Commission	Mainstreaming; CDM	Overall development and poverty reduction Energy	Total value: €2 million (GCCA)	2010 to 2012
Sierra Leone	Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security	REDD	Forestry	Total value: €5 million (GCCA, fast start funding from Ireland)	2012 to 2016
Solomon Islands	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Ministry of National Planning and Aid Coordination	Mainstreaming; adaptation; DRR	Overall development and poverty reduction	Total value: €2.8 million (GCCA)	2011 to 2014
Tanzania	Ministry of Finance, Vice-President's Office – Division of Environment, Community Forest Pemba, Institute of Rural Development Planning, Sokoine University of Agriculture	Adaptation; REDD	Overall development and poverty reduction Agriculture; coastal zone management; land management; natural resources; and water and sanitation	Total value: €2.2 million (GCCA)	2010 to 2013
The Gambia	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, National Environment Agency, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Forestry and the Environment	Mainstreaming; adaptation	Overall development and poverty reduction Coastal zone management	Total value: €3.86 million (GCCA)	2012 to 2015
Uganda	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture	Mainstreaming and adaptation	Agriculture	Total value: €11 million (GCCA, fast start funding from Ireland)	2012 to 2016
Vanuatu	World Bank, Department Of Meteorology and Geo-Hazard	Mainstreaming, adaptation; DRR	Overall development and poverty reduction Agriculture; natural resources; and water	Total value: €5.7 million (GCCA: €3.2 million and World Bank: €2.5 million)	2010 to 2016

# Restoring mangrove forests in Guyana



**Title:** Sustainable Coastal Zone Protection through Mangrove Management.  
**Priority areas:** Adaptation and REDD.  
**Sector:** Coastal zone management.  
**Budget:** Total value €4.16 million GCCA through sector budget support and project support.  
**Partners:** Government of Guyana, Ministry of Agriculture.



Mangrove seedlings, Guyana

Like many coastal countries in the Caribbean, Guyana is vulnerable to increased coastal erosion as a result of climate change. A GCCA initiative to restore and plant new mangrove forests has proved an interesting way of contributing to carbon sequestration and bolstering sea defences.

Activities include rehabilitating and mapping mangrove fields, and raising awareness of their benefits as a means of tackling climate change so that the Guyanese government incorporates the protection and development of sustainable mangrove forests in its forest planning and regulations.

The rehabilitation element of the programme has involved selecting existing mangrove forests for protection and identifying sites that are more difficult to rehabilitate but are of high value in terms of sea defence. To date, mangrove

seedlings have been planted along different sections of 4.5 km of coastline. The project has been embraced by the local communities and is contributing to climate change abatement and mitigation in Guyana.

The programme is an excellent example of working to reduce the vulnerability of local people to climate change through nature conservation. The momentum built by its success will contribute to long term sustainability. The programme is also proving to be pioneering as it relies mainly on sector budget support, a new and effective method to deliver climate change aid to developing countries.

“The efforts to protect, restore and manage Guyana’s mangroves forests efforts will continue long after the three-year Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project has ended.”

Agriculture Minister  
Robert Persaud, Guyana





Visit to a mangrove forest, Guyana

**Key achievements to date:**

Planting of 200,000 mangrove seedlings; surveys of project sites; mangrove ranger unit established; mangrove website established (<http://www.mangrovesgy.org>).

**Lessons learned:** Selecting suitable planting sites as well as appropriate mangrove species is crucial as seedlings are very sensitive to erosion and wave action.

**The way forward:** Continued and accelerated production of seedlings; construction of retaining facilities with alternative designs for habitat creation.

## Working towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in Ethiopia



**Title:** Building the national capacity and knowledge on climate change resilient actions.

**Priority areas:** Mainstreaming, adaptation and DRR.

**Sectors:** Overall development and poverty reduction; land management; and energy.

**Budget:** Total value €13.7 million from GCCA (including €8 million EC fast start funding) through project approach.

**Partners:** Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Rehabilitated Bahra watershed, Medebay Zana District, Ethiopia

Ethiopia faces uncertainty over rainfall and climate models suggest that the country will see further warming of between 0.7 and 2.3 degrees Celsius by 2020. Climate change has already led to an increasing number of hot days and the effects on crop and livestock production threaten food and water shortages, further hindering economic growth.

For these reasons, the GCCA is supporting a programme which

aims to increase the awareness and capacity of Ethiopian Government institutions and the rural population to deal with climate change.

The Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority has been designated to deal with the climate change challenge and it is working to mainstream climate change into policy, regulatory and strategic development planning. In support of this objective, the GCCA programme includes a range of measures.



Rainwater harvesting for supplementary irrigation, Ethiopia

“The results of the project are incredible. We are witnessing great success in reducing soil erosion, increased biomass for livestock, and reducing expansion of gully formation to main farm land.”

A member of Yezat Watershed Committee, a small community in the central highlands of Ethiopia

To support institutional and capacity building, the programme involves initiatives such as developing climate finance guidelines, strengthening the inter-ministerial and national dialogue on climate change and driving renewable energy investment, in particular through the CDM. Other activities include establishing an easily accessible database for knowledge management to allow the sharing of climate change experience and scaling up good practices.

A second programme component focuses on mainstreaming climate smart actions in the sustainable

land management programme with adaptation, mitigation and development co-benefits.

Initiatives in this area include the rehabilitation of degraded watersheds, enhancing soil and nutrient management, improving crop choice and planting management, water use efficiency, and farmers’ access to market opportunities and storage facilities.

2008

2018



Project Start  
December 2011

Project End  
January 2017

**Key achievements to date:** Aligning GCCA actions with existing government strategies and other development partners’ initiatives; agreeing detailed programming of actions, monitoring and evaluation framework, and budget.

**Lessons learned:** Government ownership on programme design is high thanks to adequate timing for consultation and formulation process.

**The way forward:** Harmonisation and building synergies between the various development partners’ initiatives in line with the national Climate Resilient Green Economy framework.

# Mainstreaming climate change into policies and strategies in Mozambique



**Title:** Support project to the Government of Mozambique for the mainstreaming of climate change into policies and strategies and to adapt to climate change impact.

**Priority areas:** Mainstreaming, adaptation and DRR.

**Sectors:** Overall development and poverty reduction.

**Budget:** Total value €47 million with €15.2 million GCCA contribution (including €5 million fast start funding from Ireland) through project approach. Other contributors include Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA) with €31.5 million and the Government of Mozambique with €0.3 million.

**Partners:** Ministries for the Coordination of Environmental Action, Planning and Development, State Administration, Agriculture, Mineral Resources, Fisheries, Energy, Health, Tourism, Public Works and Housing and Labour, the National Institute for Natural Disaster Management, and the National Council for Sustainable Development, DANIDA.

“When I was growing up we would plant maize to have it bloom between October and December. But over the last ten years the rain doesn’t come until January or February...we have literally nothing to harvest.”

Ana Marcos Juaia, farmer, living 40km north of Maputo

Mozambique regularly experiences extreme weather events. Droughts occur every three to four years in a country where most people depend on agriculture, fed by rainfall, for their livelihoods. Many river basins converge in Mozambique and flooding is a perennial threat, especially when coupled with tropical cyclones.

The country urgently needs a coordinated approach to tackling climate change and the GCCA is supporting Mozambique’s Government in its efforts to mainstream climate change and climate-proofing into its poverty alleviation and development strategies.



Smiling women with children, Mozambique



The project has a particular focus on the most vulnerable communities in rural areas. The aim is to deliver in three areas – capacity building; awareness and training; and field operations.

Efforts in the field of capacity building include reviewing sector development strategies in order to mainstream environmental and climate change themes against the most recent legal

and policy framework. There is also a plan to improve the coordination and monitoring of climate change interventions and strengthening the environment monitoring system.

On awareness and training, the programme is looking to increase understanding of climate change among key stakeholders and improve the responsiveness of development agents at all levels.

On-the-job training is planned at a local level and information networks are being identified to promote climate change awareness. In field operations, the emphasis is on involving environment institutions in promoting innovative solutions to climate change. There will also be pilot projects, mainly in the agrarian, agro-forestry and DRR sectors.

**Key achievements to date:** Completion of the Institutional Performance and Impact of Climate Change studies; approval of budget and activity plan for 2011 based on the National Annual Economic and Social Plan; terms of reference for the National Climate Change Strategy are nearing completion.

**Lessons learned:** Environment and climate change are not yet adequately treated as cross-cutting issues at policy level, with environmental management too often perceived as an obstacle to economic development. As a result, investment decisions are often made with little consideration to environment regulation and sustainable development. Institutional and capacity strengthening and financial support to government institutions responsible for the coordination of climate change is crucial for a sustainable integration of the issue in sector policies and investment decisions.

**The way forward:** Further support for strong coordination; approval by the steering committee of the climate change action plans of the government institutions at central and provincial levels and integration into the Government National Annual Economic and Social Plan 2012.



## Providing budget support for climate change in the Seychelles

**Title:** Seychelles Climate Change Support Programme.

**Priority areas:** Mainstreaming and CDM.

**Sectors:** Overall development and poverty reduction; and energy.

**Budget:** Total value €2 million GCCA, through general budget support.

**Partners:** National Climate Change Committee; Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment, Transport & Energy; Seychelles Energy Commission.



Marine life, Indian Ocean

The Seychelles National Climate Change Strategy was established in 2009 to overcome the effects of climate change in an archipelago with a fragile environment where 90 per cent of the population and development is concentrated on the coastal plateaux. Climate change

means that these densely populated areas are at risk of increased flooding, erosion from rises in the sea level and more violent tropical storms.

The GCCA is building on the work of the Seychelles Government



Fisherman, Indian Ocean

“The European Union is a natural ally of small island states such as Seychelles in the global action against climate change.”

Ambassador Alessandro Mariani,  
Head of the Delegation for the EU  
for the Republic of Seychelles

through a €2 million programme to support the country’s sustainable development policies and the implementation of its national climate change strategy.

The programme is intended to result in the effective mainstreaming of climate change in national development policies and key sector strategies and action plans, including enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders and building

solid steering and monitoring mechanisms.

It also aims to develop a solid institutional and legal framework in the energy sector, including in relation to the CDM, enabling wide participation and investment in renewable energies, innovation and access to and transfer of technology, as well as improved energy efficiency.



**Key achievements to date:** The National Climate Change Strategy and a new energy policy have been approved by the Cabinet.

**Lessons learned:** High level institutional technical assistance and capacity building need to be targeted due to the country’s complex institutional frameworks; coordination between actors is a key element of institutional strengthening.

**The way forward:** EU and other donors to seek ways to support provision of high level technical assistance and capacity building; reinforcing the management and coordination capacities to implement the National Climate Change Strategy and the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy; reinforcing the expertise and technical capacities of the Seychelles Energy Commission.

# Aligning climate change and development priorities through mainstreaming in Cambodia



**Title:** Cambodia Climate Change Alliance.

**Priority area:** Mainstreaming.

**Sector:** Overall development and poverty reduction.

**Budget:** Total value: €6.1 million through a sector policy support programme. GCCA Contribution: €2.2 million. Others: Denmark €0.4 million, Sweden €1.5 million and UNDP €2 million.

**Partners:** UNDP, Ministry of the Environment – Climate Change Department, National Climate Change Committee.



Boy with caught fish, Cambodia

With 80 per cent of its rural population relying on subsistence crop yields, Cambodia has an urgent need to strengthen its capacity to address climate change which could impact on food security and poverty.

The south Asian country faces a range of issues including weak adaptive capacity, poor water infrastructure and the degradation of forest and wetland ecosystems. Cambodia's agriculture is particularly vulnerable to any change in rainfall patterns and its fisheries are highly vulnerable to climate change.

“...Climate change is becoming a constant threat, as drought and flooding have become more severe and frequent... Cambodia has successfully launched the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance to strengthen national institutions.” H.E. Hor Namhong, Deputy PM, at the 66th Session of the General Debate at the United Nations General Assembly

The GCCA programme in Cambodia aims to ensure that climate change activities in the country are nationally owned, led and aligned with development priorities. It is also essential that they are effectively coordinated and implemented.



Crop diversification, Cambodia

The programme aims to improve the capacities of the national climate change committee, line ministries and civil society to tackle climate change. It focuses on areas including coordinating national policymaking, monitoring the implementation of the national climate change strategy, policy and plans, increasing awareness and

knowledge sharing and preparing for a nationally owned trust fund. In addition, mainstreaming road maps and guidelines are prepared to support the integration of climate change into sector activities and work is progressing to address policy and regulatory gaps for successful mainstreaming. The country's negotiation capacity

on climate change is also being strengthened.

Under the programme, an outreach and learning campaign is under way targeting all regions and vulnerable groups. A particular effort is being made to include women in the process, both as beneficiaries and as participants and decision makers.

2008

2018

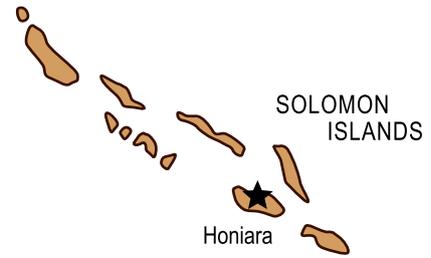


**Key achievements to date:** Inter-ministerial technical body established; road map for sector climate change mainstreaming and climate change strategic plan defined and endorsed; trust fund secretariat established; second National Forum on Climate Change organised; common platform for technical and policy dialogue in place; 16th UNFCCC CoP attended by inter-ministerial delegation; increased awareness and information sharing with public; launching of two key supported national documents to create opportunities for increased communication and public debate on climate change impacts; undertaking of grant operations management to allow Government agencies and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to access grants.

**Lessons learned:** Good national, sub-national and inter-ministerial communication is key to sharing of lessons learned and up-scaling of successful approaches; the shift to national-owned climate change institutional and financing arrangements is linked to the national government reforms; support is needed for the Government to put in place adequate policies and procedures; outreach on understanding of climate change response as development and livelihood issues is crucial; capacities of local civil society is key to any climate change response.

**The way forward:** Further the capacity and visibility of the national climate change committee; strengthen partnerships and develop a collaborative environment between Government agencies and between the Government, communities and the private sector; complete the climate change strategic plan in a consultative manner; pilot outreach activities; website and knowledge management platform; second call for proposals; roadmap for the nationalisation of the Trust Fund.

# Building resilience in the Solomon Islands



**Title:** Solomon Islands Climate Assistance Programme.  
**Priority areas:** Mainstreaming, adaptation and DRR.  
**Sector:** Overall development and poverty reduction.  
**Budget:** Total value €2.8m GCCA, through general budget support.  
**Partners:** Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management and Ministry of Planning.



Densely populated island, Solomon Islands

particular, contribute to climate change adaptation and reduce the vulnerability of communities living on low-lying atolls, artificially built islands and other low lying coastal areas.

The programme intends to support effective mainstreaming of climate change and disaster risk reduction priorities in national development policies and in key sector strategies; to ensure that budgets are allocated to key institutions carrying out climate change and disaster risk reduction activities; and to strengthen institutional capacities within the Ministry of Environment and the National Disaster Management Office.

Consultations with stakeholders are undertaken for the preparation of the National Climate Change Strategy. This will involve the identification and ranking of affected communities according to their level of risk and realistic cost estimates for climate change adaptation measures including relocation.

“There is growing concern seeing first-hand the impacts of climate change as it slowly erodes the very low lying atoll of Ontong Java. With a number of villages the rising sea level is slowly eating up right to their doorsteps.” Casper Supa,

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC)  
 Project Officer

The Solomon Islands are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the weakness of the economy has aggravated this vulnerability. The country is heavily dependent on natural resources and the decline of logging has affected the economy.

Through this climate assistance programme the GCCA is working to strengthen the Government capacity for policy enhancement, coordination and implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy. The programme will, in





Coral coastline, Solomon Islands

**Key achievements to date:** Climate change working group in place as forum for policy dialogue and donor coordination in the sector; mainstreaming of climate change in National Development Strategy, National Transport Plan and 2011 Budget; provincial consultations on climate change policy carried out.

**Lessons learned:** Large number of actors and broad definition of the “climate change” sector poses challenges for effective coordination; ownership and leadership by the Government, political commitment and an action oriented matrix to assess progress and structure the policy dialogue is important; addressing the capacity constraints is critical to the success of the initiative.

**The way forward:** Finalisation of the climate change policy; strengthening of capacities at the Climate Change Division at the Ministry of Environment; development of matrix of action and deliverables in the climate change sector as a tool for the Climate Change Working Group.



Woman with bowl of fruit and vegetables, Africa

# Making a difference at the regional level

Climate change does not respect country boundaries. It affects virtually every corner of the globe regardless of a country's greenhouse gas emissions, or its capacity to deal with the effects of climate change.

Often neighbouring countries that share a common geography such as a river basin face similar climate change challenges. This is the case in the Lower Mekong Basin, for example, and in regions such as the Pacific and the Caribbean, where a number of small island states face similar climate change issues but are ill equipped to deal with them because of their size or the fragility of their economies.

Many partner countries supported by the GCCA also belong to regional organisations that already have programmes in place to tackle climate change in their member countries.

Building partnerships and ensuring complementarity underpin the work of the GCCA, and for these reasons the GCCA currently supports seven regional programmes to complement its existing 25 country interventions. For regional programmes, the emphasis is generally on capacity building, applied research and technical assistance, and promoting the exchange of experiences between countries.

GCCA supported programmes on the African continent are delivered through a number of existing organisations that seek common development objectives for their member countries. These include the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). In West Africa, the partner organisations are ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States, and CILSS, le Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse.

The GCCA is also working with the African Union on continent wide initiatives.

In the Pacific, the GCCA is working with the University of the South Pacific and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) across various Pacific states. In the Caribbean, the GCCA is supporting the 17 member countries of the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) through the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC); whilst in south-east Asia, the GCCA is supporting the Mekong River Commission's (MRC) Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI) (See Table 2).

For regional programmes, the emphasis is generally on capacity building, applied research and technical assistance, and promoting the exchange of experiences between countries.

## Table 2: Overview of GCCA regional programmes

Region	Partners	GCCA priority areas	Sectors	Budget (GCCA contribution)	Duration
Africa	African Union (AU), African Development Bank (AfDB) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Adaptation; CDM	Overall development and poverty reduction  Agriculture; energy; food security; health; water	€8 million	2011 to 2014 (est.)
Western Africa	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse (CILSS)	Mainstreaming; adaptation; CDM	Overall development and poverty reduction  Agriculture; energy, forestry; infrastructure; land management	€4 million	2011 to 2015
Eastern and Southern Africa	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	Mainstreaming; adaptation; CDM	Overall development and poverty reduction  Agriculture; energy; forestry; land management	€4 million	2010 to 2014
The Caribbean	Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) and Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)	Adaptation; REDD; CDM; DRR	Agriculture; education; energy; fisheries; forestry; health; tourism; water	€8 million	2011 to 2014
Lower Mekong Basin	Mekong River Commission (MRC)	Mainstreaming; adaptation	Overall development and poverty reduction  Agriculture; natural resources	€5 million	2012 to 2016
Pacific	University of South Pacific (USP)	Adaptation	Education, research; technological development;	€8 million	2011 to 2014
South Pacific	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Mainstreaming; adaptation	Overall development and poverty reduction  Coastal zone management; health; infrastructure, water and sanitation	€11.4 million (including €10 million EC fast start funding)	2011 to 2015



programme aims to ensure the island countries are better equipped to mainstream climate change in policies, planning processes and country budgets.

Projects on the ground are tailored to countries' needs. They cover sectors such as the sustainable management of natural resources,

food security, waste management, water, health, tourism, fisheries, coastal management and urban planning.

Activities at a national level include shaping adaptation road maps for each country, implementing projects outlined in these road maps, reviewing existing plans,

holding coordination workshops and implementing pilot projects.

At a regional level, the focus is on strengthening regional capacity to support national adaptation needs and the establishment of innovative regional coordinating mechanisms.

**Key achievements:** Contribution agreement with the SPC signed in July 2011; initial steps towards establishing the project team taken.

**Lessons learned:** From the identification and formulation of the project a key lesson is that a system embracing both "top-down" and "bottom-up" approaches to adaptation has the best chance to improve the adaptive capacity of Pacific inhabitants. As part of this, facilitating autonomous adaptation by focusing on the positive aspects of cultural and communal-based societies in the Pacific is often a decisive element, particularly if combined with an active engagement with all stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Regional Pacific Organisations.

**The way forward:** The next steps are to carry out in-country assessments and consultation missions in each of the nine countries to identify priorities and to prepare draft national implementation plans. This will coincide with the start of sub-regional technical training workshops, short term technical advisory support, and pilot adaptation projects.

## Preserving progress towards the millennium development goals in the Caribbean

**Priority areas:** Adaptation, REDD, CDM and DRR.

**Sectors:** Agriculture; education; energy; fisheries; forestry; health; tourism; and water.

**Budget:** Total value €8 million GCCA through project approach

**Partners:** Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, Cuban Meteorological Institute, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, University of West Indies, Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute



Irrigating sugar plantation, Caribbean

In the Caribbean, the GCCA is funding an €8 million programme to help the 17 member states of CARIFORUM tackle the effects of climate change.

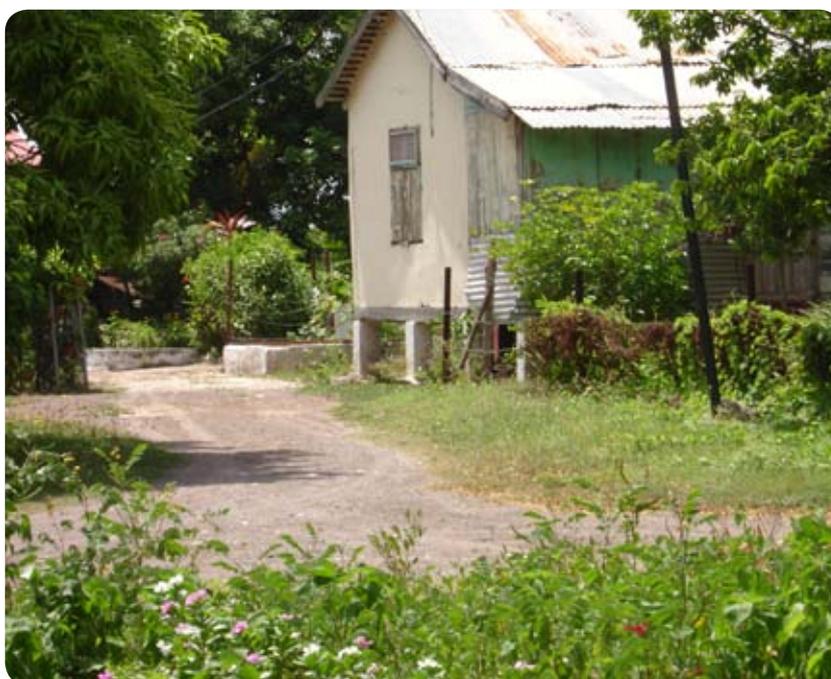
As individual states, the Caribbean islands are ill equipped to deal with the range of climate change threats they face including sea level rise, coastal erosion, the risk of

more frequent extreme weather events and concerns over energy and food security. The region lacks technical, institutional and financial capacity to combat the effects of climate change which are already clear to see on the ground.

Through CARIFORUM they are joining forces to tackle a common threat with the support of the EU. The Caribbean

“The very existence of small islands states like those in the Caribbean and the Pacific could be imperilled if current trends are not reversed or altered,” the Prime

Minister of Barbados, Freundel Stuart, at the 66th Session of the General Debate at the United Nations General Assembly

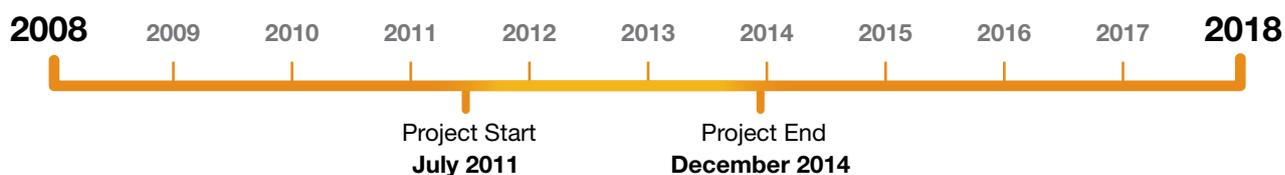


Agricultural worker's homestead, Caribbean

programme has a clear focus on the goal of enhancing local, national and regional capacities and resilience in ways that link sustainable development, risk management and adaptation.

Under the programme work is to be undertaken to enhance regional climate prediction models. Another priority is improving climate monitoring, data retrieval and tools for DRR.

Enhancing vulnerability and risk assessments and local capacities is another area of the programme, and adaptation pilots are also planned. In addition, the programme is also helping the Caribbean islands access carbon financing.



**Key achievements:** The grant contract is a result of an intensive preparation and consultation process and is tailored to the specific needs and priorities of the Caribbean.

**Lessons learned:** Ensemble modelling techniques, vulnerability assessments can usefully assist with the identification of local and national adaptation and mitigation interventions.

**The way forward:** Enhancing the predictive powers of regional climate models, improving climate monitoring, data retrieval and space-based tools for DRR; refining vulnerability and risk assessment methodologies; embarking on adaptation pilots; enhancing capacity within the region to access carbon finance under various climate-related funding mechanisms.

# Addressing basin-wide and trans-boundary issues in the Lower Mekong

**Priority areas:** Mainstreaming and adaptation.

**Sectors:** Overall development and poverty reduction; agriculture; natural resources; land management; and water and sanitation.

**Budget:** Total value: €11.55 million. GCCA contribution: €5 million including €1.54 fast start funding from Ireland and €1.54 of EC fast start funding through project approach. Other contributors to the CCAI include Australia €1.64 million, Denmark €0.65 million, Luxembourg €1.9 million, and Germany €1.4 million.

**Partners:** Mekong River Commission (MRC).



Mekong River, Thailand

“The sea comes closer and has claimed the mangroves first, and then the eucalyptuses. Now they are all gone.”

Mr Ky Quang Vinh, a Viet Nameese farmer living in Kien Giang, Viet Nam

In the Lower Mekong Basin, the GCCA is supporting the efforts of an existing initiative by the MRC to implement priority adaptation and mitigation measures and to integrate climate change into the development strategies of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam.

In 2007, the MRC called for a regional initiative to provide knowledge, tools and capacity building to help the member countries adapt to the effects of climate change. These include more droughts and flooding and changes to the natural ecosystems, agriculture and food production. As a result, the Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI) was established in 2009 with a long-term programme for climate change and planning running until 2025.

The CCAI focuses on addressing basin-wide and trans-boundary

issues and the sectors for which the MRC has a mandate and experience, for example, floods and droughts, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, hydropower, and river transport. The initiative covers the piloting and demonstration of adaptation planning and implementation throughout the region drawing lessons learned from existing practices to improve performance and influence strategies and plans.

Through the initiative, the GCCA also supports capacity building and the use of specific tools for adaptation. Using these mechanisms, it aims to see strategies and plans for adaptation at various levels being put in place, regularly updated and integrated with appropriate development plans, while the implementation is monitored and reported on a regular basis. In addition, regional cooperation,



exchange and learning are promoted through partnerships.

The initiative is focused on four linked areas. These relate to demonstrating best practices to improve performance and influence planning and strategy development across sectors; improving the capacity to manage and adapt to climate change at different levels and planning stages including through the use of tools; ensuring that strategies and plans for adaptation are integrated with development plans, monitoring and reporting; and regional cooperation, exchange and learning.

By supporting long-term existing climate change initiatives and working with partners, the GCCA is delivering on its key objectives and leveraging support for one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change.

**Key achievements of the CCAI to date:** Number of demonstration projects established; Institutional and working arrangements established; climate change impact and vulnerability assessment tools developed; collaboration fostered.

**Lessons learned:** The need to maintain a strong strategic framework and steering arrangements for the CCAI; high quality inputs from expert networks, technical working groups and partners are required to guide the CCAI; a regional network of local demonstration projects is a key foundation for the CCAI.

**The way forward:** A regional network of local demonstration projects are a key priority; basin-wide, sector and trans-boundary assessments of wetland and ecosystems, flood and drought risks and hydropower is also a priority; the establishment of a Mekong Panel on Climate Change and a Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan are also high on a raft of agenda items; in addition, the network and partnerships will be expanded; and gender mainstreaming pursued.



## Tackling climate change in West Africa

**Priority areas:** Mainstreaming, adaptation and CDM.

**Sectors** Overall development and poverty reduction; agriculture; energy; forestry; land management and infrastructure.

**Budget:** Total value €4 million GCCA through project approach.

**Partners:** Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse (CILSS), World Agroforestry Centre, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation.



The countries of West Africa face a stark future as climate change affects food and water security at the same time as the population increases, with a prediction that it will double by 2050. Climate change is already adversely affecting the people of West Africa.

Temperatures are rising and since the 1990s there have been alternating dry and wet years

combined with extreme weather events. As a result agricultural production and water supply have become increasingly unstable. Land degradation is also a major problem.

The GCCA is addressing the challenge by supporting ECOWAS and CILSS, through a €4 million programme to tackle climate change.



Goatherd on the River Niger, Africa

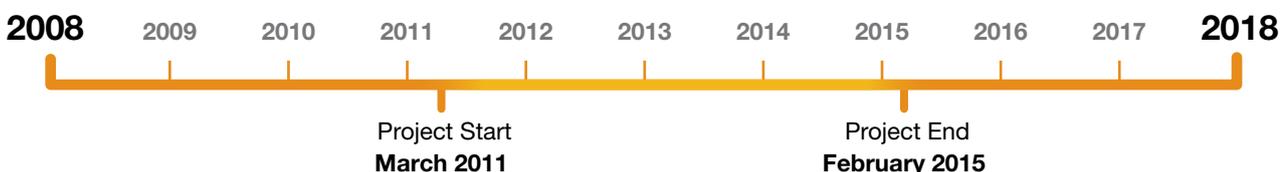
“Droughts, floods and storms are likely to increase, not only in frequency but also in intensity. Rainfall patterns are still changing and in coastal areas, sea level rise and rising temperatures will threaten coastal areas and ecosystems.”

Dr Edward Omane Boamah,  
Deputy Minister of Environment,  
Science and Technology, Ghana

Launched in March 2011, the programme focuses on increasing the capacity of the countries and the region to formulate and implement climate change policies and strategies. The emphasis is on integrating low carbon and resilient climate change practices and techniques into regional and national development strategies.

The programme also aims to strengthen the capacity of the countries and the region to deal with

climate negotiation themes that are particularly important to the Sahel and West Africa. These include adaptation, technology transfer, the carbon market, and agriculture, forestry and land use. The programme is working to improve access to climate information through systems of weather information and an enhanced capacity to analyse climate data and trends, so as to reduce climate related risks and disasters.



**Key achievements:** Key information materials were produced such as the publication “Present and future climate change in the semi-arid region of West Africa: a crucial input for practical adaptation in agriculture” and the “Update of the seasonal rainfall and discharge outlook for the 2011 rainy season in Western Africa”; a workshop was delivered on capacity building and hydrological forecasts in June 2011.

**Lessons learned:** Technical capacities and clear institutional arrangements are crucial to the design and implementation of regional programmes.

**The way forward:** As soon as ready, integrate the findings of the October 2011 monitoring exercise and undertake subsequent activities accordingly.

Crops suffering from drought, Africa





Working together to foster dialogue  
and drive action on climate change.

# Enhancing dialogue and exchange of experiences

Beyond financial and technical cooperation, the GCCA provides a platform for dialogue and exchange between the EU and developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular LDCs and SIDS. The aim is to promote climate change as a core issue in the partnership between these countries and the EU, building confidence and supporting a convergence of visions on how best to address climate change.

The GCCA national and regional approaches are parallel and complementary.

At national level, the dialogue focuses first and foremost on the effective integration of climate change into national development strategies, plans and budgets, and on identifying and implementing concrete actions to tackle climate change. At regional level, the emphasis is on bringing key

people together to share knowledge and experience, forge agreement and unite in a common cause.

This dialogue and exchange of ideas and experience is an ongoing process, with the results feeding into the development of a post-2012 climate regime under the auspices of the UNFCCC.

## Including climate change in national policy dialogues

Through its wide network of delegations, and its established policy dialogue with partner governments, the EU has the appropriate channels to effectively raise awareness of this issue of global concern with a view to integrating it in the national development policy context.

In particular, the dialogue can focus on the importance of complementing projects with macro or sector-level support, thereby increasing the chances to promote a cross-sector approach towards better climate risk management. Such an approach can help ensure that climate change adaptation is no longer dealt with exclusively by environmental ministries, but is integrated into a country's overall development effort, and EU development cooperation.



Farmer winnowing rice, Poukhouth, Laos

As an example, the EU Strategy for the Pacific adopted in 2006 includes a commitment to systematically integrate climate change into development cooperation. As a

result, all EU Country Strategy Papers for the Pacific have renewable energy and/or water as focal sectors, creating an opportunity for further dialogue at the national level.

# Fostering regional dialogue and action on climate change

A number of high-level events have been organised by the GCCA to facilitate the exchange of views and experience, each tailored to the audience and region. Regional conferences in Asia, Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean have provided a forum for dialogue and commitment on climate change.

“Now the time has come for us to speak up loud. If we don't unite and make ourselves heard, the outcome might leave us as the worst victims of climate change.”

Honourable Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh

## Asian countries work together to tackle climate change

In Asia, the GCCA complements existing forums, with a sharp focus on the LDCs in the region, many of which share common climate change concerns.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) has provided a forum between Europe and Asia since 1996. Each year ASEM summits and meetings maintain dialogue on a wide range of topics including disaster preparedness, climate change and development.

The GCCA has taken the dialogue a step further through its Asia Regional Conference held in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, in **May 2010**. High level politicians including the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the European Commissioner for Climate Action attended the event. Countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar and Nepal, all highly vulnerable to climate, also sent representatives. The participants



Rehabilitation of livelihoods after the passage of Cyclone Sidr, Bangladesh

agreed to work together to mobilise international support for stronger action on climate change.

The conference led to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Maldives and the EU signing a joint declaration, agreeing to cooperate towards the successful conclusion of a post-2012 agreement under the UNFCCC

and the Kyoto Protocol. Under the declaration they pledged to work together to mobilise political support for stronger action on climate change and to cooperate to adapt and integrate DRR and climate change considerations into development and poverty reduction strategies.

## The GCCA supports the Africa-EU Partnership on climate change



Fishing boats, The Gambia

In Africa, the GCCA dialogue is taking place within the established Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. The 2007 Joint Africa-EU Strategy defines the long-term policy orientations between Europe and Africa, based on a shared vision and common principles. Climate change is one of the eight areas of the Strategy's Action Plan covering 2011 to 2013, whilst strengthening climate change adaptation, in particular through the GCCA, is one of the six deliverables of this Africa-EU-Partnership on climate change.

A key step in the process was the adoption in November 2008 of a joint EU-Africa Declaration on Climate Change during the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the African and EU Troikas.

The GCCA African Regional Conference subsequently took place in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** in **October 2010** as a pre-event of the Seventh African Development Forum, "Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa". It provided a useful opportunity to discuss Africa's concerns and interests in

preparation for the 16th CoP of the UNFCCC which took place in Cancun two months later in December 2010. The Conference was an excellent forum to further the dialogue between African and European partners on the next steps in international climate negotiations, regional experiences and Pan-African Climate initiatives.

**"Togetherness is indispensable to tackle Climate Change challenges as the atmosphere is a global public good",**

Jato Sillah, Chair of the conference, Honourable Minister of Forestry and Environment of The Gambia

## The Caribbean endorses the EU alliance with developing countries

“It is absolutely necessary that all our countries identify and implement, in the shortest possible timeframe, a series of measures designed to minimise and mitigate the effects of global warming on our countries and populations...” Hon. Dean Oliver Barrow, Prime Minister of Belize, Chairman of CARICOM



Elderly woman outside her wooden home, Caribbean

During the first EU-Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial Conference on the Environment in March 2008, climate change adaptation, renewable energy, and deforestation were at the top of the agenda. The 2008 Lima Summit also identified climate change adaptation as a priority, placing emphasis again on the role of the GCCA.

Through the CARIFORUM-EU Declaration on climate change and energy, endorsed in May 2008, the Heads of State and Government affirmed their commitment to work together to enhance cooperation

in international negotiations and strengthen efforts to address climate change, energy and food security. They also welcomed the EU intention to assist and support the Caribbean region in its adaptation and mitigation efforts, through the GCCA, and other appropriate instruments. A Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change was subsequently approved by the Heads of Government in July 2009.

Representatives from across the Caribbean and a number of regional and international organisations met

in **Belize City, Belize** in **March 2011** at the Regional Conference organised by the GCCA. Caribbean countries, regional organisations and EU partners took forward their joint climate change agenda and discussed the follow-up to the Joint Declaration. Their work focused on capacity building needs, DRR, experiences in the region, as well as next steps towards international climate negotiation and the draft implementation plan of the Caribbean Regional Strategy on Climate Change, to be endorsed later in the year.

## The Pacific and the EU take further their Joint Initiative on Climate Change

In the Pacific Region, the GCCA is developing climate change dialogue against a backdrop of consensus between the EU and the Pacific Islands on climate change priorities and action.

The Joint EU-Pacific Declaration on Climate Change of November 2008 signalled a commitment between Pacific Island Forum Member States and Europe to address the challenges posed by climate change.

The GCCA Regional Conference on climate change in the Pacific held in **Port Vila, Vanuatu** in **March 2011** moved forward the dialogue and debate. It provided an opportunity for Pacific countries, territories and regional organisations and EU partners to focus on practical elements of the implementation of the Joint Pacific-EU Initiative on climate change, formalised by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the EC through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Strasbourg in December 2010. The Conference confirmed the need to take the Joint Initiative further through a Plan of Action to be finalised in a consultative manner and subsequently endorsed at ministerial level.

“ Climate change and natural disasters are putting a brake on ... progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific.” Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development



Women crossing a river, Papua New Guinea

# Giving policy makers the tools for mainstreaming climate change

The GCCA is organising a series of workshops to bring together climate change experts and decision makers responsible for national development planning and budgeting in beneficiary countries (See Table 3). To date the participants have generally been senior officials working in ministries of finance or planning with key roles in the budgetary process, and senior officials from ministries of environment who are in charge of climate change. Participants do not necessarily have in-depth knowledge of all the issues at stake or of mainstreaming, but they are instrumental in any mainstreaming effort. Equally critical, political leaders and senior officials from ministries connected with climate change can also attend the workshops.

The workshops aim to raise awareness of the need to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation into national development policies, plans and budgets. They introduce participants to a framework and tools available for mainstreaming and give them the practical support and encouragement to put what they have learned about mainstreaming into action in their home countries.

In addition, the workshops provide an opportunity for discussions and networking, allowing participants to share their experience and knowledge. It also provides the climate change experts with a valuable insight into the views and experience of those decision makers who are in key positions to put mainstreaming at the heart of national development plans.

The workshops are tailored to meet the needs of each region in terms of their structure, focus and seminar materials (See Box 2). The feedback from workshop participants has been positive and there is demand for additional workshops. The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) have, for example, expressed an interest in the GCCA organising a climate change workshop tailored to their needs. A number of participants are also looking at replicating the workshop in their home countries.

By the end of 2012, an estimated 250 senior officials from ministries of finance, planning and environment will have attended technical workshops, helping make the connections and the knowledge exchange that will drive change in their countries.

Region	Location	Date
Pacific	Vanuatu	February 2011
Southern and Eastern Africa	Lesotho	October 2011
Central and Eastern Africa	Kenya	November 2011
Western Africa	Senegal	December 2011
Overseas Countries and Territories	Brussels	January 2012
Caribbean	Caribbean	First semester of 2012
Asia	Asia	First semester of 2012

**Table 3: GCCA climate change mainstreaming workshops**

Participants from 18 Pacific countries and territories and six regional organisations attended the GCCA's three day technical workshop held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, at the end of February 2011. They included senior officials from ministries in charge of national planning and budgeting, environment and climate change government officials, representatives of regional organisations, development partners and EU delegation staff.

Topics covered included sessions on the basics of climate change science and mainstreaming climate change into national, sector and local policies, strategies and programmes. Participants had an opportunity to find out more about costing, assessing and selecting adaptation and mitigation options and measures. There were also modules covering other important aspects of mainstreaming including awareness raising and partnership building, and



Group photo from the GCCA Pacific mainstreaming workshop, Vanuatu

mainstreaming climate change into monitoring systems.

The workshop was structured to incorporate roundtable sessions, discussion and networking opportunities. These discussion sessions allowed the participants to integrate key messages in the draft outcome document of the GCCA Regional Conference on Climate Change which took place over the following days, encouraging ownership. There was also an opportunity for presentations by countries and regional organisations.

A review of the first technical workshop highlighted areas for improvement to subsequent

workshops. The message from participants was to place more emphasis on how climate change mainstreaming is implemented in practice and how tools are applied. The feedback was also used to guide changes to some of the modules.

All these lessons were integrated in the design and delivery of the four workshops which took place in Africa later in 2011. A more interactive delivery was adopted, with the use of a clear framework to guide participants through the workshop, for later use for each country to develop a mainstreaming action plan.



Delegates at GCCA Pacific mainstreaming workshop, Vanuatu



The GCCA is not like any other climate fund or initiative. It promotes innovative and effective approaches to address the climate change challenge.

# Overcoming challenges and seizing opportunities

The GCCA was launched with a vision of a more secure future for developing countries struggling to deal with the impact of climate change. Back in 2007, it embarked on an ambitious, far-reaching programme built on the solid foundations of aid effectiveness principles and adopting innovative approaches to deliver climate change finance. These approaches include the piloting of budget support and placing an emphasis on mainstreaming climate change into national and sector development planning.

Like any ambitious initiative, the GCCA has faced challenges. It has expanded its wide-ranging programme of activities rapidly across countries, sectors and regions. In 2008, it was working with four countries and by 2013 the number of beneficiary countries will have increased more than ten-fold.

In addition to regular development aid devoted to climate change, the GCCA relies on new and additional fast start funding pledged at the UNFCCC 15th CoP in Copenhagen

in 2009. The availability of this fast start funding has contributed to the rapid expansion of the initiative. At the same time, there is an understanding of the need to demonstrate that this funding is delivering results on the ground in the countries and regions supported by the GCCA.

In this context, each GCCA programme is identified and formulated within an extremely tight timeframe. The programmes are by their nature complex and involve multiple stakeholders, while the GCCA needs to ensure complementarity with on-going interventions, engage partners and foster ownership in partner countries in a relatively short space of time.

The beneficiary countries are LDCs and SIDS where there are challenges because of issues such as their climate vulnerability or lack of capacity - the very reasons why they have been selected for support in the first place. The limited capacities therefore also contribute to the challenge – as well as the ambition of the GCCA.

The focus of many programmes is institutional strengthening and mainstreaming which is vital to ensure that developing countries are well prepared to tackle the impact of climate change, but less visible and immediately beneficial than hard interventions such as building a school or a road. Embedding climate change in national policies will, for example, require raising awareness at all levels of the society, an objective which is essentially a long term process.

All these significant challenges have been addressed through an approach that puts the emphasis on cooperation, learning lessons and sharing knowledge. This ensures that experiences and achievements inform an expanding GCCA and the continuing global fight against climate change. The results can also help inform the development of a post-2012 climate agreement and supporting the work of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.



The GCCA is continuing to expand its support to developing countries and it is seeking more climate change funding to maintain this momentum.

# Charting a path to climate compatible development

The EU is in a unique position to help developing countries respond to the effects of climate change, given its leading role in development, global climate policy, the wide array of tools and instruments at its disposal, and its extensive presence in the developing world.

The GCCA is making a difference by addressing the links between climate change adaptation and development, ensuring countries and regions across the globe receive the support they need for climate change. In doing so, the EU is also supporting the fight against poverty and progress towards achieving the MDGs because of the way it is linking climate change to the development processes of partner countries.

As climate change is inextricably linked to development and the most vulnerable countries are also facing issues of accessing and absorbing climate change finance, the GCCA is applying the principles of aid effectiveness established by the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, promoting ownership, alignment, harmonisation, results and mutual accountability. Both existing and new climate finance must fully subscribe to these principles.

The GCCA is continuing to expand its support to developing countries and it is seeking more climate change funding to maintain this momentum. It is embarking on a further 11 programmes in countries and regions, whilst ensuring that lessons learned from earlier interventions are incorporated in new ones. By the end of 2013, the GCCA will support over 40 country and regional programmes across the world, amounting to over €250 million of aid.

As it is growing, the GCCA keeps concentrating on using innovative and effective approaches to climate change, such as mainstreaming and budget support, fostering a sustainable integration of climate change both at the country level and in the EU development cooperation.

The GCCA also ensures that lesson learning is an integral part of the process and that the knowledge created is shared across countries and regions and with development partners. A review in 2012 will give a more detailed picture of achievements and priority areas for the future.

As the EU is preparing for its next programming cycle, one important avenue will be to further the integration of climate change into EU regular aid and geographical programmes. This can be achieved through the use of country environmental and climate change profiles, the undertaking of environmental and climate assessments, the inclusion of climate change in regional and country strategy papers and the focus on climate change in national indicative programmes, based on country needs and priorities.

Climate change is a complex issue that is changing the development landscape. If we succeed in putting climate change at the heart of national strategies and policymaking, the benefits will be lasting and the most vulnerable countries will gradually move towards climate compatible development, for the benefit of all.



# Abbreviations and acronyms

AFD: Agence Française de Développement  
AfDB: African Development Bank  
ASEM: Asia-Europe Meeting  
AU: African Union  
CARICOM: Caribbean Community  
CARIFORUM: Caribbean Forum  
CCAI: Climate Change Adaptation Initiative  
CCCCC: Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre  
CDM: Clean Development Mechanism  
CILSS: Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse,  
COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa  
CoP: Conference of the Parties  
CSOs: Civil Society Organisations  
DANIDA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark  
DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction  
EC: European Commission  
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States  
EU: European Union  
GCCA: Global Climate Change Alliance  
GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH  
IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
LDCs: Least Developed Countries  
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals  
MRC: Mekong River Commission  
NAPAs: National Adaptation Programmes of Action  
NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation  
OCTs: Overseas Countries and Territories  
REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation  
SIDS: Small Island Developing States  
SPC: Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
SPREP: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme  
UN: United Nations  
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme  
UNECA: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
USP: University of South Pacific

The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) is an initiative of the European Union to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on climate change with developing countries most vulnerable to climate change. The GCCA focuses on the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States, which are often the most affected by climate change but have the fewest resources to tackle it.



What sets the GCCA apart is its emphasis on innovative and effective approaches to delivering climate change support and addressing the capacity needs of partner countries. This commitment translates into a range of delivery methods and approaches, such as sector policy support programmes, climate change mainstreaming and budget support, ensuring full alignment with developing countries' agendas, the use of country systems and long-term capacity building, ownership, and sustainability.



With help from the GCCA, partner countries are implementing climate change programmes on the ground, integrating climate change into national and sector strategies, reducing deforestation and disaster risks, and promoting adaptive agriculture and clean energy.



From 2008 to 2011, the GCCA has contributed over €200 million in support of more than 30 country and regional programmes in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. An additional 11 countries and regions are expected to benefit from the GCCA in 2012 and 2013.

This publication shows examples of the GCCA's wide-ranging programme and provides some early results and lessons learned.

**Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)**

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