



Our ref.: 6745-16/SG/DSG/GFCS

GENEVA, 8 August 2016

Annexes: 2

Subject: Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposal on "Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Third Pole"

Action required: (a) Nominate a focal point to be engaged in all phases of the project no later than **16 August 2016**

(b) Make contact with the GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has recently accredited the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as an implementing entity. Such recognition has opened opportunities to access the fund in support of specific activities that WMO is promoting through the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). The WMO Secretariat is developing a GCF proposal on Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Third Pole based on an initial concept note (Annex 1) which synthesizes the recommendations from the Regional Consultation on Climate Services for the Third Pole that was held from 9 to 11 March 2016 in Jaipur, India.

The project seeks to strengthen the use of weather, water and climate services in the Third Pole region to adapt to climate variability and change and to apply well-informed risk management approaches and will be implemented under the umbrella of the GFCS. The project will have, both, a regional and a national component, which is focused on Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to nominate a focal point to participate in the project and in the process of drafting the proposal, no later than 8 August 2016. Required expertise includes knowledge in meteorology/climate, agricultural meteorology, disaster risk reduction, and water resources management.

Furthermore, GCF proposal preparation requires formal endorsement by the GCF National Designated Authority (NDA) or focal point to ensure that the project fits within the country's national strategies and priorities. Hence, I would request that you share the draft concept with the NDA or focal point in your country, as early as possible, and obtain the NDA's endorsement to subsequently assure full national ownership during project design and implementation. An official no-objection letter from the NDA will be needed prior to submission of the project proposal to GCF. Annex 2 contains the list of NDA contacts. In addition, I invite you to identify, together with the NDA, relevant national stakeholders to be engaged in the project design and implementation.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal)

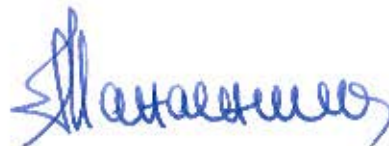
A more extended concept note and Project Preparation Request will be shared with you and your nominated focal point by 15 September 2016 with a request to provide inputs by 30 September 2016.

For further information, I would be grateful if you could contact:

Ms Veronica Grasso  
Project Officer  
Global Framework for Climate Services Office  
WMO Secretariat  
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I would like to express my appreciation for your continued support in promoting the Programmes and activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)  
for the Secretary-General

## Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Third Pole

### Brief Description

The Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, also known as Third Pole, has a fragile ecosystem and is the source of the 10 major rivers that provide irrigation, power and drinking water for 1.3 billion people. The Third Pole includes areas in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Changes in its cryosphere will affect the whole region and beyond. Given the transboundary nature, addressing these challenges will demand a regional approach.

Climate change is already having visible and pronounced impacts on snows and glaciers that are likely to increase the possibilities of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). The region is suffering from the impacts of increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as landslides, floods and droughts. In Nepal only, the impact of climate change amounts to 1.5 to 2% of current GDP/year or even higher in some years. The complex terrain of the Third Pole region, dotted by high mountains, adds another dimension of vulnerability of the communities to climate variability and change.

An analysis of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) of least developed countries (LDCs) in the Third Pole (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar) reveals that the countries' top priority sector for adaptation actions is agriculture followed by disaster risk reduction and water.

The project seeks to strengthen the use of weather, water and climate services in the Third Pole region to adapt to climate variability and change and to apply well-informed risk management approaches and will be implemented under the umbrella of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

This will be achieved by strengthening regional support networks and institutional capacities, developing tools and products that are needed for anticipating climate variability and change.

The regional component is complemented by well-connected nation components in each of the countries within the Third Pole region. The activities that will be implemented at the national level will demonstrate the value of effective application/integration of the enhanced capacity at regional level that will result in improved agricultural production, reduced disaster risk and improved water management in the project countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar).

### Objectives of the intervention

1. Enhance climate information services to better anticipate the effects of climate change on the cryosphere for vulnerability and adaptation assessment and planning;
2. Improve early warning for extreme weather/climate events (i.e heatwaves, droughts, GLOFs, landslides, etc.) to reduce the impacts of disasters on human lives and livelihoods;
3. Strengthen the provision and use of weather and climate services for agricultural risk management and water management.

The project will consist of the following components:

1. Enhancement of climate services capacities at a regional level.  
This will include:
  - a. The establishment of a WMO accredited Regional Climate Center (RCC) Network for the Third Pole and a Regional Climate Outlook Forum;
  - b. The enhancement of observations and linkages with the Global Cryosphere Watch;
  - c. Harnessing research outcomes to improve climate services;
  - d. Capacity development (including trainings for users and providers of climate services, training for Met Services to use RCC products etc.).

2. Enhancement of service delivery and warnings in Third Pole LDCs (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar).

This will include:

- a. The development of early warning systems for extreme events including climate watch systems;
- b. The development of weather and climate advisory services for the agriculture sector;
- c. The development of early warning systems and management for groundwater resources.

### **Justification**

By strengthening the provision and use of weather, water and climate information, the project will help countries improve risk management and adapt to climate variability and change. Such information allows disaster risk managers to prepare more effectively for droughts and floods; empower farmers to fine-tune their planting based on seasonal climate forecasts; assist public health services to target vaccine and other prevention campaigns to limit climate related disease outbreaks; and help improve the management of water resources.

### **Relevance to GCF**

- Climate-resilient agriculture
- Adaptation strategic impacts:
  - Increased resilience of: Most vulnerable people and communities; Health and well-being, and food and water security

**Green Climate Fund**  
**National Designated Authority (NDA) and focal point designations**

1 July 2016

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