

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

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COUNTRY SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS' NEW STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

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1 Introduction

1. This document specifies processes and guidance on how countries can gain access to funding under the Climate Investment Funds' (CIF) new strategic programs, namely:
 - a. Integration of Renewable Energy into Power Systems Program¹
 - b. Climate-Smart Urbanization Program²
 - c. Accelerating Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transition in Industry Program³
 - d. Nature, People and Climate Investments Program⁴
 - e. Future relevant programs established under the Strategic Climate Fund (*if applicable*)
2. It follows up and complements document *CTF-SCF/TFC.22/4 Operational Modalities for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs*⁵ submitted to the joint meeting of the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) Trust Fund Committees for approval in April 2020 by the CIF Administrative Unit and the CIF partner multilateral development banks (MDBs). While the Operational Modalities document provided an overview of the country selection process, this document provides definitive information on the following:
 - a. Details and procedures on recipient countries eligibility and how they can prepare and submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) to access funding under one or more new programs
 - b. Details and procedures on how independent expert groups will be identified and selected to review Eois for each program and make recommendations to the relevant SCF governing body on the countries to invite to participate in the new CIF programs
 - c. The criteria and selection process by which countries that have submitted an Eoi will be assessed
3. Program-specific design documents will provide details on the modalities for the use of CIF resources under the new strategic programs, including how the CIF programmatic approach will be implemented under each program.

2 Country eligibility to access funding under CIF's new strategic programs

4. All countries that meet the following criteria can express their interest in becoming a CIF country under one or more of the new strategic programs:

¹ https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/joint_ctf-scf_22_4.3_cif_integration_of_renewable_energy_program_final.pdf

² https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/joint_ctf-scf_22_4.2_cif_climate_smart_urbanization_program_final_0.pdf

³ https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/joint_ctf-scf_22_4.1_cif_industry_transition_program_final.pdf

⁴ https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/joint_ctf-scf_22_4.4_cif_nature_people_and_climate_investments_program_final.pdf

⁵ https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/joint_ctf_scf_22_4_cif_operational_modalities_new_programs_final_0.pdf

- a. Country must be eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA)⁶ at the time of the call(s) for Eol (see Section 6)⁷
 - b. Country must have an active lending program with at least one of CIF's partner MDBs⁸
5. In recognition of the presence of multi-national drivers and pressures of climate change, and that addressing systemic barriers to low-emission and/or climate-resilient development pathways can require multi-country partnerships and actions, a country can also express interest on behalf of a group of ODA-eligible neighbor countries in their region to receive CIF concessional resources through a regional intervention.

3 Summary of country selection process

6. The country selection process for the new CIF strategic programs consists of the following key steps:

Step 1: Identification and selection of independent expert groups

- a) The CIF Administrative Unit, in partnership with the MDBs, will identify and propose to the relevant SCF governing body for approval, the experts who will serve as members of the independent expert groups. Such experts will evaluate and rank countries' Eols for each new program (see Section 4). One expert group will be formed for each new CIF strategic program.

Step 2: Call for Eols

- b) A call for Eols will be published in the CIF web page. It will specify the relevant templates, selection criteria, deadlines, and other relevant information.
- c) In addition, the CIF Administrative Unit, in partnership with the MDBs, will inform all eligible recipient countries about CIF's new programs and the call for Eols, and invite them to submit an Eol (see Section 5).
- d) Interested eligible recipient countries will prepare the Eol by completing the template provided in Annex A. They will submit the completed Eol template to the CIF Administrative Unit.

Step 3: Evaluation of Eols and selection of new CIF countries

- e) Each independent expert groups will evaluate and rank the submitted Eols for their respective CIF strategic program based on the process outlined in Section 6, then submit

⁶ The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee's (OECD/DAC) list of ODA recipients for 2019 and 2020 is available on the OECD web site - [DAC List of ODA Recipients](#). The DAC revises the List every three years. The next review of the DAC List will take place in 2020. In instances where a country graduates from one lending category to another, new pricing may apply. For additional information, please see the Climate Investment Funds' Financial Terms and Conditions document [to be submitted for approval at November 2020 Joint TFC meeting].

⁷ A country would be deemed eligible for CIF concessional resources if the country holds ODA-eligibility status at the time of the relevant CIF governing body inviting a country into a CIF Program. To abide by the CIF principle of a dependable funding window being available for recipient countries, this eligibility will be honored for all projects under preparation, even if the country graduates from ODA eligibility during the course of programming. Should a country graduate from ODA, any projects being submitted to the Committee for approval will be subject to relevant pricing policy rates. For additional information, please see the Climate Investment Funds' Financial Terms and Conditions document [to be submitted for approval at November 2020 Joint TFC meeting].

⁸ African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank, International Finance Corporation, and the World Bank

their report to the relevant SCF governing body for approval.⁹ The report should include a ranked list of eligible countries and/or regions and the expert group's recommendations.

- f) The relevant SCF governing body will review the expert group's recommendations and approve the list of countries and/or regions to be invited to participate in the new CIF strategic program.

4 Step 1: Identification and selection of the independent expert groups

7. An independent expert group will be established for each new CIF strategic program to review and rank interested country EOIs and present recommendations to the relevant SCF governing body on the countries to be invited to participate under that respective program. This process will commence once the minimum contribution is reached for the respective program.¹⁰ The terms of reference outlined in Annex B provide details on the mandate of the expert groups, the selection of expert group members, and the approach they are to follow when undertaking the review.
8. Once the minimum contribution amount is reached for a given program, the CIF Administrative Unit, in collaboration with the MDBs, will issue a call for applications and nominations for that program's independent expert group. This call will be posted on the CIF website and circulated more broadly through to the following channels:
 - Members of CIF governing bodies
 - MDBs
 - Technical organizations participating in the monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and learning initiatives of CIF
 - Active and previous observers to the CIF governing bodies
 - Other private sector and civil society networks who actively work with CIF (such as the International Chambers of Commerce and the Stakeholder Advisory Network)
9. Applications and nominations for independent expert group members should include the expert's name, contact information, area of expertise, and a resume demonstrating professional experience and expertise in a combination of the following key areas: renewable energy, urbanization, high-emitting industrial processes (e.g., cement, steel, chemicals, petrochemicals, aluminum manufacture), agriculture, forestry, natural resource management, climate change, development economics, finance, and social development. Experience working with or for multilateral, regional, or international organizations is preferred.
10. The CIF Administrative Unit and the MDB Committee will review the applications against the qualifications outlined in the call for applications and prepare a proposal to present to the relevant SCF governing body for review and approval.
11. Each independent expert group will consist of six experts, acting in their personal capacities, chosen based on their strategic and operational expertise and experience in the areas targeted by CIF's new strategic programs. The groups should include a balance of experts from both developed and developing countries and should consider geographic and gender balance as well.

⁹ The primary components of the expert group's work are expected to take 6-8 weeks. See Annex B

¹⁰https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/events/files/joint_meeting_of_ctf_and_sfc_tfc_march_2020_approved_decision1.pdf

https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/events/files/joint_meeting_of_ctf_and_sfc_tfc_march_2020_approved_decision1.pdf

12. The relevant SCF governing body will review the proposal and approve the composition of the expert group(s) through a decision by mail.
13. The CIF Administrative Unit will manage the independent expert group process with support from CIF partner MDBs.

5 Step 2: Call for Expressions of Interest

14. As outlined in Section 3, once a new strategic program reaches the minimum contribution, the CIF Administrative Unit will inform all eligible countries of the program and invite interested governments to submit an EoI. This information will also be posted on the CIF website.
15. The call for EoIs will specify an indicative average and range of a CIF funding allocation per country under the respective program, as well as the approximate number of countries to be supported under the funding pledge. The call for EoIs may specify other criteria to ensure diversity among selected recipient countries, such as indicative segmentation of the total funding allocation, or of the number of countries, e.g. per region or according to income level.
16. Interested and eligible countries must complete a separate EoI for each program to which they would like to apply. The EoI consists of three components:
 - a. **The Expression of Interest Cover Page**
 - b. **The Expression of Interest Template** (see Annex A) should include responses that clearly demonstrate a country's ambition to participate in the new CIF program to which they are applying. The responses in the template should focus on the following topics:
 - **Country's vision and ambition for using CIF resources:** What is the country's level of ambition as it relates to the new CIF strategic program? How does the country seek to use CIF resources to address barriers to the achievement of its low-carbon and climate-resilient development plan(s) or strategy(ies)?
 - **Alignment and complementarity:** How does the CIF program align with the country's existing climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plans)? What are the additional value CIF resources could bring to meeting its goals? And how does CIF fill a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available, or complementary to existing ones?
 - **Implementation and relevance for CIF strategic programs:** What are potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF program, as well as financing strategies to support these projects? Lines of action that cover both mitigation and adaptation are encouraged, where relevant.
 - c. **Annexes and supporting documents:** When preparing an EoI, eligible recipient countries are strongly encouraged to include links to their existing country-driven climate strategies and plans (e.g., NDC, NAP, SDG, and other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plans).
17. When preparing their EoIs, eligible recipient countries are encouraged to consider the criteria that the independent expert group will use to evaluate and rank EoIs (see Sections 6 and 7). Note that

many of these evaluation criteria can be adequately addressed by attaching or linking to relevant annexes and supporting documents in the EoI.

18. As noted in Section 2, a country can also express interest on behalf of a group of ODA-eligible countries in its region to receive CIF concessional resources through a regional intervention under the new programs (such EoI should be sent copying the Ministries of Finance of the other countries; see Annex A). A country can submit an EoI both for a regional program, as well as a country-level program. In these instances, it is feasible that different CIF-partner MDBs play a leading role in each respective proposed program.
19. Private sector investments will form a critical component of each new CIF programs. Private sector operations will be available as a part of a selected country's investment plan, as well as through the Dedicated Private Sector Program (DPSP) and the CIF Climate Ventures (CCV) windows proposed under each new strategic program.¹¹ All countries submitting EoIs are eligible to participate in private sector operations (under DPSP and CCV), but they must specifically indicate their interest in DPSP and CCV in the EoI template. Note that selecting the DPSP or CCV options does not affect in any way the chances of a country being selected for an IP.
20. The EoI should be signed by either the country's Ministry of Finance (Minister or a Deputy Minister or equivalent) or the designated line ministry (Minister or Deputy Minister or equivalent), with a copy to the ministries of Finance.
21. The EoI should be submitted to the CIF Administrative Unit within ten weeks following the call for EoIs.

6 Step 3: Evaluation of EoIs and selection of countries for new strategic programs

22. The independent expert groups will evaluate the EoIs, including the documents annexed or referenced by countries, against the overarching Assessment Criteria presented in Table 1 and the program-specific criteria outlined in Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5. The corresponding weights by which each of the criteria will be assessed is also included in Table 1. As noted, countries can address many of these criteria by linking to existing plans, strategies, or other documents.¹²
23. As specified in the expert group Terms of Reference (see Annex B), the expert group may undertake additional research and/or consultations to inform their assessment.

¹¹ See Sections 4.2 and 4.3 of the Operational Modalities paper. More details on these windows will be defined under forthcoming documents.

¹² Note that for regional program submissions, the EoI will be assessed against criteria applied to the region rather than just the submitting country. See Annex A for additional information.

Table 1: Overarching criteria for assessing EoIs

Assessment criteria	Expression of Interest	Criteria Weighting
Vision and Ambition	The Eoi indicates the country’s level of ambition as it relates to the new CIF strategic program, and specifies how the country seeks to use CIF resources to drive transformational change ¹³ and help achieve its low-carbon and climate-resilient development plan(s) or strategy(ies).	20%
Alignment and Complementarity	<p>The Eoi explains how the CIF program aligns with the country’s climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plans). Demonstration of the country’s commitment to these strategies and plans, as well as progress towards achieving the strategies and plans, will be preferred.</p> <p>The Eoi also explains the additional value CIF resources could bring to meeting its goals and demonstrates that CIF fills a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available, or complementary to existing ones.</p>	20%
Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs	The Eoi identifies potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF program and can be implemented through one or more MDBs active in the respective country, as well as financing strategies to leverage MDB and other co-financing to support these projects. Lines of action that cover both mitigation and adaptation are encouraged, where relevant.	15%
MDB Partnership	The Eoi provides evidence of a successful past or ongoing lending program with one or more CIF partner MDBs and reflects indicative investment future opportunities.	10%
Leadership	The Eoi confirms active involvement of the Ministry of Finance, relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the formulation and implementation of the line(s) of action, including supporting responsible government entities through horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms.	10%
Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization	The Eoi, including annexes, proposes ideas for engaging the private sector in the delivery of the program and mobilization of resources.	10%

¹³ CIF’s Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) defines transformational change in climate action as strategic changes in targeted markets and other systems, with large-scale, sustainable impacts that shift and/or accelerate the trajectory toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development. The definition and dimensions of transformational change of may be further updated in 2020/2021 in collaboration with the TCLP. Please see the [TCLP webpage](#) for more information on this topic.

<p>Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality</p>	<p>The Eol, including annexes, affirms the country’s commitment to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in its development investments, and willingness to work to strengthen climate action and its governance in the country through gender-responsive and socially inclusive investments and planning mechanisms.</p> <p>The Eol, including annexes, includes potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills, and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society.</p>	<p>15%</p>
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- 24. As a part of the Eol evaluation process, each independent expert group should consult with the CIF partner MDBs to ensure that countries have undertaken successful lending programs (see Table 1) and that the criteria included in paragraph 15 are taken into consideration.
- 25. The work of the independent expert group for each respective program is expected to take 6-8 weeks. Following this work, each independent expert group will submit to the CIF Administrative Unit its report, including a ranked list of eligible countries and/or regions and other relevant recommendations. The CIF Administrative Unit will circulate the report to the relevant SCF governing body.
- 26. The relevant SCF governing body will meet and decide on the countries to invite into the CIF under the new programs and the respective allocation for each country/region. Such countries will be requested to collaborate with relevant MDBs to prepare an investment plan for submission to the governing body for endorsement. Additional information on the investment plan process can be found in Section 4.1 of the *Operational Modalities for the Climate Investment Funds’ New Strategic Programs* paper.¹⁴
- 27. If, for any reason, an independent expert group report does not recommend a sufficient number of countries to participate in a new CIF program, the TFC will decide how to use the unallocated funding so as to ensure optimal allocation of CIF resources.
- 28. In the case where donors make additional contributions to a new CIF program following the call for Eols, the relevant SCF governing body will decide whether to undertake a new Eol process or fund additional countries identified in the original Eol process.

7 Program-specific assessment criteria for Eols

7.1 Integration of Renewable Energy into Power Systems Program

- 29. CIF’s Integration of Renewable Energy into Power Systems Program seeks to help address system-wide barriers to the integration of renewable energy into power systems by accelerating the deployment of an integrated mix of supply-side and demand-side flexibility measures,¹⁵ including

¹⁴ https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/joint_ctf_scf_22_4_cif_operational_modalities_new_programs_final_0.pdf

¹⁵ Flexibility refers to technical and operational aspects. Technical flexibility sources refer to a set of supply-side, demand-side and grid-related measures, including energy storage, demand-side management programs, and transmission networks-related interventions. Operational flexibility refers to how the assets in the power system are operated. Beyond the constraints

enabling technologies, enabling infrastructure, market design and system operations improvements, and electrification and demand management.

30. A country’s institutional framework is key to introducing the appropriate measures to deploy power system flexibility,¹⁶ so energy strategies, legal frameworks, and policies are included as criteria for evaluating a country’s EoI. Regulation, market rules, and technical standards are other critical elements for accelerating the energy transition and are areas of intervention covered by this new program.
31. To assess each country’s EoI submission for this new program, the independent expert group will review the EoIs and official documents annexes/referenced in the EoI, assess the submission according to the criteria summarized in Tables 1 and 2, and weigh them according the weights indicated in Table 1. As specified in the expert group Terms of Reference (see Annex B), the expert group may undertake additional research and/or consultations to inform their assessment.

Table 2: EoI assessment criteria for CIF’s Integration of Renewable Energy into Power Systems Program

Assessment criteria	Expression of interest
Vision and Ambition	<p>The EoI demonstrates the country’s commitment to the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing or avoiding energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions via deployment of Renewable Energy • Integrating large amounts of variable renewable energy generation into the power system • Grounding such commitments in official document(s) such as NDC, energy sector strategies, SDG-related plans, or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy referenced or annexed in the EoI
Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs	<p>The EoI, including its annexes, identifies actions contributing to one or more of the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the flexibility of power grids to enhance the penetration of renewable energies into the energy mix • Piloting or scaling up innovative renewable energy flexibility solutions • Harnessing the potential for electrifying end-use sectors, such as building, transport, and industry sectors • Supporting actions for regional power system integration • Addressing the climate-related risks to energy systems <p>The EoI, including its annexes, contains evidence-based analysis performed on the above issues, such as:</p>

associated to each technology’s capabilities, it is dependent on the regulatory and market environment that surrounds the physical system and drives system operations. (Source IRENA (2018), [Power System Flexibility for the Energy Transition](#)).

¹⁶ Source: IEA web site [here](#).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional and/or policy frameworks (in place or planned) of relevance for the deployment of power system flexibility solutions¹⁷ • Evidence-based analysis performed to identify flexibility gaps,¹⁸ including case studies • Evidence-based analysis performed to identify the most cost-effective mix of solutions to fill in flexibility gaps and/or to evaluate the implications of alternative combinations of flexible solutions pathways (e.g., case studies examining specific national and sub-national contexts) • Demonstration of the country’s awareness and interest in harnessing the potential of renewable energy generation for electrifying end-uses sector, such as building, transport, and industry sectors • Demonstration of the potential of regional power sector integration <p>The EoI must also demonstrate the country’s successful track record in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploying MDB funds for low-carbon and/or climate-resilient initiatives <p>The EoI, including its annexes, demonstrates either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country has set the legal framework conditions required to achieve the energy-related goals by referencing relevant documentation <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>The country has identified the gaps in its legal framework that it needs to address to achieve the energy-related goals</p>
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7.2 Climate-Smart Urbanization Program

32. CIF’s Climate-Smart Urbanization Program seeks to support a range of primary and secondary cities¹⁹ in advancing along low-carbon and climate-resilient urbanization pathways and demonstrating a new climate-smart model of urban development that is coordinated, compact, and connected. It seeks to pilot new investment approaches to tackle barriers to urban climate action and enhanced private sector participation.
33. To assess each country’s EoI submission for this new program, the independent expert group will review the EoIs and official documents annexes/referenced in the EoI, assess the submission according to the criteria summarized in Tables 1 and 3, and weigh them according to the weights indicated in Table 1. As specified in the expert group Terms of Reference (see Annex B), the expert group may undertake additional research and/or consultations to inform their assessment.

¹⁷ For instance, incentive programs for energy storage or requirements for utilities to develop dynamic electricity rates reflecting grid conditions, carbon pricing signals, etc.

¹⁸ For instance, some countries applied the [IRENA FlexTool](#) to assess potential flexibility gaps and identify the most cost-effective mix of solutions to fill in identified gaps.

¹⁹ CIF’s *Climate-Smart Urbanization* action area is mainly targeting primary and secondary cities with a population ranging between 100 thousand to 4 million. The Program does not target mega cities.

Table 3: Eol assessment criteria for CIF's Climate-Smart Urbanization Program

Assessment criteria	Expression of interest
Vision and Ambition	<p>The Eol demonstrates the country's commitment to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing or avoiding GHG emissions and/or enhancing climate resilience through climate initiatives at the urban level • Grounding such commitment in official document(s) such as NDC or NAP, cities' Climate Action Plans, SDG-related plans, broad sector policies that are in line with the lower-carbon development and climate resilience goals/pathways, e.g., national policies on solid waste, DRM, transport, etc, or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy referenced or annexed in the Eol <p>The Eol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates the country's recognition of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - importance of cities and urban areas in accelerating economic growth - vulnerability of cities and urban areas to climate risks and related impacts - the potential of cities and urban areas in decreasing and/or avoiding GHG emissions • Illustrates the country's commitment to improve urban planning, infrastructure and services, and promote climate-resilient, low-carbon and sustainable development in urban areas as reflected in past, ongoing or planned investments in cities and urban areas.
Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs	<p>The Eol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies actions that have urban-related greenhouse gas emissions reduction and/or avoidance potential, and/or enhancing cities' resilience to climate-related risks and their impacts by addressing the links between urban development and climate-informed urban planning in the following key areas, as applicable: water, wastewater, and sanitation; solid waste; sustainable district energy (heating and cooling); renewable energy and energy efficiency; low-carbon urban transport and mobility; transit-oriented development; telecommunications; greening of urban areas; climate informed planning for good density and mixed-use; buildings and other built environment; multi-sector, area-based programs (i.e. slum upgrading, urban regeneration, etc) and health. • Plans to pilot or scale-up innovative low-carbon and/or climate-resilient urban solutions <p>The Eol, including its annexes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicates whether the country's legal and institutional framework allows for cities to receive reimbursable and non-reimbursable resources provided by CIF and its partner MDBs either directly (with or without

	<p>sovereign guarantee) or indirectly through an intermediary (such as a national development bank).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May also include the demonstration of other expected benefits and economic and social opportunities associated with transformational low-carbon and climate-resilient choices supported by the proposed activities (optional).
Leadership	<p>The EoI, including its annexes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicates the role(s) and responsibilities of national government and sub-national authorities (cities and municipalities) in enabling low-emission and climate-resilient development and recognizes the importance of vertical coordination of these entities.
Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization	<p>The EoI, including its annexes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicates whether the country’s legal and institutional framework allows for cities to receive resources from private investors and/or financiers (e.g., through debt instruments or bond issuance).

7.3 Accelerating Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilience Transition in Industry Program

34. CIF’s Accelerating Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transition in Industry Program seeks to catalyze deep behavioral changes and sustained impact in high-emitting industries, such as chemicals and petrochemicals and manufacture of iron, steel, and aluminum. Through the targeted use of CIF concessional finance, the program aims to intervene at multiple levels—industrial facility/technology, corporate, sectoral, and national—to tackle the system-wide barriers and challenges hindering investment in low-carbon, climate-resilient industry business models and technologies.
35. To assess each country’s EoI submission for this new program, the independent expert group will review the EoIs and official documents annexes/referenced in the EoI, assess the submission according to the criteria summarized in Tables 1 and 4, and weigh them according the weights indicated in Table 1. As specified in the expert group Terms of Reference (see Annex B), the expert group may undertake additional research and/or consultations to inform their assessment.

Table 4: EoI assessment criteria for CIF’s Accelerating Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transition in Industry Program

Assessment criteria	Expression of interest
Vision and Ambition	<p>The EoI demonstrates the country’s commitment to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing or avoiding GHG emissions from highly emitting industries (e.g., iron and steel, cement, chemicals and petrochemicals, aluminum, pulp and paper, transport) and managing the associated climate-related risks • Grounding such commitment in official document(s) such as NDC, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), SDG-related plans, and other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy referenced or annexed in the EoI
Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs	<p>The EoI, including its annexes, identifies actions that can contribute to one or more of these goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing or avoiding GHG emissions from highly emitting industries by pursuing, for example, a sizeable increase in energy and/or other

	<p>resources-use efficiency or sizeable reduction in material use and waste generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing industry’s resilience to climate-related shocks and stressors • Piloting or scaling up innovative low-carbon and/or climate-resilient industrial solutions <p>The EoI, including its annexes, includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to institutional and/or policy frameworks of relevance for the decarbonization of the industry sector²⁰ • Demonstration of the country’s successful experience effectively deploying MDB funds for low-carbon and/or climate resilient initiatives • Demonstration of a successful track record in engaging non-state actors, such as communities, NGOs, and private sector entities, around climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, with examples if possible
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7.4 Nature, People and Climate Investments Program

- 36. CIF’s Nature, People and Climate Investments Program seeks to tackle in an integrated manner the multiple drivers and impacts of human activities and climate change on land resources and ecosystems services. By fostering strategic partnerships and deploying scaled-up and flexible concessional capital, the program aims to support multi-sectoral solutions, including the creation of enabling environments, and direct investments for improved use of land and natural resources. The program is premised on a landscape approach²¹ that will enable CIF and its implementing partners to further contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and progress toward sustainable rural development.
- 37. To assess each country’s EoI submission for this new program, the independent expert group will review the EoIs and official documents annexes/referenced in the EoI, assess the submission according to the criteria summarized in Tables 1 and 5, and weigh them according the weights indicated in Table 1. As specified in the expert group Terms of Reference (see Annex 2), the expert group may undertake additional research and/or consultations to inform their assessment.

²⁰ For instance, incentive programs; carbon pricing signals; monitoring, reporting and verification systems, quality assurance certification schemes for materials, etc.

²¹ The Landscape approach is about balancing competing land use demands in a way that is best for human well-being and the environment. It means creating solutions that consider food and livelihoods, finance, rights, restoration and progress toward climate and development goals.

Table 5: EoI assessment criteria for CIF’s Nature, People and Climate Investments Program

Assessment criteria	Expression of interest
<p>Vision and Ambition</p>	<p>The EoI demonstrates the country’s commitment to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing or avoiding GHG emissions stemming from the changing use of land and other natural resources (e.g., from the agriculture, forestry, and other relevant sectors) • Building the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources • Building the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems • Grounding these commitments in official document(s), such as NDC, NAP, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy referenced or annexed in the EoI
<p>Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs</p>	<p>The EoI, including its annexes, identifies the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific or multiple landscape(s)²² relevant for delivering on a country’s commitment(s), such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable use of natural resources, inland or coastal degradation • Actions contributing to one or more of the following goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring ecosystems or enhancing forest or soil carbon stocks while protecting biodiversity and supporting rural livelihoods - Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions and the pressures on natural resources while enhancing livelihood options for local communities - Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and developing livelihood options for local communities - Addressing the climate vulnerability of rural and/or coastal communities - Piloting or scaling-up innovative sustainable solutions to land and natural resources management <p>The EoI, including its annexes, includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to institutional and/or policy frameworks of relevance for the implementation of sustainable solutions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems and natural resources²³ • Demonstration of the country’s successful experience effectively deploying MDB funds for relevant low carbon and/or climate resilient initiatives

²² The word “landscapes” means “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors” ([European Landscape Convention, 2000](#)).

²³ For instance, incentive programs for corporates and producers; carbon pricing signals; monitoring, reporting and verification systems, etc.

8 Annex A: Expression of Interest template for CIF's new strategic programs

38. The Expression of Interest (Eol) must demonstrate a country's firm commitment to successfully executing a CIF program. Sections 6 and 7 of this document contain the overarching and program-specific criteria by which this Eol will be evaluated. Many of these criteria can be addressed by existing plans, strategies, or other documents that can either be linked or attached as an Annex to the Eol.
39. For countries submitting a request for a regional investment plan, please indicate so below and include relevant regional-level information in your responses. Also, in the submission, please include in copy representatives from the Ministries of Finance of each respective country that is included in the regional program.
40. The Expression of Interest should be accompanied by a cover page signed by either the submitting country's Ministry of Finance (Minister or a Deputy Minister or equivalent) or the designated line ministry (Minister or Deputy Minister or equivalent), with a copy to the Ministry of Finance. In cases where a country is submitting Eols for multiple programs, one cover page can be submitted for all Eols, as long as the relevant minister or deputy minister that signs the document is the official in charge of overseeing each of those programs.
41. The Expression of Interest should also copy all relevant MDB focal points, the contact details of which will be provided during the call for Eol for each respective program.
42. The Eol should be submitted to the CIF Administrative Unit within 10 weeks following the call for Eols.

Expression of Interest Template for CIF's New Strategic Programs			
Program Name:			
Date:			
Country name:			
Submitting Minister:			
Government focal point name:			
Job title:			
Contact details:			
For what type of CIF funding would you like to be considered?²⁴			
	Investment Plan	DPSP / CIF Climate Ventures	Regional
Integration of Renewable Energy into Power Systems Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate-Smart Urbanization Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accelerating Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transition in Industry Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature, People and Climate Investments Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

²⁴ For additional information, see Section 4 of the CIF Operational Modalities paper https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/joint_ctf_scf_22_4_cif_operational_modalities_new_programs_final_0.pdf

<p>Country’s vision and ambition for using CIF resources: What is the country’s level of ambition as it relates to the new CIF strategic program? How does the country seek to use CIF resources to drive transformational change²⁵ and help achieve its low-carbon and climate-resilient development plan(s) or strategy(ies)?</p>
<p>Alignment and complementarity: How does the CIF program align with the country’s climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plans)? Demonstration of the country’s commitment to these strategies and plans, as well as progress towards achieving the strategies and plans, will be preferred. What are the additional value CIF resources could bring to meeting its goals? And how does CIF fill a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available, or complementary to existing ones?</p>
<p>Implementation and relevance for CIF strategic programs: What are potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF program and can be implemented through one or more MDBs active in the respective country, as well as financing strategies to leverage MDB and other co-financing to support these projects? Lines of action that cover both mitigation and adaptation are encouraged, where relevant.</p>
<p>Does the country have an active lending program with at least one of CIF’s partner MDBs? Yes/No. If so, please provide a brief overview of these engagements, and explain if and how the work envisioned under the new CIF Programs will build upon existing CIF-supported work. If possible, please reflect indicative investment opportunities with partner MDBs in the context of the new CIF Programs.</p>
<p>Has the country been selected to implement a CIF program in the past? Yes/No. If so, please provide a brief overview of implementation experience, benefits, and lessons learned.</p>
<p>Please attach or link to relevant documents that address overarching and program-specific assessment criteria. (See Sections 6 and 7 of document <i>Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds’ New Strategic Programs.</i>)</p>

9 Annex B: Terms of reference for the independent expert groups of CIF’s new strategic programs

a) Background and purpose

43. The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) were established in 2008 to provide scaled-up climate finance to developing countries in support of low-emission, climate-resilient development. The CIF business model is characterized by six main features:
- Country-led programmatic participatory approach enabling the design and implementation of strategically linked investments aligned with national priorities and building on existing efforts and strategies
 - Delivery of financing through multilateral development banks (MDBs) working together in a coordinated manner to support the implementation of coherent large-scale investment packages for cross-sectoral interventions responding to countries’ priorities and objectives

²⁵ CIF’s Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) defines transformational change in climate action as strategic changes in targeted markets and other systems, with large-scale, sustainable impacts that shift and/or accelerate the trajectory toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development. The definition and dimensions of transformational change of may be further updated in 2020/2021 in collaboration with the TCLP. Please see the [TCLP webpage](#) for more information on this topic.

- Large-scale investment packages helping to create and deepen markets, stimulate private investments, and drive policy reform
 - Scaled-up, predictable, and flexible envelopes of concessional resources
 - Consideration of system transformation and social inclusion at the outset
 - Participatory and multi-stakeholder approach geared to effectively engaging non-state actors within the civil society and private sector
44. To maximize the comparative advantages of CIF's proven business model in support of accelerated climate action in priority areas, the CIF Administrative Unit and partner MDBs developed four new program strategies for targeting CIF action in areas seeking to drive the "*rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructures, and industrial systems*"²⁶ called for by the international scientific community. The new strategic programs are the following:
- *Integration of Renewable Energy into Power Systems Program*: Designed to help address system-wide barriers to the integration of renewable energy into power systems by targeting the use of concessional finance to accelerate the deployment of an integrated mix of supply-side and demand-side flexibility measures, such as enabling technologies, enabling infrastructure, market design and system operations improvements, and electrification and demand management.
 - *Climate-Smart Urbanization Program*: Designed to demonstrate a new climate-smart model of urban development that is coordinated, compact, and connected with a view of avoiding carbon and climate vulnerability lock-in as cities in developing and emerging countries rapidly expand due to growing urbanization rates.
 - *Accelerating Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transition in Industry Program*: Designed to catalyze deep behavioral changes and sustained impact in high-emitting industries, such as cement, iron and steel and chemicals and petrochemicals. CIF concessional finance will be deployed at multiple levels—industrial facility/technology, corporate, sectoral and national—to address those system-wide barriers and challenges hindering the decarbonization and resilience of hard-to-abate sectors.
 - *Nature, People and Climate Investments Program*: Designed to tackle in an integrated manner the multiple pressures and impacts of human activities and climate change on land, built environment, communities, economies, and other resources and ecosystems. Scaled-up and flexible CIF resources will be deployed to foster strategic partnerships and support multi-sectoral investments in sustainable management practices of land and other natural resources. The integrated approach proposed under this program will enable CIF and its implementing partners to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, while helping to improve livelihoods and advance sustainable development goals.
45. Once a new program reaches the minimum contribution,²⁷ the CIF Administrative Unit and partner MDBs will embark on the process to establish an independent expert group to review and rank Expressions of Interest submitted by countries eligible and interested in participating in the new CIF program, and present recommendations to the relevant SCF governing body on the countries to be invited to participate in the new CIF program. Each new program will have its own independent

²⁶ IPCC (2018), *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C*, [Summary for Policymakers](#).

²⁷https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/events/files/joint_meeting_of_ctf_and_sfc_tfc_march_2020_approved_decision1.pdf

expert group, all functioning in the same manner. Please refer to *Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs*.

b) Mandate of the independent expert groups

46. The independent expert groups will perform the following tasks in consultation with the CIF Administrative Unit and the MDB Committee:
 - a. Review the EoI template and selection criteria for the relevant program.
 - b. Along with the CIF Administrative Unit and CIF partner MDBs, develop weighing metrics to apply to the selection criteria.
 - c. Evaluate countries' EoIs against the assessment criteria established in Sections 6 and 7 of the Country Selection Process document and outlined in Section 4 below of this terms of reference.
 - d. Present to the relevant SCF governing body a ranked list of countries, along with recommendations, for each of CIF's new strategic programs
47. The CIF Administrative Unit will manage the independent expert group process, with the CIF partner MDBs providing strategic and technical guidance.

c) Criteria and general composition of the independent expert groups

48. Each independent expert group will consist of six experts, acting in their personal capacities, chosen based on their strategic and operational expertise and experience in the areas targeted by CIF's new strategic programs, including renewable energy, urbanization, high-emitting industrial processes (e.g., cement, steel, chemicals, petrochemicals, aluminum manufacture), agriculture, forestry, natural resource management, climate change, development economics, finance, climate policy, and gender and social development. Experience working with or for multilateral, regional, or international organizations is preferred. The groups should include a balance of experts from both developed and developing countries and should consider geographic and gender balance as well.
49. Applications and nominations for independent expert group members should include the expert's name, contact information, area of expertise, and a resume demonstrating professional experience and expertise in the target areas. Applicants must also disclose if they have potential conflicts of interest (e.g., they work on behalf of a government that is submitting an EoI or are currently employed by a CIF partner MDB). Prospective experts can apply to more than one group, though experts will only be able to serve on up to two expert groups.
50. The CIF Administrative Unit and MDB Committee will review all applications against the qualifications outlined in the call and prepare a proposal to present to the relevant CIF governing body for review and approval.

d) Assessment and EoI ranking methodology

51. To assess and rank countries' EoIs and make recommendations to the relevant SCF governing body, each independent expert group will do the following:
 - Review the EoIs submitted against the assessment criteria as outlined in Tables 1 – 5 of the Country Selection Process document.
 - Review the official documents annexed or referenced in the EoI.
 - Undertake additional desk research as needed. The program-specific indicators included in Annex C of this document can be considered, in addition to other relevant

information and indicators that are available at the country or (for regional programs) region-level.

- On a selected basis/if required, interview selected countries' representatives to better understand their context-specific circumstances, their absorptive capacity, and priorities and opportunities for climate action.
- Consult with the CIF partner MDBs to ensure that prospective countries meet the 'MDB Partnership' criteria in Table 1, and that the criteria included in paragraph 15 of the *CTF-Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs* document are taken into consideration.

e) Deliverables

52. Through the CIF Administrative Unit, each independent expert group will submit to the relevant SCF governing body a final report that includes the following components:

- A ranked list of EoIs from eligible countries for each new strategic program.
- Relevant methodological notes and justification that led to the proposed ranking
- Assessment of key issues and shortcomings possibly encountered in the assessment process and recommendations for improvements
- Concluding remarks on the recommended ranked lists
- List of stakeholders consulted

f) Proposed sequence of milestones

53. Each independent expert group must meet the following milestones:

- a. Independent expert group meeting, in Washington, D.C (preferred) or remote (if needed)
- b. Interim update to the relevant SCF governing body
- c. Independent expert group meeting and report writing in Washington D.C (preferred) or remote (if needed)
- d. Report of independent expert group submitted to the CIF Administrative Unit
- e. CIF Administrative Unit submission of independent expert group report to the relevant SCF governing body

54. The primary components of the expert group's work, as described in steps a-d of the preceding paragraph, are expected to take 6-8 weeks.

g) Roles and responsibilities

55. The independent expert groups are responsible for preparing and submitting through the CIF Administrative Unit a report to the relevant SCF governing body, including a ranked list of countries and/or regions for each of CIF's new strategic programs.

1. The relevant SCF governing body is/are responsible for:

- a. Approving document *Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs*
- b. Approving the selection of the experts to serve in the independent expert groups
- c. Approving the prioritized list of countries and/or regions to be invited into the new CIF strategic programs, along with the respective allocation for each country/region, and inviting such countries to work with the relevant MDBs to prepare a country or regional investment plan for submission to the relevant SCF governing body for endorsement

- d. Noting the countries that will be eligible for DPSP/CCV private sector operations under the new CIF programs²⁸

56. The CIF Administrative Unit will service and coordinate the independent expert group process and will provide general guidance to the groups.

57. The CIF partner MDBs will provide strategic and technical guidance during this process.

10 Annex C: Program-Specific Indicators for Consideration by the Independent Expert Group

I. CIF Integration of Renewable Energy into Power Systems Program

Indicator	Time frame	Source
Historical GHG emissions from the energy sector (metric tons per capita)	Rate of change over the latest available 5 years	Climate Watch GHG Emissions
Share of renewable energy in a country's energy matrix	Most recent 3 years data	IRENA Renewable Energy Statistics, World Bank indicator database
Installed capacity of renewable energy in a country by type of resource	Most recent 3 years data	IRENA Renewable Energy Statistics
Renewable energy contribution toward the country's low carbon targets	Most recent data	UNFCCC NDC registry, BUR submissions ²⁹
Population with access to electricity (% of total country's population)	Most recent data or score	World Bank indicator database, RISE data
Country's vulnerability, ND-GAIN Country Index	Latest available score	ND-GAIN Country Index ³⁰
Country's water risk	Latest available ranking	WRI Aqueduct Country Rankings

II. CIF Climate-Smart Urbanization Program

Indicator	Time frame	Source
Urban population historical (%)	Latest available 10 years	World Bank World Development Indicators
Urban population projected (in % of total population) ³¹	2030 2050	United Nations World Urbanization Prospect data
Urban population density ³²	Latest available 10 years	World Bank World Development Indicators

²⁸ See paragraph 19 in the CTF-SCF/TFC. XX/X.X Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs document

²⁹ Updated November 2019 for many countries.

³⁰ The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.

³¹ Annual Percentage of Population at Mid-Year Residing in Urban Areas by country, 1950-2050 indicator (POP/DB/WUP/Rev.2018/1/F21) – available also at <https://population.un.org/wup/Download/>.

³² Population density refers to people per sq. km of land area. As noted in e.g. [Handayani W. et al. \(2017\)](#) and [Rasch \(2015\)](#), population density influences the damage that may occur when hazard events occur. The more densely populated an area is, the higher it is susceptible to damages when hazards occur.

GHG emissions (metric tons per capita)	latest available 5 years	Climate Watch GHG Emissions
Activities in the building sector included in the country's mitigation targets	Most recent data	UNFCCC NDC registry, BUR submissions
Activities in the transport sector included in the country's mitigation targets	Most recent data	UNFCCC NDC registry, BUR submissions
Activities in the waste management sector included in the country's mitigation targets	Most recent data	UNFCCC NDC registry, BUR submissions
Country's air quality level	Most recent data or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index's Air Quality ³³ / WHO data
Country's air pollution	Most recent score or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index's Air Pollution ³⁴
Country's water resources	Most recent score or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index's Water Resources Indicator ³⁵
Country's access to water and sanitation	Most recent data or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index's Water and Sanitation Index ³⁶
Country's vulnerability ND-GAIN Country Index	Latest available score	ND-GAIN Country Index ³⁷
Country's water risk	Latest available ranking	WRI Aqueduct Country Rankings
Population living in slums	Most recent data	World Bank indicator database

III. CIF Accelerating Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transition in Industry Program

Indicator	Time frame	Source
Relative relevance for the production of high-emitting industries' outputs (in terms of % of total production, % of total producing plants, and/or % total export)	Average of the latest available 5 years	Examples of sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Cement Directory • World Steel Association • World Aluminum Statistics

³³ The Air Quality Index is composed of three air quality indicators, namely: Household solid fuels; PM2.5 exposure, and PM2.5 exceedance. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

³⁴ The Air Pollution Index is composed of two indicators, namely: NOX and SO₂ emission intensity. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

³⁵ The Water Resources Indicator measures wastewater treatment as the percentage of wastewater that undergoes at least primary treatment in each country, normalized by the proportion of the population connected to a municipal wastewater collection system. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

³⁶ The Water and Sanitation Index is composed of two indicators, namely: (i) sanitation - proportion of a country's population exposed to health risks from their access to sanitation; (ii) drinking water - proportion of a country's population exposed to health risks from their access to drinking water. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

³⁷ The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Trade Center
Historical GHG emissions from industrial processes (metric tons per capita)	Rate of change over the latest available 5 years	Climate Watch GHG Emissions
GHG emission reductions from the industry sector in the country's relevant low-carbon development plans	Most recent data	UNFCCC NDC registry , BUR submissions
PM2.5 exposure	Latest available score or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index's PM2.5 Exposure Indicator ³⁸
PM2.5 exceedance	Latest available score or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index's PM2.5 Exposure Exceedance Indicator ³⁹
Country's vulnerability, ND-GAIN Country Index	Latest available score	ND-GAIN Country Index ⁴⁰
Country's water risk	Latest available ranking	WRI Aqueduct Country Rankings

IV. CIF Nature, People and Climate Investments Program

Indicator	Time frame	Source
Historical GHG emissions from land-use change and forestry (metric tons per capita)	Latest available 5 years	Climate Watch GHG Emissions FAO Stat
Historical GHG emissions from the agriculture sector (metric tons per capita)	Latest available 5 years	Climate Watch GHG Emissions FAO Stat
Activities from the AFOLU sector included in the country's relevant low-carbon development plans	Most recent data	UNFCCC NDC registry , BUR submissions
Country's tree cover loss	Most recent score or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index's Tree Cover Loss indicator ⁴¹
Country's sustainable nitrogen management index	Most recent score or ranking	Yale Environmental Performance Index's

³⁸ This indicator uses population-weighted average ambient concentration of PM2.5 in each country as a measure of chronic exposure. For more information, please refer to <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

³⁹ This indicator uses the proportion of the population in each year that is exposed to ambient PM2.5 concentrations that exceed WHO thresholds as a measure of acute exposure. For more information, please refer to <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

⁴⁰ The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience

⁴¹ The Tale's indicator measures the total area of tree loss in areas with greater than 30% tree canopy cover divided by the forest cover in the year 2000. It applies a five-year rolling average to better capture trends in forest management strategies. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

		Sustainable nitrogen management index ⁴²
Mountain Green Cover Index (Changes in area of green vegetation in mountain areas: forests, shrubs, pastureland, and crop land) (SDG 15.4.2)	Most recent data	FAO data (links to SDG 15)
Progress towards sustainable forest management (SDG 15.2.1)	Most recent data	FAO data (links to SDG 15)
Country's vulnerability, ND-GAIN Country Index ⁴³	Latest available score	ND-GAIN Country Index
Country's water risk	Latest available ranking	WRI Aqueduct Country Rankings

⁴² The Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index uses nitrogen use efficiency and crop yield to measure the environmental performance of agricultural production. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

⁴³ The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.