



**Submission to the Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership on the Five-Year Vision for the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) 2025-2030**

*Submitted by the Global Climate Finance Forum (GCFF)*

*August 15, 2025*

**About the Global Climate Finance Forum (GCFF)**

The Global Climate Finance Forum (GCFF) is a multi-stakeholder platform focused on accelerating climate finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the Global South<sup>1</sup>. GCFF brings together over 40 investors, entrepreneurs, thought leaders and policymakers to co-develop strategies that localize capital, de-risk investment, and dismantle systemic barriers preventing scalable finance for climate solutions.

Held most recently in April 2025 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the first GCFF demonstrated the impact that climate SMEs are delivering viable, scalable, models—from solar distribution in Africa to agroforestry hubs in Brazil—yet continue to face disproportionately high costs of capital, policy bottlenecks, and limited visibility in global finance flows.

The Forum catalyzed over 20 concrete commitments and has since established a Secretariat to drive implementation and advocate for SME-aligned reforms heading into COP30 and beyond.

**1. What should success look like for the GCAA in the next five years, and how can it be measured effectively?**

Success for the GCAA must be defined by implementation, inclusion, and investment. In the next five years, the GCAA should serve as a transformative catalyst that shifts finance for climate action from aspiration to delivery, with measurable impact in the Global South.

Specifically, success should be evaluated against the following indicators:

- **Volume of climate finance** devolved to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- **Share of climate finance flowing to SMEs**, either directly or via SME-aligned intermediaries—disaggregated by region and sector.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Global South is defined as low- and middle-income countries, as well as low- and middle-income and underserved communities within high-income countries.

- **Adoption of finance structures and risk-sharing instruments** tailored to the SME reality and local financial institutions (such as results-based finance, revenue-backed contracts, portfolio guarantees, and regional blended finance platforms).
- **Localization metrics**, such as the number of regional or national institutions leading climate finance initiatives, the growth of local asset managers investing in climate SMEs, and the identification of SME-aligned delivery vehicles.
- **Integration of SME-aligned KPIs** into the Global Climate Action Portal and reporting mechanisms (e.g., tracking finance flows, technical assistance, and financial instruments for SMEs).

## 2. How can the GCAA facilitate direct and impactful engagement between Parties and NPS to support implementation efforts at both national and sectoral levels?

The GCFF offers a clear model: proximity unlocks insight. To facilitate impactful engagement, we recommend the following:

- **Create formal tracks for regional and sectoral SME engagement** within the GCAA and COP process. As part of this, we propose the formal organization of an **SME Climate Solutions Forum** in Belém, featuring a curated showcase of investable, high-impact enterprises from across the Global South.
- **Leverage the Marrakech Partnership's Activation Groups** to embed practical finance tools (e.g., impact-linked loans, regional structured funds, guarantee mechanisms) into implementation acceleration plans, ensuring these tools are accessible to local actors.
- **Expand the role of subnational financial ecosystems**—including public development banks, commercial banks and credit unions, asset managers, impact investors, cooperatives, and community-managed funds—as delivery vehicles and co-creators of climate strategies.
- **Ensure mutual accountability between NPS and Parties** by encouraging joint planning of NDC/NAP implementation and shared reporting on co-developed initiatives.

## 3. How can the GCAA promote inclusive and equitable engagement, in particular from underrepresented groups and regions?

The GCAA should mainstream equity as a design principle, not just an outcome. To that end:

- **Institutionalize the participation of climate SMEs from the Global South** across all thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Action Agenda. These enterprises are not beneficiaries—they are implementers.
- **Invest in long-term ecosystem building** by supporting local networks of entrepreneurs, asset managers, technical assistance providers, and community-based institutions.
- **Create a global storytelling initiative** to shift narratives around risk, viability, and leadership. Elevate Global South success stories through COP communications, Action Agenda showcases, and media collaborations.

- **Prioritize flexible visa access and regional hosting of key events**, as shown by the success of GCFF 2025 in Jamaica—a country accessible to over 99 nations without visa requirements.

#### **4. What improvements can be made to ensure better transparency, reporting and follow up of the GCAA, including in existing tools such as the Global Climate Action Portal (a.k.a NAZCA) and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action?**

To make transparency actionable and inclusive the GCFF proposes:-

- **Introduce SME-aligned and region-specific reporting templates** in the Global Climate Action Portal, allowing smaller actors to track their impact without prohibitive data requirements.
- **Develop a searchable registry of investable climate SMEs and regional aggregators**, integrating both financial and impact data for matchmaking with investors.
- **Require initiatives participating in Activation Groups to submit implementation acceleration plans and periodic progress updates**, accessible through NAZCA.
- **Highlight successful locally led models in the Yearbook of Global Climate Action**, not just by emission reductions, but also in terms of community resilience, job creation, and ecosystem regeneration.

GCFF members stand ready to support the Climate Champions in advancing these proposals towards a climate finance system that is equitable, efficient, and effective. The solutions already exist in the Global South. What's needed now is the system-level shift to finance them.

GCFF welcomes enquiries and offers of collaboration. These can be directed to the Secretariat at [info@globalclimatefinanceforum.com](mailto:info@globalclimatefinanceforum.com).