

# De-risking Investments for Climate and Biodiversity at Scale across Africa

Climate change is one of the most significant threats to humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The direct and indirect negative effects become more apparent each year, yet global investments in scalable climate adaptation and biodiversity projects are minimal. To counteract the notable shortfalls in funding and the dominant focus on climate mitigation by international financing parties to date, and to increase the resilience of communities and ecosystems most vulnerable to climate change, the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD) was founded in 2019 and is managed by Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO), SNV, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF Netherlands) and Climate Fund Managers (CFM). This pioneering partnership of NGOs and financiers aims to help developing countries to build climate-resilient economies.

Since 2019, the fund has demonstrated that it is well-placed to be a rainmaker for climate adaptation and biodiversity finance for the private sector to scale their business and impacts. The fund's partnership, finance structure, dedicated Origination Facility to develop early-stage projects, and Landscape Approach make the DFCD uniquely positioned to finance sought-after but scarce climate-adaptation projects in developing markets.

The four investment themes are:



## Partners & Governance

The DFCD consortium aims to serve as a leading example for institutional partnerships by bringing together public and private capital to support private sector led climate and biodiversity friendly projects designed for maximum impact. This partnership combines the extensive project development experience of SNV and WWF-NL with the fundraising and investment abilities of FMO and CFM.

## Where We Work

The map below indicates countries eligible for DFCD support (green) and with past or current projects (yellow). In West Africa, we are seeking partnerships in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Senegal, and Nigeria.

### DFCD - Origination projects - July 2025

#### Legend

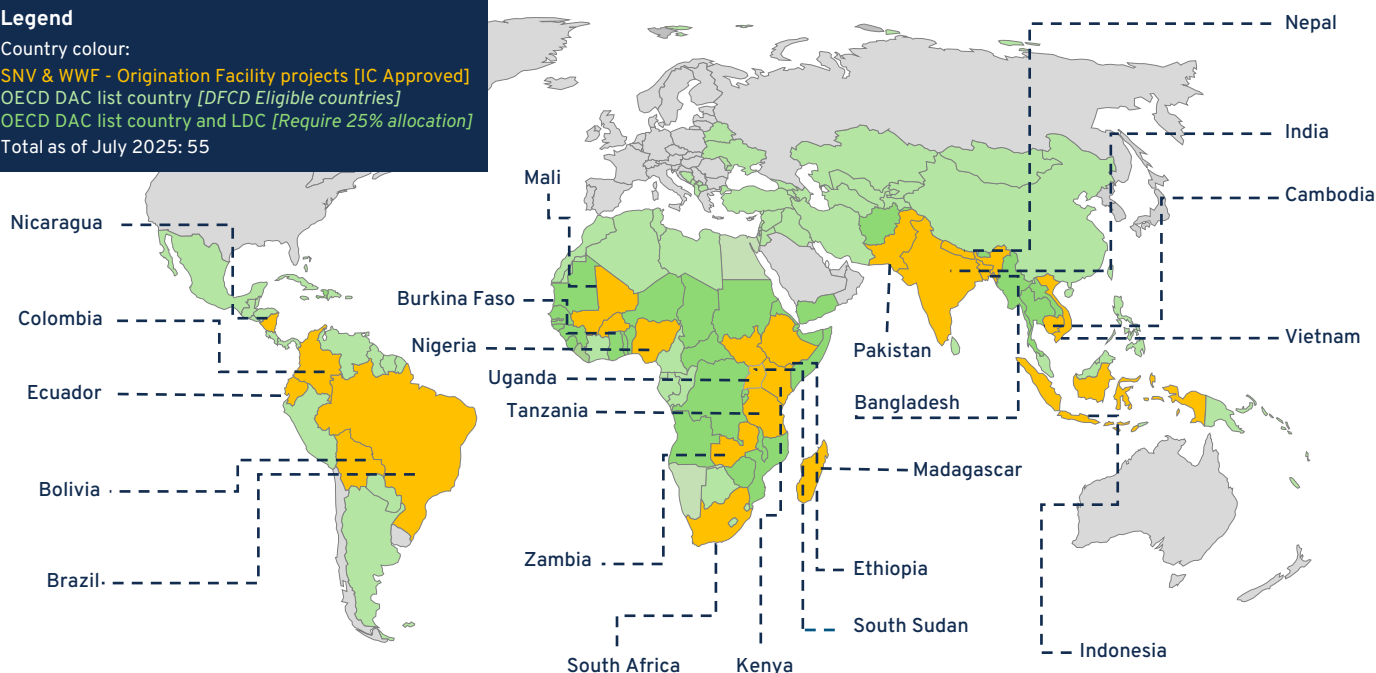
Country colour:

SNV & WWF - Origination Facility projects [IC Approved]

OECD DAC list country [DFCD Eligible countries]

OECD DAC list country and LDC [Require 25% allocation]

Total as of July 2025: 55



## Focus Areas



## Example from Africa

### SokoFresh (Kenya): Off-grid cold storage



- **The challenge:** Capital-intensive early-stage business facing barriers to scaling mobile cold-chain and market linkage services across fragmented supply chains
- **DFCD support:** EUR 236k DFCD grant + TA to de-risk model, validate commercial viability, and prepare for investment
- **Result:** Investment of 700,000 secured from Acumen; pilot hubs launched in 5 counties
- **Expected impact:** 44,000 individuals benefited; 48,422 t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. GHG emissions avoided annually.



## Graduated Projects (SNV)

After origination projects are close to completion, the graduation process commences. Graduation refers to the investment proposal being considered by one of the investment facilities for a debt or equity investment. SNV has successfully graduated thirteen projects so far.

### Africa



**ETC:**  
Teak plantations  
in South Sudan



**Stewards Globe Limited:**  
Climate-resilient seeds  
and extension services  
in Zambia



**SokoFresh:**  
Off-grid  
cold storage  
in Kenya



**Solar Water  
Solutions:**  
Water kiosk  
in Kenya

### Latin America



**ECOM - Expasa:**  
Climate resilient  
coffee in Nicaragua

### Asia



**ACI Agrolink:**  
Black tiger shrimp farming  
in Bangladesh



**Amru:**  
Soil health  
in Cambodia



**Camimex:**  
Mangrove shrimp  
farming in Vietnam



**Forest Carbon:**  
Forestry  
carbon credit  
in Indonesia



**Ispahani:**  
Climate resilient  
seeds & biopesticides  
in Bangladesh



**Orlar:**  
Smart vertical  
farming  
in Vietnam



**Vinaseed:**  
Climate resilient  
rice reeds farming  
in Vietnam

## Project Spotlight

### East Africa Foods (Tanzania & Kenya) Climate-resilient agri-Tech



- **SNV support:** €355K grant and technical assistance to strengthen climate-resilient supply chains.
- **Expected impact:** Connect 25,000 farmers, reduce post-harvest loss from 40% to 5%, save 645,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Sterling Bank (Nigeria) – Climate adaptation finance for agribusinesses



- **SNV support:** €321K grant to establish a climate finance desk and ESG tools for green lending.
- **Expected impact:** Expand climate finance and support over 140,000 smallholder farmers.

### JohnVents Industries (Nigeria) Deforestation-free cocoa



- **SNV support:** €425K grant and advisory to scale traceable, deforestation-free cocoa production.
- **Expected impact:** Cover 30,000 hectares, create 300 jobs, benefit over 705,000 people.

### Nile Fresh Produce (Uganda) Climate-resilient grain production



- **SNV support:** €449,199 DFCD grant and technical assistance to assess climate risks, develop sustainable sourcing models, and prepare for investment.
- **Expected impact:** Boost incomes and resilience for over 600,000 smallholder farmers.

## DFCD Client Shortlisting Criteria

The Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs has allocated €200 million to the DFCD for the period 2019–2027, with a target of impact by 2037. In addition, FMO has received guarantee funding from the European Commission, enabling them to increase their investment portfolio by €240 million. This means that over this period, the DFCD will manage a total investment fund of €440 million.

Of this, €70 million is dedicated to the Origination Facility, with SNV managing half of these resources.

Please see below for a brief outline of the criteria that must be met in order to qualify as an applicant for these funds.

### For private financial institutions:

- Are you a green company that is registered as an incorporated company?
- Do you provide finance to the SMEs clients and/or smallholder farmers?
- Do you have assets worth a minimum of EUR 2-5 million?
- Do you have a consistently profitable track record over the past three years?
- Are you able to provide projected financials as evidence of your capacity to redeem the proposed financing at maturity?
- Do you have the capacity to co-invest up to half the project cost in the project implementation stage?
- Addressing one of / all the four key Rio Marker 2 sectors critical to tackling climate change and achieving SDGs:
  - climate resilient water systems and freshwater ecosystems.
  - promoting afforestation and reforestation.
  - boosting food security through climate-smart agriculture.
  - protecting and restoration of ecosystems.

### For new and medium companies:

Are you a green company that can compensate for lack of size and track record by:

- Signing offtake agreements with key off-takers (regional, international brand names preferably).
- Bringing on board committed equity investors willing to support the project with capital.
- Showcasing evidence of previous experience in management in the sector, as individuals and as a team.
- Ability to arrange a Joint Venture (JV) with a larger partner to acquire critical size and operational track record.
- Addressing at least two of / all the four key Rio Marker 2 sectors critical to tackling climate change and achieving SDGs:
  - climate resilient water systems and freshwater ecosystems.
  - promoting afforestation and reforestation.
  - boosting food security through climate-smart agriculture.
  - protecting and restoration of ecosystems.

## Contact Us

→ For general inquiries, kindly contact us at [dfcd@snv.org](mailto:dfcd@snv.org)

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