

# NDF STRATEGY 2030

Embodying Nordic climate leadership, NDF has a unique role to play in the global climate and development finance ecosystem by responding with solutions in an agile and flexible way. NDF's ability to embrace risk and drive innovation has become a recognised, value-adding advantage and a key factor behind NDF's reputation as a valued Nordic partner. Most importantly, NDF's co-financing has made a difference for climate and development. An external performance evaluation carried out in 2025 validated the effectiveness of NDF's approach.

In light of key global trends – most notably the climate and biodiversity crises, as well as the rapidly changing landscape of Official Development Assistance (ODA) – NDF will strive to maximise the impact of its resources provided by the Nordic countries. This strategy sets forth NDF's direction for the next five years, building on a robust foundation while further sharpening the organisation's distinctive added value.

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## AMBITION STATEMENT

NDF leads the frontier of climate and development finance – boldly mobilising Nordic agility, innovation, and risk-taking to unlock transformative solutions for the planet's most urgent challenges and people most at risk.

## PURPOSE

NDF's purpose is to advance Nordic climate leadership through innovative, catalytic and risk-tolerant concessional financing [primarily] in lower-income countries. NDF works with strategic partners to develop and scale impactful climate and development projects to benefit those most vulnerable to climate change.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

1

**Maximise the added value of NDF's risk-tolerant, concessional finance** with grants, loans and equity for early-stage and catalytic engagement in initiatives with potential for transformational change and scale. Prioritise countries where needs and opportunities are the greatest, especially **Sub-Saharan Africa**.

A minimum of

**60%**

of new commitments will be allocated to projects in **lower-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Majority of new projects will include early-stage, catalytic approaches



Report on climate finance mobilised by NDF's co-financing

2

**Drive solutions to close the gap on adaptation finance.** NDF will support innovative solutions, business models and financial structures to build resilience and adaptive capacity of those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Private sector engagement and blended finance will be prioritized for market-building and increased capital mobilisation in adaptation. NDF will also support solutions that deliver climate finance to vulnerable groups in lower-income countries, tackling issues beyond what market mechanisms alone can address. In addition, mitigation initiatives with significant innovation and potential for scale will be considered.



A minimum of

**50%**

of the new NDF financial commitments will be directed towards **adaptation**

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- 3 Strengthen focus on nature-positive and biodiversity investments.** NDF will ensure that investments deliver co-benefits for nature, reduce vulnerabilities, and contribute to both climate and nature goals, reinforcing the foundation for sustainable and inclusive development. NDF leverages key global practices and standards to guide its nature-positive and biodiversity investments, seeking alignment with internationally recognised frameworks and best practices as relevant.



NDF will integrate considerations on **nature and biodiversity** into projects and reporting practices

- 4 Advance Nordic climate leadership.** NDF will promote Nordic values and priorities; most notably gender equality, human rights, non-discrimination, inclusiveness, transparency and poverty reduction. NDF will convene Nordic partners, facilitate Nordic private and public sector collaboration, and enhance the voice of the Nordic countries in climate finance and development dialogues.



Promote the core **Nordic values and priorities** in all projects



Actively build **Nordic partnerships** and promote collaboration opportunities with the private and public sectors

## ENABLERS

**Safeguard NDF's continued ability to provide concessional, risk-tolerant and flexible financing.** NDF's added value and ability to drive innovation and impact rest on the type of financing it provides. To enable NDF to continue fulfilling its role among climate and development financiers, NDF will manage its current financial resources efficiently and prepare the necessary conditions for a decision by the member countries regarding NDF's future financial resources.

**Drive institutional efficiency and agility.** Building on a successful upgrade of NDF's policies, approaches and systems during the previous strategy period, NDF will now focus on pragmatically managing this framework through collaborative practices, organisational adjustments, and use of advanced technology for quality and impact. Results based management is embedded in NDF's institutional approach.

**Strengthen organisational capabilities and partnerships to realise NDF's ambition.** Drawing on the wealth of expertise, institutional knowledge, and robust partnerships built by its highly skilled staff, NDF will invest in developing staff competencies in strategic areas, including investing in NDF's external visibility. Additionally, NDF will proactively utilise strategic partnerships, complementarity with NIB and Nefco, and external expertise to enhance its capacity and optimise its overall impact.

## PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT



**Complement.** NDF will complement actions of its strategic partners, which can amplify NDF's impact and add value in addition to the financing and resources NDF can provide.



**Co-create.** As a co-creator, NDF will engage with strategic partners to co-create and design financial support and interventions. NDF sees co-creation in the early stages of a project as an investment towards the quality of the project to reach the intended results and impact.



**Convene.** As a convener, NDF will convene like-minded financiers and partners, mobilise support for innovative solutions to some of the most pressing global climate and development challenges in a way that respects and promotes Nordic values and priorities.