



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

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Consideration of accreditation proposals and activities – Addendum X Accreditation assessment of APL172

Summary

This document contains the accreditation assessment conducted by the Secretariat and the Accreditation Panel in accordance with decision B.31/06 and the transitional arrangements in respect of the revised accreditation framework adopted in decision B.42/13 paragraph (m) and set out in annex VI to that decision, and the recommendation by the Accreditation Panel for accreditation of applicant 172 (APL172), World Vision Australia (WVA), based in Australia.

I. Introduction

1. World Vision Australia (WVA) is an international non-governmental organization with a mission to help the most vulnerable children overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. The applicant works towards ambitious change in three main areas: children, climate, and Australia First Nations.

2. The applicant submitted its application for accreditation to GCF via the Digital Accreditation Platform on 4 April 2025. Accreditation fees were received from the applicant on 2 May 2025, thereby launching the Stage I institutional assessment. Stage I was completed on 26 August 2025 and the applicant progressed to the Stage II (Step 1) accreditation review, which has been concluded with the publication of this assessment. The applicant has applied to be accredited for the following parameters under the GCF fit-for-purpose approach:¹

- (a) **Access modality:** international;
- (b) **Track:** normal track;
- (c) **Maximum size of an individual project or programme:** medium;²
- (d) **Fiduciary functions:**³
 - (i) Basic fiduciary standards; and
 - (ii) Specialized fiduciary standard for project management;
- (e) **Maximum environmental and social risk category:** medium risk (category B);⁴ and
- (f) Indicative result areas for intended projects/programmes with GCF:
 - (i) Energy generation and access;
 - (ii) Forests and land use;
 - (iii) Livelihoods of people and communities;
 - (iv) Health, food and water security;
 - (v) Infrastructure and built environment; and
 - (vi) Ecosystems and ecosystem services; as well as
 - (vii) Public types of projects/programmes.

II. Stage I institutional assessment

3. The applicant applied and was assessed by the Secretariat during Stage I under the normal track accreditation process in accordance with the following GCF policies and standards to the extent applicable to accreditation:

- (a) Strategic Plan for the GCF 2024–2027 (decision B.36/13);

¹ Refer to section 4.2 below for the scope of accreditation recommended by the Accreditation Panel.

² As per annex III to decision B.31/06, “medium” is defined as “maximum total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by GCF, of above USD 50 million and up to and including USD 250 million for an individual project or programme”.

³ Decision B.07/02.

⁴ As per the revised Environmental and Social Policy adopted in decision B.BM-2021/18, category B is defined as “Activities with potential limited adverse environmental and/or social risks and impacts that individually or cumulatively, are few, generally site-specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures”.

- (b) Updates to the accreditation framework (decision B.31/06); and
- (c) Guidelines for the Operationalization of the Fit-for-purpose Accreditation Approach (decision B.08/02).

2.1 Legal status, registration, permits and licences

4. The applicant provided documents on its establishment and licences to operate, where relevant, as a part of the application. WVA is incorporated under the laws of Australia as a public company limited by guarantee - initially under the name World Vision of Australia - with registration number ABN 20 004 778 081. The applicant is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

5. The applicant has indicated and provided evidence that it has independent legal personality and legal capacity to enter into legal arrangements directly with GCF. In accordance with the transitional arrangements in respect of the revised accreditation framework adopted in decision B.42/13 paragraph (m) and set out in annex VI to that decision, if approved, the applicant's accreditation will be deemed to be complete on the date that GCF issues a confirmation/certificate evidencing the applicant's accreditation.

2.2 Institutional presence and relevant networks

6. WVA maintains a substantial institutional presence at the national and international levels. It is headquartered in Burwood East, Victoria, with an additional office in Sydney, and operates programmes in partnership with communities across multiple Australian states and territories, including long-standing engagement with First Nations communities in regional and remote locations.

7. Internationally, WVA operates through the World Vision Partnership, which collectively works in approximately 100 countries and employs more than 33,000 staff. Through this network, WVA supports and oversees programming implemented by World Vision Field Offices in 41 countries, enabling engagement across the least developed countries, small island developing States, and fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

8. At a partnership level, World Vision International's Environmental Stewardship Partnership Management Policy (2021) emphasizes its commitment to safeguarding and restoring the environment as an integral part of its mission. Recognizing that environmental degradation and climate change disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, the Policy guides WVA programmes, operations and advocacy to ensure that they are ecologically sound and promote sustainable development. Additionally, the WVA Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) Strategic Roadmap (2024–2027) commits to long-term goals extending to 2030, focusing on:

- (a) Restoration of ecosystem services;
- (b) Sustainable agrifood systems;
- (c) Strengthening community resilience to climate-related disasters; and
- (d) Integrating environmental stewardship and climate action across WVA operations and programmes.

9. WVA also aims to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in organizational greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050. The ESCA Strategic Roadmap 2024–2027 outlines the organization's plans to enhance sustainability, reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, promote sustainable procurement and invest in carbon offset projects to reduce carbon emissions.

10. The applicant has extensive partnership networks spanning multilateral, bilateral, regional, national and grass-roots levels. These include collaboration with United Nations agencies, bilateral development agencies such as the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), regional climate and resilience initiatives, faith-based networks, academic institutions and local civil society organizations. Across its portfolio, WVA works with more than 4,000 national and local partners, supporting locally led implementation aligned with national development and climate priorities.

11. This institutional presence enables WVA to engage with governments, line ministries and subnational authorities, and to align programming with nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and related sectoral strategies, particularly in climate-vulnerable contexts.

12. WVA has prepared a pipeline of potential projects to submit to GCF, with four concept notes developed in close collaboration with national designated authorities and national stakeholders in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea and Somalia. These target mostly health and community-based risk management.

2.3 Track record

13. The applicant has a track record in managing complex development and humanitarian programmes with climate-relevant outcomes, including roles comparable to those of an accredited entity. WVA climate-related programming spans health, food and water security; climate-resilient livelihoods; ecosystem restoration and land use; energy access and efficiency; and cross-cutting disaster risk management.

14. The applicant manages a large and diverse portfolio. In financial year 2024, WVA implemented 327 projects across 40 countries, reaching more than 7.5 million people. Approximately 84 per cent of total operating expenditure was directed to field programmes and advocacy, with the majority of international programme funds channelled to country-level implementation under WVA oversight. This includes:

- (a) USD 77.4 million (grants) for the Global Fund Tackling TB and HIV Together 2021–2024 in Papua New Guinea;
- (b) USD 15.7 million (grants) for the Energy Efficient Stoves Program in Ethiopia;
- (c) USD 15.7 million (grants) for the Humbo & Sodo Assisted Natural Regeneration Projects in Ethiopia;
- (d) USD 9.6 million (grants) for the Consolidating Resilience Gains in Somalia project; and
- (e) USD 3.87 million (grants) for the Sustainable Land Regeneration programme in Zambia.

2.4 Potential support for direct access entities

15. WVA demonstrates experience relevant to supporting potential direct access entities (DAEs) through its long-standing role in institutional capacity-building, systems development and partnership support. For example, in 2024, WVA facilitated orientation and practical training on ESCA mainstreaming in programming to over 170 persons across more than 10 countries. World Vision is committed to strengthening the capacity of potential executing entities and DAEs to meet GCF accreditation standards.

16. The applicant's approach will focus on five key areas: (1) institutional capacity strengthening for fiduciary standards, including financial management, due diligence and compliance; (2) support for environmental and social safeguards (ESS), with training and tools to assess and manage environmental and social (E&S) risks; (3) strengthening gender and

social inclusion policies, aligned with the GCF Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan; (4) governance and institutional system strengthening to enhance accountability, transparency and monitoring; and (5) facilitating peer learning and knowledge exchange through South-South cooperation and mentorship.

17. The applicant also supports partners in applying ESS, gender equality and disability inclusion standards, through the use of partnership-wide policies, training and technical guidance.

III. Stage II accreditation review assessment

18. The applicant applied under the normal track accreditation process. Its application has been assessed by the Accreditation Panel (AP) during Stage II (Step 1) against requirements in accordance with the GCF policies and standards identified below to the extent applicable to accreditation:

- (a) GCF policies and standards identified in paragraph 3 above;
- (b) Policy on Prohibited Practices (decision B.22/19);
- (c) Anti-Money-Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy (AML/CFT Policy) (decision B.18/10);
- (d) Policy on the Protection of Whistleblowers and Witnesses (decision B.BM-2018/21);
- (e) Comprehensive Information Disclosure Policy of the Fund (decision B.12/35) regarding the disclosure of environmental and social (E&S) information;
- (f) Updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan 2020–2023 (decision B.24/12);
- (g) Revised Environmental and Social Policy (decision B.BM-2021/18); and
- (h) Evaluation Policy (decision B.BM 2021/07).

19. As part of this assessment, the AP consulted the applicant's website and third-party websites to complement the information provided in the application.

3.1 Fiduciary standards

3.1.1 Basic fiduciary standards: key administrative and financial capacities

20. WVA is registered in Australia and is a member of the World Vision Partnership, an informal federation established under the World Vision Covenant of Partnership, under which each entity agrees to comply with shared principles and rules. Beyond the Covenant of Partnership, relationships between WVA and other World Vision entities are contractual. Where WVA funds or supports programmes implemented by other entities in the partnership, the arrangements are governed by formal contracts. World Vision International policies apply across the partnership. Each World Vision entity is required to contextualize these partnership policies, as appropriate, to comply with local legal and regulatory requirements. Accordingly, WVA has adopted its own policies – often derived from World Vision International frameworks – that apply specifically to its staff and operations.

21. WVA is governed by a 14-member Board of Directors (BoD) supported by four standing committees: the Audit and Risk Committee, the People, Culture and Governance Committee, the Endowment Fund Committee and the Field Allocations Committee. The BoD and its committees operate under approved charters, as reviewed by the AP, which define governance arrangements, including the appointment and removal of directors. BoD members serve in a non-remunerated capacity.

22. WVA maintains an organizational chart that outlines responsibilities and segregation of duties and is available internally via the intranet, with key roles disclosed publicly on the organization's website. The Executive Leadership Team is responsible for developing strategy for BoD approval and overseeing implementation. Progress against strategic objectives is reported quarterly to the BoD, while financial performance is monitored against approved targets through regular financial reporting. The annual budgeting process is reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee and approved by the BoD. The track record of the budgets and reports were provided to the AP.

23. WVA prepares its financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, relevant pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The financial statements comprise standard disclosures, including statements of financial position and performance, cash flows, changes in equity and accompanying notes. Australian Accounting Standards are largely aligned to International Financial Reporting Standards with the exception of nonprofit disclosures, income recognition, presentation and measurement, which may differ. WVA utilizes Microsoft Dynamics 365 as its general ledger platform, supported by systems capable of fund- and project-level accounting aligned with grant reporting requirements. The finance function is led by the Chief Corporate Services Officer and includes a team of qualified finance professionals, including chartered accountants and certified practising accountants.

24. The applicant's Audit and Risk Committee operates under an approved charter and comprises four members. The charter defines the Committee's composition, appointment process and terms of service. The Audit and Risk Committee's mandate includes oversight of fraud risk management and counter-terrorism financing controls. WVA has outsourced its internal audit function to an external audit firm, which reports functionally to the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and administratively through the Chief Financial Officer. In addition, and in line with the federated structure, World Vision International auditors may conduct audits of WVA. The internal auditors prepare risk-based audit plans which are approved by the Audit and Risk Committee. Audit findings are reported at BoD level and subject to follow-up. The outsourced internal auditors undertake their own quality assurance processes and have shared their global quality assurance report dated June 2024 with the AP. The Audit and Risk Committee charter does not explicitly require WVA internal auditors to undertake quality assurance, although it covers a performance and effectiveness review. Relevant track record material, such as audit plans, reports and minutes, was provided to the AP for its review.

25. The external auditor is appointed by the BoD and conducts audits in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, which are publicly disclosed.⁵ As these standards are tailored to the national context, the financial statements do not include an explicit statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards; however, a statement of the applicant's compliance with the Code of Conduct of the Australian Council for International Development is included.

26. WVA does not maintain a stand-alone internal control framework; instead, it operates an integrated system of controls embedded across governance, financial and operational processes consistent with the requirements of the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations.⁶ Oversight of internal controls is exercised by the BoD and the Audit and Risk Committee. Controls are embedded within approved policies and procedures and supported by system-based controls. Assurance over control effectiveness is obtained through audit activities, risk assessments, periodic procedural reviews and stakeholder feedback, which together inform continuous improvement. Segregation of duties is embedded within payment and disbursement

⁵ See <https://www.worldvision.com.au/our-work/about-us/annual-reports>.

⁶ The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission develops integrated frameworks and guidance that organizations use to design, implement and evaluate internal control, enterprise risk management and fraud risk management.

systems and reinforced through role-based access control and management review. Control deficiencies identified through audits are addressed through management action plans. Compliance is operationalized through documented policies, mandatory training and automated controls that support accurate reporting and record-keeping. Oversight is provided by the Audit and Risk Committee, supported by the Risk function, Legal Counsel and Internal Audit. WVA does not engage fiduciary trustees but has engaged an external investment adviser to execute transactions on its behalf. WVA retains full accountability and control over funds.

27. The organization applies a Three Lines of Defence model,⁷ under which business units form the first line, with responsibility for identifying, managing and reporting risks. The Risk function operating under the oversight of the Audit and Risk Committee is governed by the Enterprise Risk and Compliance Management Policy. Risk registers, examples of which were provided for the track record, are maintained and reviewed through established committee processes. The WVA Contracts and Procurement Policy, together with related procedures, governs higher-risk procurement and contracting activities, while the Purchasing Policy and Procedures apply to lower-risk and routine purchases. Procurement activities undertaken in Australia are monitored through the applicant's Microsoft Dynamics 365 system.

28. Procurement and purchasing systems incorporate automated approval workflows, ensuring appropriate oversight prior to contract award for goods and services. WVA does not currently publish its procurement policies or procurement awards but has indicated its intention to do so for GCF-related projects. Complaint resolution mechanisms are articulated in WVA procurement policies and communicated to bidders through the bidding process. Complaints are managed in accordance with established procedures, with the opportunity for complainants to escalate a complaint to the Australian Council for International Development, a trade association for Australian non-governmental organizations involved in international development and humanitarian action, where appropriate. WVA provides monthly procurement performance reports to the Executive Leadership Team and quarterly reporting to the BoD via the Risk and Audit Committee, covering major contracts, compliance issues, risks and required corrective actions. These samples were reviewed by the AP. In addition, procurement is subject to routine audits by the internal auditor. WVA does not directly monitor procurement of its implementing partners; rather, it provides oversight through its project monitoring activities, as covered in paragraph 39 below.

29. The AP finds that the applicant's policies, procedures and capacity partially meet the basic fiduciary standards on key administrative and financial capacities. Furthermore, the AP found the evidence of track records insufficient. The relevant gap is identified in paragraph 28 above and reflected in the corresponding condition for accreditation in section 4.2 below.

3.1.2 Basic fiduciary standards: transparency and accountability

30. WVA has adopted its own Code of Conduct, which sets out the standards of behaviour expected of employees and representatives of WVA and reinforces compliance with legal, ethical and organizational requirements. The Code is supported by a suite of complementary ethics policies, including on child and adult safeguarding, financial wrongdoing and corruption control, and conflict of interest. BoD members formally acknowledge their obligations through a letter of understanding, while staff confirm compliance through an online declaration process embedded within WVA systems. The People and Governance Committee is mandated to advise and support the BoD on matters relating to organizational culture and values, with a particular focus on alignment with WVA core values. In accordance with its charter, the Audit and Risk

⁷ The Three Lines of Defence model describes how organizations allocate responsibilities for managing risk and ensuring effective controls. Management owns and manages risks through operations; risk and compliance functions provide oversight and challenge; and internal audit offers independent assurance on the effectiveness of governance, risk management and controls.

Committee provides oversight of safeguarding, fraud risk management and counter-terrorism financing within the organization.

31. World Vision International maintains a Conflict of Interest Policy applicable to all World Vision offices, employees, BoD members and volunteers. In alignment with this framework, WVA adopted a BoD-approved Conflict of Interest Policy in 2022, which defines the scope of application and sets out procedures for identifying, disclosing and managing conflicts. It also establishes escalation mechanisms and sanctions for breaches, up to and including termination. Mandatory training on conflict of interest forms part of the WVA online induction programme and is completed by all staff upon commencement and biennially thereafter. The Chief Financial Officer and the People and Culture function are designated reviewers of conflict disclosures. Samples of staff disclosures and BoD-level declarations were provided to the AP.

32. WVA has adopted a zero-tolerance stance to prohibited practices, declared publicly through its website.⁸ WVA maintains a suite of policies aimed at preventing and addressing wrongdoing. While there is broad alignment with the GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices, the current policy framework does not explicitly prohibit obstructive practices. WVA has adopted a BoD-approved Protected Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy that establishes formal procedures for the anonymous reporting of suspected fraud or other misconduct involving WVA employees, consultants or suppliers. Reports may be submitted by staff via the WVA intranet, by staff or external parties through the WVA website, or through the independent whistle-blower service, Your Call.⁹ All disclosures received by WVA are recorded and managed through the Your Call system to ensure consistent documentation, tracking and resolution, with protections in place against retaliation. The Head of Risk is responsible for conducting investigations within WVA as guided by the Protected Disclosure Procedures. These investigation guidelines documented in the Protected Disclosure Procedures have, however, not been made public.

33. Investigations for significant allegations are conducted by the Global Investigations Internal Unit. The unit operates within the Global Assurance and Accountability function of World Vision International and is responsible for investigating significant allegations of corruption and financial misconduct across the World Vision Partnership. These investigations are provided for in the agreements governing internal and external audits of partnership entities and are conducted in accordance with the unit's Case Management Guidelines. World Vision International releases a quarterly incident dashboard, which provides an overview of corruption and financial loss cases that meet the unit's review criteria, including cases closed from the beginning of fiscal year 2021 through to the second quarter of fiscal year 2025. The WVA Risk Department reviews this dashboard and prepares a summary relating to countries funded by WVA, which is shared with the Field Impact team to inform ongoing portfolio risk assessments. Copies of the dashboard and related summaries were provided as evidence. In addition, reports of fraud, corruption, bribery or other financial misconduct relating to Australian funded projects are communicated directly to WVA. Such cases are recorded in the WVA Central Fraud Register, which is reviewed quarterly by the Head of Risk. The register tracks new and ongoing cases, including loss amounts, investigation outcomes, mitigation actions and case closures. High-level information is reported to the Audit and Risk Committee at each quarterly meeting.

34. WVA has established a Counter-Terrorism Financing Policy and Counter-Terrorism Financing Guidelines, applicable to all employees, which set out a risk-based approach and requirements for screening, due diligence and oversight of counter-terrorism financing risks. The Policy provides for visibility over screening and due diligence activities undertaken by World Vision Field Offices (the applicant's primary executing entities) and third parties engaged on WVA-funded projects. The Policy and guidelines define how WVA assurance

⁸ See <https://www.worldvision.com.au/our-work/about-us/our-policies/ethics-policies>.

⁹ See <https://www.worldvision.com.au/protected-disclosure>.

requirements are embedded within WVA implementing partners. They also specify reporting obligations for verified screening matches, including escalation to the WVA BoD. The Counter-Terrorism Financing Policy is overseen by a WVA Counter-Terrorism Financing Working Group comprising senior leadership, including the Head of Risk and General Counsel. Operational responsibility is delegated to a counter-terrorism financing and risk focal point within the Programmes and Contracts function, who oversees staff training, periodic counter-terrorism financing and partner due diligence reviews, and ongoing compliance across project life cycles. Evidence of a screening track record for staff and projects and training was provided to the AP.

35. The AP finds that the applicant's policies, procedures and capacity partially meet the basic fiduciary standards on transparency and accountability and, to the extent applicable to accreditation, the GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices, the GCF Policy on the Protection of Whistle-blowers and Witnesses and the GCF AML/CFT Policy. Furthermore, the AP found the evidence of track records to be sufficient. The relevant gap is identified in paragraph 32 above and reflected by the corresponding condition for accreditation in section 4.2 below.

3.1.3 Specialized fiduciary standard for project management

36. WVA applies a staged appraisal process for funding proposals. An initial Go/No-Go assessment is conducted by grants, technical and senior management staff to confirm strategic alignment, delivery capacity, compliance with donor requirements and the assessment of financial, reputational, environmental and social risks. Final Go/No-Go decisions are taken by the appropriately delegated manager. For proposals progressing beyond the initial screening, a multidisciplinary bid team – comprising gender disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), technical, financial, environmental, legal, and monitoring and evaluation expertise – contributes to proposal design to ensure quality, donor compliance and responsiveness to beneficiary needs. WVA draws on an established in-house technical capability across climate and environment, health and livelihoods, disaster response, and GEDSI, working closely with field offices to co-design programmes.

37. Funding decisions are governed by the applicant's Field Allocations Committee (FAC), which operates under BoD-approved terms of reference and delegated authority. It approves domestic and international funding allocations, ensuring alignment with organizational strategy, stewardship principles and donor commitments. The International Field Strategy Framework guides resource allocation and field footprint decisions, with an annual review and periodic update. The Field Allocations Committee – chaired by the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) – approves annual field budgets, monitors performance against forecasts, maintains a register of funding decisions and approves multi-year match funding, sponsorship allocations, emergency appeal funding and other funding instruments within defined limits. Matters exceeding delegated thresholds are escalated to senior management or the BoD.

38. To support its project development and appraisal process track record, WVA presented appraisal documents that included concept note development, baseline assessments, project design and FAC decisions for a USD 3.5 million project under the Australian NGO Cooperation Programme titled "Sri Lanka Empowering Vulnerable Women and Minorities through Sustainable Climate-Smart Aquaculture" (EMPOWER), aimed at strengthening the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of poor and vulnerable households. WVA has also provided oversight over the implementation of a USD 10.7 million project titled "Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Laos", implemented from 2018 to 2023. In addition WVA, together with World Vision Papua New Guinea, implemented a project of USD 77.4 million funded by the Global Fund to Fight Aids Tuberculosis and Malaria in the period 2021 to 2024.

39. Financial oversight is applied throughout the project lifecycle. At appraisal, projects and implementing partners are assessed through the WVA grants management system (GrantVantage), including reviews of governance, financial management capacity and operational feasibility. Partner due diligence covers counter-terrorism financing screening and

risk assessment. Samples of such capacity assessments were provided to the AP as evidence of track record.

40. During implementation, contract managers undertake periodic and continuous monitoring using standardized tools, supported by finance and technical specialists. Monitoring is guided by the WVA Order of Service for Contract and Programme Management and donor reporting requirements. Financial management and reporting are aligned with WVA financial governance policies and donor-specific frameworks. Project implementation and monitoring reports for the EMPOWER project were provided as evidence of track record.

41. Programme design, monitoring and evaluation are governed by World Vision International's Learning, Evaluation, Accountability and Planning (LEAP) framework, complemented by the applicant's evidence building framework, which supports portfolio-level assessment of effectiveness across strategic pillars and cross-cutting themes. WVA has an in-house team responsible for monitoring quality and overseeing evaluations. Independent evaluators are competitively engaged to conduct baseline, mid-term and final evaluations, with additional annual independent reviews commissioned to assess evaluation quality against recognized evidence principles. Evaluation reports as well as brief impact reports are made publicly available.¹⁰ The applicant discloses on its website pertinent project information, including ongoing progress of projects through its impact reporting and is capable of making disclosures consistent with GCF requirements.

42. Risks are actively monitored through desk and field reviews of narrative and financial reports. Where risks materialize, mitigation actions are implemented in coordination with field offices, and significant issues are escalated to donors and governance bodies as required. Portfolio performance issues are addressed through targeted corrective actions, including additional resourcing, strengthened oversight and enhanced technical support. Relevant documentation on, for example, project risk assessment, monitoring and reporting, such as that of the EMPOWER project, were provided to the AP as evidence of track record.

43. The AP finds that the applicant's policies, procedures and capacity, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the specialized fiduciary standard for project management.

3.1.4 **Specialized fiduciary standard for grant award and/or funding allocation mechanisms**

44. The applicant did not apply for accreditation for this standard at this time.

3.1.5 **Specialized fiduciary standard for on-lending and/or blending (for loans, equity and guarantees)**

45. The applicant did not apply for accreditation for this standard at this time.

3.2 Environmental and social safeguards

3.2.1 **Environmental and social policy, management and monitoring**

46. The WVA Environmental Sustainability Policy, approved by management in 2025, outlines the applicant's vision, values and commitment to ensuring that all operations in Australia and overseas are ecologically sound and promote sustainable development. As a member of the World Vision International Partnership, WVA implements activities in accordance with World Vision International's policies, standards and E&S compliance

¹⁰ See <https://www.worldvision.com.au/our-work/about-us/annual-reports>.

requirements. The Policy is publicly available on the WVA website and complies with World Vision International's Environmental Stewardship Policy (2021) and the Environment and Climate Change Policy (2020), which apply to all World Vision International entities, as well as the DFAT Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy. It also aligns with International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards 1–8, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Environmental Sustainability Policy is complemented by WVA policies on GEDSI (2022), disability inclusion (2023) and programme design, monitoring and evaluation management (2025). Compliance with national laws and regulations is mandated through the applicant's Project Implementation Agreement. The AP has reviewed the Environmental Sustainability Policy, associated performance standards and complementary policies, and finds them compatible with GCF projects/programmes up to category B.

47. In relation to climate change investments and portfolio, WVA is committed to advancing low-carbon, climate-resilient development by integrating national priorities into its projects/programmes, as outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Policy. The applicant's investment in climate mitigation and resilience in fiscal year 2024 accounted for 68 per cent of its portfolio, totalling USD 92.9 million. Guided by climate-smart agriculture principles, WVA assesses potential impacts and risks related to climate change, environmental conservation and natural hazards, and integrates inclusive disaster response and recovery into programmes using the Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance tool and the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool. World Vision International's 2024 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) stocktake assessment establishes the baseline year for greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. WVA tracks emissions across its portfolio and, as a member of World Vision International, is committed to contributing to the World Vision Partnership's target of a 20 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 and progressing towards net zero emissions by 2050. WVA provides technical guidance for targeted climate programming via the Climate Action and Regenerative Environment team. Initiatives across agriculture, water and sanitation, health and ecosystem management, including a carbon footprint webinar series, and independent emissions reporting, reinforce the applicant's leadership in adaptation, mitigation and institutional capacity-building. These efforts reflect priority sectors commonly identified in developing countries' nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and green growth strategies, as noted in a 2024 review by the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

48. The WVA Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy (2022) commits to (i) zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, and all forms of unethical behaviours and misconduct in the workplace and project settings; (ii) preventing discrimination and harassment; and (iii) ensuring compliance with national laws and regulations. The Policy applies to WVA employees and affiliates, is publicly available on the WVA website and is supported by safeguarding incident management procedures. It is further complemented by the WVA Code of Conduct, Fair Treatment Policy, Protected Disclosure Policy and Complaints Policy. Together, these outline the processes for receiving and escalating complaints, protecting victims from retaliation and providing assistance and culturally appropriate referrals to survivors. WVA is a member of the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, enabling data-sharing on misconduct, including sexual misconduct, among employers. The WVA BoD and Advisory Committee receive regular updates on safeguarding compliance and annual incident trends. The Child and Adult Safeguarding Manager serves as the institutional focal point for both incident reporting and monitoring policy implementation. WVA employees and volunteers receive periodic refresher sessions or other safeguarding training at least once every two years. The AP finds that WVA has the systems and capacity to meet the principles of the GCF Environmental and Social Policy related to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

49. In relation to IFC Performance Standard 7 on Indigenous Peoples, WVA complies with DFAT Indigenous Engagement Standards, ensuring inclusive and culturally sensitive

consultation with local communities and upholding the principles of free, prior and informed consent, ensuring that Indigenous Peoples and project-affected communities are informed, engaged and active partners in decisions affecting their lives, land and livelihoods. Its Reconciliation Action Plan and Strong Spirit framework align with IFC Performance Standard 7. In 2023, WVA used targeted training and contextualized project design to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' issues and voices informed programming, implementation and evaluation. Additionally, WVA introduced a new process through the project risk register, launched in February 2023, to support projects that protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and strengthening social and environmental safeguarding. These efforts have since been strengthened through broader Indigenous staff leadership across the organization. WVA has submitted sample project reports, including free, prior and informed consent, demonstrating integration of human rights considerations – including women's rights – and protection of land rights, traditional knowledge and cultural identity. The AP finds that WVA has the systems and capacity to comply with Performance Standard 7 on Indigenous Peoples under the GCF interim environmental and social standards.

50. In relation to the GCF Evaluation Policy, the WVA Monitoring and Evaluation Guide outlines processes for tracking measures and actions, including sex-disaggregated data. WVA monitors people reached through a Power BI dashboard, complemented by E&S monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools within its E&S risk and impact categorization system. Reporting aligns with donor requirements using prescribed templates. Environmental, disability inclusion and gender equality indicators are tracked semi-annually and annually, with sex-disaggregation across all indicators. Corrective measures are applied as needed to ensure compliance with environmental management plans and national regulations. External evaluators assess whether the needs and rights of vulnerable, marginalized and excluded groups are met, following DFAT design, monitoring and evaluation minimum standards and global good practice, such as Bond Evidence Principles. WVA has provided sample templates, checklists, monitoring reports and independent evaluations, demonstrating a participatory monitoring approach and a strong track record in E&S and gender evaluations. Contract managers lead regular monitoring and reporting of ESCA and GEDSI action plans, supported by WVA technical advisers for quality assurance. Lessons learned from evaluations are incorporated into future designs. The AP finds that WVA has the systems and capacity to meet the GCF Evaluation Policy requirements.

51. In relation to the environmental and social management system (ESMS) to implement its policy commitments, WVA applies a precautionary, exclusion-based approach that guides due diligence across all investments, including those delivered through partners. The system integrates institutional policies, technical guidance and digital platforms to support consistent risk identification, categorization and oversight. It enables early consideration of environmental, social, gender and climate and reputational risks, promotes meaningful stakeholder engagement and supports ongoing performance monitoring. Guided by the WVA Environmental Assessment Guidelines, risk assessment draws on IFC Performance Standards 1–8, GCF risk categories, WVA climate criteria, DFAT markers and applicable national legal requirements. This adaptable approach demonstrates the applicant's capacity to systematically screen, manage, mitigate and monitor E&S risks across its portfolio. Programme appraisal is conducted by Field Office and Support Office staff, including WVA representatives, with capacity evidenced through sample ESS screening checklists, assessment reports and project-level E&S management plans.

52. WVA maintains institutional-level oversight to verify the performance of its ESMS. Its evidence building framework (2020) measures programme results and effectiveness, while GrantVantage, a centralized management system, monitors risk and compliance, including E&S matters. The ESCA Strategic Roadmap 2024–2027 – together with a leadership collaborative comprising the Global Centre core team and support office, regional and national ESCA leads – provides guidance and oversight for institutional-level ESMS across the World Vision International Partnership. The WVA Contract Manager ensures that key documents are

accessible to E&S advisers and stakeholders. The WVA BoD receives quarterly safeguarding compliance updates and an annual trend analysis of incidents. WVA submitted an independent report (fiscal year 2023–2024) on organization-wide environment management and performance, climate change, and GEDSI, highlighting strong compliance and good practice indicators, demonstrating ESMS effectiveness.

53. WVA has demonstrated clearly defined roles related to the environment and safeguarding, comprising four managers, three technical advisers, one coordinator and the Financial Management, Reporting and Monitoring Scale-up team. These roles primarily sit within the Program and Contracts and Corporate Services departments. The Green Team on climate and environment, disability inclusion, and gender equality, and chaired by E&S advisers, plays a key role in policy revision and monitoring implementation progress. The AP considers this structure to have adequate competency and capacity. WVA also maintains a roster of consultants with expertise in IFC Performance Standards 1–8 to support the project cycle, as required.

54. WVA has extensive experience in institutional capacity-building and peer learning. Its Safeguarding Training Plan provides function-specific training on E&S and safeguarding roles and responsibilities. All employees complete annual online safeguard compliance training, supported by knowledge resources on the WVA hub site and regular staff sessions. Detailed resources communicating E&S processes, tools and learning are available on both the World Vision International and the WVA hub site and regular staff training is conducted. In 2024, WVA delivered orientation and practical training on ESS for over 170 participants across more than 10 countries. South–South learning exchanges and study visits on environmental and climate topics further demonstrate the applicant’s commitment to strengthening internal and project capacities for effective ESMS implementation.

55. The AP finds that the applicant’s ESMS, comprising the Environmental Sustainability Policy, the Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy and the Monitoring and Evaluation Guide, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy to the extent applicable to accreditation and the GCF interim ESS standards for maximum E&S risk category B projects/programmes with respect to Performance Standards 1–8.

3.2.2 **External communications, consultations, information disclosure and grievance redress mechanism at the institutional level**

56. The WVA Complaints Policy (revised 2024) established an independent institutional and project-level feedback and complaints mechanism (FCM). It details procedures for receiving, screening, assessing and addressing queries; recording and tracking complaints; responding to senders; and disclosing complaints and project information. The policy is publicly available on the WVA website and shared annually with participants and partners, including Indigenous communities. The FCM is accessible to staff, projects/programmes and executing agencies through multiple channels, including in-country toll-free feedback services in local formats and languages; community help desks and complaints hotline boxes; suggestion boxes or logbooks; and an online contact form. WVA maintains a public registry and operates EthicsPoint, a web-based platform, which allows anonymous complaints that are investigated by the Global Issue Investigation Unit with reporting to affected country offices. The AP finds that the Complaints Policy, including the FCM, meets the GCF criteria for accessibility, accountability, effectiveness, transparency, inclusive participation and independence, as required under the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy.

57. WVA requires every community-level programme to establish a functional FCM that is child-friendly, gender-sensitive, inclusive and proportionate to the project’s risks and impacts. Communications are reviewed by WVA and may be referred to relevant authorities if outside its mandate. The FCM does not restrict access to national judicial or administrative remedies. All safeguarding incidents are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee and, for serious cases

requiring DFAT engagement, escalated immediately to the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the WVA BoD. No complaints related to E&S matters in projects/programmes have been received. Staff working directly with children are trained to address concerns promptly and effectively, in a manner sensitive and responsive to the needs of the affected parties.

58. The WVA Programme Accountability Framework commits to continuous stakeholder engagement through four pillars: providing information, consulting with communities, promoting participation, and collecting and acting on feedback and complaints to improve programme quality. Child participation at the policy and field level is embedded through the WVI Development Programme Approach and guided by the WVI Guidelines for Child Participation (2012). The applicant's approach to meaningful consultation involves stakeholder analysis incorporating gender, disability and wider social inclusion; providing accessible, culturally appropriate information in local languages; disclosing progress reports and monitoring updates; organizing meetings with community committees; and maintaining ongoing consultation throughout the project lifecycle.

59. WVA publicly discloses project reports, studies and information on its website. Each project must publish relevant E&S information, submit periodic updates and provide annual progress reports on issues affecting impacted groups. It has formally committed to disclosing full project-level E&S documents for E&S risk category B projects or programmes that may be financed by GCF. These disclosures will comply with timing and language requirements and be made available on the WVA website and in locations accessible to affected communities, while safeguarding data privacy and intellectual property rights.

60. The AP finds that the applicant's system of external communications, consultations, information disclosure and grievance redress mechanism, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meets the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy to the extent applicable to accreditation, GCF interim ESS standards and GCF Information Disclosure Policy regarding E&S information disclosure requirements for maximum E&S risk category B projects/programmes with respect to Performance Standards 1–8.

3.3 Gender

61. World Vision International's global strategy "Our Promise Phase Two" (2021–2025), together with the WVA Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy (2022), Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct and Modern Slavery Statement, reinforce the applicant's commitment to gender equality, equitable access, human rights, racial justice and reducing child vulnerabilities caused by climate change, fragility and social exclusion. GEDSI operationalizes these commitments by ensuring structured support for marginalized groups, including systematic consultation with representative organizations. This approach is strengthened by the application of the World Vision International Women's Economic Empowerment Framework, which focuses on four interrelated domains – economic advancement, agency, equitable systems and access – highlighting an integrated effort to address structural barriers and foster enabling environments for women's economic participation. In response to its GEDSI Self-Assessment, WVA developed a Management Response and Action Plan, endorsed by the Executive Leadership Team in 2023, to embed these priorities across technical programming, organizational culture, communications, marketing and advocacy, demonstrating institutional alignment between policy commitments and operational practice.

62. For projects/programmes, GEDSI sets out eight minimum standards: (i) Inclusive Program Design; (ii) Data Disaggregation; (iii) Barrier Analysis; (iv) Participation and Representation; (v) Capacity Strengthening; (vi) Safe and inclusive Environments; (vii) Partnerships with Representative Organizations; and (viii) Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning. These standards are supported by the GEDSI Action Plan, guidance

materials, disability inclusion checklists and technical toolkits. Gender, disability and social inclusion analyses, stakeholder mapping and 'do no harm' principles are applied during project design to integrate a gender and diversity lens across E&S and climate risk assessments, environmental management plans, consultations, monitoring, grievance mechanisms, budgeting, disclosure and knowledge management.

63. The WVA gender equality criterion ensures the use of gender- and age-disaggregated data, gender-responsive indicators and appropriate data collection tools. Supported by GEDSI technical teams, contract managers promote the participation of vulnerable children and marginalized groups through programme review and monitoring. In fiscal year 2024, WVA reached 7.55 million beneficiaries, comprising 26.7 per cent women, 27.7 per cent girls, 25.1 per cent boys, and 20.6 per cent men. WVA has provided project checklists, gender assessments, and monitoring and evaluation reports, demonstrating a strong track record in implementing gender-related policies and integrating gender considerations into climate change initiatives.

64. The Evidence and GEDSI team, led by a manager with extensive experience in gender equality initiatives, is supported by two dedicated GEDSI advisers with specialized qualifications and expertise. Additional gender staff provide technical support on women's economic empowerment through the Health, Nutrition and Economic team and an adviser specializing in integrating gender considerations into climate resilience strategies. The WVA Safeguarding Manager and First Nations Safeguarding Advisor bring expertise in child-centred development and child rights. Together, they implement GEDSI, deliver training and raise awareness across the organization and projects/programmes. An independent GEDSI self-assessment in 2023 found that WVA has made significant progress since 2017, with strong pockets of expertise and sustained commitment to advancing GEDSI outcomes across teams. Consultant expertise is engaged as needed to provide technical input, develop resources and strengthen gender-responsive programming.

65. WVA allocates entity-level budgets for dedicated staffing and activities, including staff surveys, group discussions, specialist-led training and reviews on engaging men as agents of change for gender equality. To promote gender-balanced recruitment, WVA launched the Women in Leadership Network in 2022, supporting 158 participants over three years through targeted coaching and career development scholarships. WVA reports annually to the Australian Workplace Gender Equality Agency and conducts periodic GEDSI self-assessments. In 2024, women accounted for 67 per cent of promotions and internal appointments. WVA has demonstrated strong capacity in developing knowledge products, delivering gender-focused learning, and implementing diverse capacity-building programmes for staff and stakeholders, all accessible through its website.

66. WVA is a member of the Australian Council for International Development's Disability Equity Community of Practice (COP) and Gender Equality COP. WVA also convenes the WVI Pacific Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Network and is a member of the WVI Asia-Pacific Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion COP. All staff share a mandate to mainstream gender equality and foster a gender-sensitive, inclusive organization. The applicant's commitment to integrating gender considerations with climate change impacts is evident in its climate adaptation projects/programmes. These publicly available resources and initiatives underscore the track record of WVA in community empowerment and improving rural livelihoods.

67. The AP finds that the applicant's gender policy, procedures, capacities and competencies, supported by evidence of its track record, fully meet the GCF updated Gender Policy to the extent applicable to accreditation.

IV. Conclusions and recommendation

4.1 Conclusions

68. Following the assessment, the applicant is found to have the potential to support GCF in implementing its Strategic Plan for 2024–2027 with respect to:

- (a) Bringing complementarity to the existing GCF network of accredited entities, particularly through its broad geographical presence, including in the least developed countries and small island developing States across various regions and in Africa;
- (b) The indicative projects/programmes that the applicant intends to submit to GCF within the scope of accreditation recommended by the AP in paragraph 70 below;
- (c) Alignment of said indicative pipeline with country programming priorities;
- (d) Potential contribution to the adaptation and mitigation balance in the GCF portfolio since the applicant works across mitigation and adaptation;
- (e) Supporting diversity in GCF results areas such as health, food and water security; and
- (f) Addressing the interests of particularly vulnerable groups.

69. Following its assessment, the AP concludes the following in relation to the application with respect to the applicant's ability to meet the GCF accreditation standards identified in paragraph 18 above:

- (a) The applicant partially meets the requirements of the GCF basic fiduciary standards and, to the extent applicable to accreditation, the GCF Policy on the Protection of Whistle-blowers and Witnesses, the GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices and the GCF AML/CFT Policy. The gaps relate to the lack of publication of investigation guidelines, procurement guidelines and procurement awards. The gaps are identified in paragraphs 28 and 32 above, and are addressed by the corresponding conditions for accreditation in section 4.2 below;
- (b) The applicant fully meets the requirements of the GCF specialized fiduciary standard for project management;
- (c) The applicant fully meets the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy to the extent applicable to accreditation, the GCF interim ESS standards and the GCF Information Disclosure Policy on disclosure of E&S information in relation to the medium E&S risk category B;
- (d) The applicant has demonstrated that it has a policy, procedures and competencies in order to implement its gender policy, which is found to be consistent with the GCF updated Gender Policy to the extent applicable to accreditation, and has demonstrated that it has experience in gender consideration in the context of climate change; and
- (e) The applicant has demonstrated that it has institutional-level systems, capacities and competencies regarding evaluation as required in the aforementioned GCF basic and specialized fiduciary standards and interim ESS standards that would enable it to implement the GCF Evaluation Policy for its GCF-funded activities.

4.2 Recommendation on accreditation

70. The AP recommends, for consideration by the Board, APL172 for accreditation as follows:

- (a) **Accreditation type:**
 - (i) **Maximum size of an individual project or programme:** medium;
 - (ii) **Fiduciary functions:**

- (1) Basic fiduciary standards; and
 - (2) Specialized fiduciary standard for project management; and
 - (iii) **Maximum environmental and social risk category:** medium risk (category B); and
- (b) **Conditions:** the applicant will be required to submit to the AP, through the Secretariat, information on how it has complied with the conditions. The AP will thereafter assess whether the conditions have been met. This assessment will be communicated by the Secretariat, on behalf of the AP, to the Board for information purposes:
- (i) Condition to be met by the applicant prior to the issuance by GCF of a certificate/confirmation of accreditation under the transitional arrangements adopted in paragraph (m) of decision B.42/13 (in connection with the revised accreditation framework adopted in paragraph (a) of decision B.42/13):
 - (1) Delivery to GCF by the applicant of evidence, in a form and substance satisfactory to the AP, of the publication on the applicant's website of the applicant's investigation guidelines applicable to third parties;
 - (ii) Conditions to be met by the applicant prior to the submission of the first funding proposal to the Board:
 - (1) Delivery to GCF by the applicant of evidence, in a form and substance satisfactory to the AP, of:
 - a. The adoption by the applicant and publication on the applicant's website of a procurement policy and guidelines applicable to procurement in connection with the implementation of GCF-approved projects/programmes; and
 - b. The establishment of a process and system to publicize on the applicant's website competitive procurement notices and awards within the applicant's thresholds, and subsequent contract awards for GCF-approved projects/programmes.

71. The applicant has been informed of the recommendation for accreditation, including the accreditation type and conditions, as identified in paragraph 70 above, and agrees to the recommendation.

4.3 Remarks

72. The applicant is encouraged to include within its audit risk committee charter oversight responsibility over an external quality assurance process in line with international standards.

73. The applicant is encouraged to include in its policies and procedures its process of monitoring procurement performance for its implementing partners.

74. The applicant is encouraged to explicitly adopt obstructive practices within its policies that address prohibited practices.

75. The applicant is already taking steps to meet the conditions identified in paragraph 70(b) above.