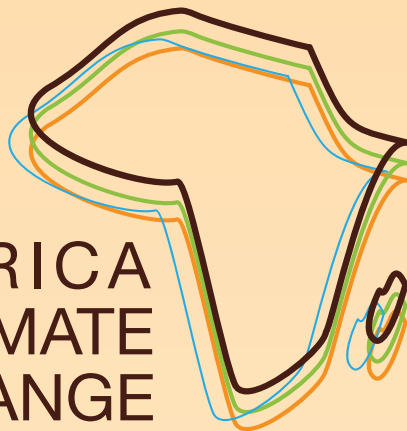


NEWSLETTER

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Message from Gareth Phillips

Manager, Climate and Environment Finance Division

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 15th edition of the ACCF newsletter, covering highlights from April to June 2025. This quarter, we are excited to introduce a new series, “Voices of ACCF,” which will regularly feature ACCF-supported teams and stakeholders powering climate action across Africa.

This edition highlights progress on disability inclusion at UNFCCC SB62, gender equality leadership through the RCC EASA initiative, and the launch of a new UNFPA training manual integrating sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, and climate action. It also presents efforts to strengthen community resilience in Madagascar, where health, gender, and climate initiatives converge to support local adaptation. In addition, youth-led innovation is featured through the “Incredible Stories” HackLab campaign, alongside digital tools such as the NDC Implementation Index Platform that are advancing national climate commitments.

Our field updates also include climate-smart agriculture and beekeeping successes in Eastern Rwanda, as well as a strategic workshop advancing solid, medical, and pharmaceutical waste management in Côte d'Ivoire.

These achievements are made possible thanks to the unwavering support of our donors and partners, who continue to drive ACCF's mission across Africa.

As you explore this edition, I hope you will be inspired by the stories of leadership, partnership, and action that are shaping a climate-resilient, inclusive future for Africa.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Disability Inclusion Gains Ground at UNFCCC SB62: Women with Disabilities Shape Climate Policy

In June 2025, during the 62nd sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in Bonn, Germany, the Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW) project marked a milestone contribution to advancing disability inclusion in climate action. Women with Disabilities supported by STREVOW were part of the delegation actively making recommendations on how to embed disability inclusion within climate negotiations—challenging decades of systemic invisibility.

The sessions spotlighted key areas of progress. The hybrid side event “Gender-just and Disability-Inclusive Climate Action” underscored the urgent need for accessible and inclusive solutions to build a climate-resilient world. Equity, justice, and inclusion were recurring themes, particularly emphasized by developing countries and civil society groups. Calls for locally led solutions gained traction, especially within the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) and Loss and Damage (L&D) frameworks, with SB62 reinforcing the importance of multi-level action by governments. Other highlights included advancing the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), reviewing the extended Gender Action Plan (2024–2034), and renewed commitments to climate finance and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



Panelists from right Josephine Mwatibo – AWAC Kenya, Mark Burrell – CBM UK, Jenni Pitter-Lopez – Light of the World, Elena Ratoi – Disability Rights Lawyer and Advocate, Animesh Kumar – Head of Mission, UNDRR, Professor Elisa Morgera – Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights, Bala Nagendran – Global Disability Innovation Hub, Mahbub Kabir – CBM Ireland.

Disability inclusion gained meaningful ground, with calls to integrate the voices and needs of persons with disabilities into climate strategies, early warning systems, and adaptation programmes. “Our presence at SB62 was a direct challenge to decades of systemic invisibility,” said Josephine Mwatibo, a woman with disability in the delegation. “For too long, women with disabilities, particularly from the Global South—have been excluded from climate negotiations, even though we bear the brunt of climate impacts. This time, we were at the table. And we made it count.”

Yvonne Ndanu, Senior Gender Officer, noted, “As a Gender Negotiator, I was encouraged to see discussions not only emphasizing women’s leadership and gender balance in climate negotiations but also the importance of financing and data systems that

reflect gender realities. The process ahead remains challenging, but SB62 laid a promising foundation.”

The STREVOW project, implemented by Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA) and the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) with funding from ACCF, remains committed to amplifying these voices. STREVOW’s continued support ensures that women with disabilities not only gain a seat at the negotiation table but also shape the climate policies that affect their lives and communities.

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Championing Gender Equality in Climate Policy: RCC EASA and Partners Empower Gender Negotiators Across East and Southern Africa



Group Photo – Windhoek, Namibia – Participants, facilitators, and partners of the 3-day workshop on integrating gender into NDCs and LT-LEDs, hosted by MEFT and EIF with AfDB support.

In a major step toward inclusive and equitable climate action, the Regional Collaboration Centre for East and Southern Africa (RCC EASA), hosted by the East African Development Bank, has completed a landmark two-year initiative to strengthen the leadership of women and gender experts in climate negotiations and national policy processes in East and Southern Africa.

The project culminated in the release of a comprehensive Technical Guide on Integrating Gender in the Preparation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDs). Designed for policymakers, national climate teams and gender focal points, the Guide serves as a practical tool for integrating gender perspectives across climate planning and instruments.

Since its launch in February 2023, the initiative has supported 19 countries across the region, focusing on

National Gender and Climate Change National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs) and other key negotiators. The project aimed to boost their ability to shape national policies and engage meaningfully in global negotiations, while advancing a vision of climate action that centers on equity and inclusivity.

Key milestones included four regional in-person dialogues that brought together NGCCFPs, NDC focal points, civil society, and experts to co-develop regional strategies for gender mainstreaming. A month-long online training equipped over 60 participants with knowledge on UNFCCC processes, gender mandates, negotiation tactics, and practical integration of gender in climate policy. The project also enabled direct participation of NGCCFPs at key global meetings such as UN Climate Change global climate conferences, including COP 28, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Their participation was deemed an asset

within the delegations concerned at the conference.

Reflecting on the impact of the initiative, Jackline Makokha, Director of Gender at the State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action in Kenya and the UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point for Kenya, noted, *“I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the project team for the invaluable engagements over the past two years, from the insightful knowledge exchange sessions to the unwavering support in facilitating our participation in UNFCCC meetings. The technical assistance has been transformative. We are certainly not the same, and we are committed to passing on the knowledge and skills we’ve gained, in the true spirit of mentorship. We look forward to similar initiatives in the future for the good of our region and humanity at large.”*

The project’s central output, the Technical Guide, draws from over

20 global resources and offers clear, practical steps to integrate gender across all stages of NDC and LT-LEDs development: from visioning and stakeholder engagement to implementation and monitoring. More than a procedural manual, the Guide promotes a gender-transformative approach that challenges systemic inequalities and reimagines power structures through climate action. It urges planners to ask not just how women are affected by climate change, but how climate policy can drive deeper social transformation.

The Guide's development was rooted in regional consultation. A high-level capacity-building workshop in Windhoek, Namibia, co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and the Environmental

Investment Fund with UN Women, helped shape the Guide's structure. Input from NDC focal points, NGCCFPs, sectoral experts, and civil society ensured its content reflects practical realities and regional priorities. A rigorous literature review added depth and global relevance.

As countries prepare their next generation of NDCs and LT-LEDs, the Technical Guide serves as a critical tool to ensure gender equality is not just considered but embedded and mainstreamed. It reinforces the role of gender focal points as key champions working alongside climate and sectoral experts to shape climate action that is equitable, inclusive, and transformative.

This initiative demonstrates how gender considerations can be integrated from the ground up, influencing every stage of climate policy design and implementation. The Guide stands as both a product and symbol of this progress, offering a pathway for countries to ensure their climate ambitions leave no one behind.

Download the Technical Guide by clicking here

For more information, please contact:

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Windhoek, Namibia – Participants gathered around a facilitator during the 3-day workshop on integrating gender into NDCs and LT-LEDs, hosted by MEFT and EIF with AfDB support.

Resilient Future: Empowering Gender, Health, and Climate Resilience Across Africa

As part of the Resilient Future project, managed by UNFPA and funded by the Africa Climate Change Fund, a range of new tools, trainings, and youth innovations

are strengthening the capacity of African communities, governments, and partners to integrate gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and climate action.

The following updates highlight key achievements and initiatives from this quarter.

1- A New Training Manual for Gender, SRHR, and Climate Action



UNFPA, with support from ACCF, has developed a comprehensive training manual to equip government and non-state actors to integrate SRHR, gender equality, and climate action. The manual provides practical modules for in-person and online workshops, enabling stakeholders to address the needs of marginalized groups and mainstream gender-transformative approaches into climate policies such as NDCs and National Adaptation Plans. The manual will be launched in the coming months and targets a wide audience of climate, gender, and health professionals.

Access to the manual
by clicking here

2- Incredible Stories: Youth Innovation for Climate and Health



To further amplify youth-led solutions, UNFPA and its partners launched the “Incredible Stories” media campaign, featuring videos, a documentary, and a digital booklet capturing the journeys and impact of young innovators from HackLabs across

Africa, including those supported by ACCF Climate HackLabs. During the virtual launch, past innovators—including ACCF-funded Climate Hacklab winners Marta Uetela (Mozambique) and Gabriel Mwaingo Ngure (Kenya)—shared firsthand how

the HackLabs shaped their solutions and journeys.

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3- Building Community Resilience in Madagascar



Group Photo – Antananarivo, Madagascar – National experts, UN agencies, civil society, and youth representatives gathered for the Resilient Future workshop on integrating SRHR and gender into climate adaptation.

In April 2025, the Resilient Future project brought together national experts from ministries, UN agencies, civil society, and youth organizations in Antananarivo to address the intersection of SRHR, gender, and climate adaptation. The workshop promoted inclusive governance and supported Madagascar's development of its next Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0). At the opening ceremony, UNFPA Representative in Madagascar, Ms. Josiane Yaguibou, stated, "With this training on the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality into climate action, we can make a difference. UNFPA remains fully committed alongside the Government

and partners to ensure that every woman, every young person, and every community has access to the services, rights, and opportunities necessary to build a fairer and more climate-resilient future."

For her part, the Coordinator of the National Bureau for Climate Change and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Dr. Lovakanto Ravelomanana, emphasized: "Gender is at the heart of climate issues. It is essential to listen to women's voices and ensure their full participation in decision-making spaces. True inclusion is reflected through strong female representation."

The workshop also gave space to participants to share perspectives adapted to the Malagasy context. "Inspiring young people through storytelling in climate change, reproductive health & gender equality can make a difference": Iangotiana Andriamitandrina, AIKA Alliance.

"Ensuring effective water management & promoting reforestation are essential for safeguarding the well-being of women and girls amid the climate crisis": Bruno Alain Raoelina, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

Tracking National Climate Commitments: How Africa's NDC Implementation Index Platform is Advancing Climate Action

One of the persistent challenges in Africa's climate governance landscape has been the lack of comprehensive tools to track and monitor the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by countries under the Paris Agreement. While many countries have made commendable pledges, assessing real progress has remained a difficult exercise. In response to this gap, the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), in partnership with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the West African Green Economics Development Institute (WAGEDI), with funding from ACCF, has developed a web-based NDC Implementation Tracking Tool and Index Platform that reports on countries' progress based on available data.

The NDC Implementation Index Platform is a web-based tool that enables selected countries to track, analyze, and compare their progress in implementing NDCs. Developed under the project "Building the Capacity of Selected Sub-Saharan African Countries to Measure

Progress in NDC Implementation Using Tracking Tools and Indexes," the tool serves as a decision-support system, helping countries assess how well they are translating climate ambition into action.

The Index is structured around five thematic components: Governance, Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Technology Transfer, and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV). It generates standardized performance scores for each component based on available data. These scores provide a clear snapshot of national efforts and enable cross-country comparisons that reveal both leadership and areas in need of improvement. In doing so, the platform fosters transparency, encourages peer learning, and supports more targeted policy decision-making.

Preliminary results from the platform reveal promising trends. Countries like Ethiopia and Kenya scored relatively high in the Governance and MRV components, reflecting strong institutional frameworks and reporting

systems. Zimbabwe emerged as one of the top performers overall, demonstrating well-rounded efforts across multiple NDC dimensions. Conversely, several countries showed lower performance in the Finance and Technology Transfer component, which signals persistent gaps in access to climate finance and innovation infrastructure.

The platform's architecture is designed with user accessibility, security, and scalability in mind. It integrates verified data from national sources, applies automated validation and scoring mechanisms, and presents the results through an interactive, intuitive, and multilingual interface. More than just a reporting tool, it is a strategic enabler of compliance with the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement.

By providing countries with a structured, African-led system to measure NDC performance, the platform enhances institutional accountability and empowers stakeholders, from government agencies to civil society and development partners, with the evidence and confidence needed to align planning, funding, and implementation. As countries prepare to update or submit their next round of NDCs, the ATPS Index stands out as a unique, timely, and transformative tool that puts data at the center of climate action.

[Access the platform by clicking here](#)

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Delegates at the NDC Regional Policy and Dissemination Workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Sitting at the centre is H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mekonen, Honourable Minister for Planning and Development, Ethiopia, and Prof. Nicholas Ozor, Executive Director, African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) on his right.

Rwanda: Building Climate Resilience Through Smart Agriculture and Beekeeping in Eastern Province

As part of the project “Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture for Improved Rural Livelihoods and Climate Resiliency in the Climate-Vulnerable Eastern Province of Rwanda”, a series of targeted activities have been launched in Kirehe, Kayonza, Nyagatare, and Gatsibo districts. The project is implemented

by the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management at the University of Rwanda, the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board, and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry.

The initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of rural communities by promoting climate-smart agricultural practices and supporting income-generating activities such as beekeeping. Between April and June 2025, two key capacity-building interventions were carried out under the project.

1- Empowering Farmers with Weather and Climate Data



Kayonza, Rwanda – Farmers and partners during the four-day training on weather forecasting to strengthen climate-smart agriculture skills.

In April 2025, a four-day training was organized in Kayonza to equip 50 lead farmers, 23 men and 27 women, including 24 youth with practical skills in interpreting and applying meteorological data to farming decisions. Delivered in partnership with Meteo Rwanda, the training included interactive sessions

and field visits to help participants understand weather patterns, plan agricultural activities, and respond more effectively to climate-related risks.

Farmers were also trained in how to access real-time forecasts using smartphones provided by the project.

By strengthening the connection between farmers and the Rwanda Meteorological Agency, the activity helps ensure that climate information is used at the local level to enhance productivity and reduce vulnerability.

2- Supporting Beekeeping Cooperatives with Modern Techniques



Hands-on Training – Beekeepers practice transferring colonies to modern hives during a training supporting six cooperatives.

In May 2025, the project extended its support to six beekeeping cooperatives across Gatsibo, Kayanza, and Nyagatare, through hands-on training on modern beekeeping practices. A total of 146 participants (66 women and 80 men) were trained on transferring bee colonies from traditional hives to modern Langstroth hives and improving colony management.

Each cooperative received a full set of modern equipment—including queen excluders, smokers, honey extractors, pollen traps, and protective gloves. A critical part of the training focused on identifying

and transferring the queen bee, reducing colony stress, and ensuring hive stability. Trainers demonstrated the process on-site at each apiary, ensuring farmers could replicate the techniques independently.

This beekeeping intervention aligns with Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (NST2, 2024–2029), which identifies honey production as a priority export sector. By professionalizing smallholder beekeeping, the project enhances rural livelihoods while supporting biodiversity and sustainable land management.

Together, these activities reflect the project's holistic approach to climate resilience—combining science-based agricultural planning with sustainable value chains to empower communities and ensure no one is left behind in the face of climate change.

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Cote d'Ivoire: A Strategic Workshop to Validate the Roadmap for Solid, Medical, and Pharmaceutical Waste Management



Group Photo – Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – Participants of the strategic workshop on waste management and climate goals.

On 27 May 2025, a strategic workshop was held at the Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa (CERAO) in Abidjan as part of the project named *Preparation of Cote d'Ivoire for Decarbonization of Solid, Medical and Pharmaceutical Waste Management to Achieve GHG Mitigation Objectives in accordance with the NDC and the 2050 Objective of the Paris Agreement*. This ambitious initiative aims to align waste management practices with the country's climate goals, in line with its NDCs and the 2050 carbon neutrality target set by the Paris Agreement.

The primary objective of the workshop was to present and validate the greening report of the national strategy for solid and medical-pharmaceutical waste management, along with its roadmap. Participants reviewed the consultant's recommendations, examined the greening matrix incorporating environmental criteria, validated priority actions for implementation, and defined monitoring and evaluation indicators.

The session brought together 32 participants, including nine women and twenty-three men, from public administration, the private sector, and the health sector.

Professor N'Dindin Claude, Director of Public Hygiene and Environmental Health co-chairing the session highlighted the importance of healthcare and proper waste management in the sector. *"It is essential to shift toward a sustainable development model that plans for the management of medical and pharmaceutical waste based on environmental criteria," he stated, welcoming the workshop as a milestone that "will guide the revision of the national strategy."* He also expressed the Ministry of Health's appreciation to the African Development Bank and the Ministry of Environment for their support of this innovative project, which places the health sector at the heart of climate mitigation efforts.

Mr. Kouakou Kouadio Emmanuel, Deputy Coordinator of the National

Climate Change Program welcomed participants and praised the strong collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage in implementing the project. He recalled the current context of NDC 3.0 and emphasized the project's role in reducing the carbon footprint of the health sector. *"We thank the ACCF through the AfDB for their trust and the funding granted to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire via the Ministry of Environment,"* he said.

Ms. Liadé Marie Sylvie, Project Coordinator, presented a detailed overview of the project, including its context, rationale, objectives, key components, planned activities, expected results, monitoring indicators, and overall budget. She highlighted the greening activity as a key pillar of the national strategy.

Finally, Dr. Koffi Claude, Project assistant, addressed the technical aspects of medical and pharmaceutical waste management. After outlining the classification system, he described the key stages of waste handling: source separation, pre-collection, collection, transport, storage, and disposal. *"The challenge of sustainable waste disposal is major and must remain a central concern,"* he emphasized.

By validating this report, Côte d'Ivoire takes a decisive step toward greener, more climate-aligned waste management and sets the stage for stronger synergies between public health policy and the ecological transition.

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Voices of ACCF #1: Rita Effah

Advancing Climate Resilience from the Ground up, One Project at a Time

“Voices of ACCF” shines a light on the people driving climate action across Africa. Through brief interviews, beneficiaries, partners, and team members share their experiences and perspectives, highlighting the tangible impact of the Africa Climate Change Fund on communities and the environment.

Meet Rita Effah, Coordinator of the ACCF. Rita holds an MSc in Forest Science from Yale University's School of the Environment and a BSc in Natural Resources Management from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology.

Could you briefly present the main mission and current priority areas of the ACCF?

The ACCF's core mission is to support African countries in their transition towards climate-resilient, low-carbon development while addressing gender inequality. Our current priorities include scaling up access to climate finance, supporting the development and implementation of national climate strategies, and promoting gender-transformative community-led climate action. The Fund focuses on empowering vulnerable communities, strengthening institutional capacities, and fostering innovative solutions to Africa's climate challenges.

Which achievement of the Fund makes you the proudest since its creation?

One of the achievements I am most proud of is the successful implementation of projects that have directly benefited local communities, particularly women and youth. A



Rita Effah, ACCF Coordinator and Senior climate Finance Officer for AfDB.

recent example is the Towards Climate Resilient Shea Communities in Togo and Burkina Faso Project, which we had the opportunity to supervise. This project implemented by the Global Shea Alliance, focused on empowering women in shea-producing communities by helping them organize into cooperatives for both the sustainable management of shea parklands and improved economic resilience.

The project also established links between these cooperatives and private sector companies to enhance market access and advocate for better pricing. It is a truly impactful effort—one that will stay with me for a long time.

It is also deeply rewarding to see how the ACCF has grown into a trusted partner for many stakeholders in Africa's climate finance landscape.

How is the ACCF adapting to address new climate challenges or the emerging needs of African countries?

ACCF remains agile and responsive to emerging climate challenges by actively listening to our beneficiaries

and partners. We have expanded our focus to include new thematic areas such as gender-transformative climate resilience, mitigation and innovative financing mechanisms. We also leverage digital platforms to enhance project selection, management and transparency. Collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders remains a priority to ensure that our financing is both relevant and impactful.

What are your ambitions for the future of the ACCF, particularly in terms of innovation and support to beneficiaries?

Looking ahead, my ambition is for the ACCF to grow into a leading fund that catalyzes impactful climate action across Africa. We aim to increase our resources, expand our reach to more countries and communities, and pioneer innovative, efficient approaches to delivering climate finance. I also hope, the ACCF will strengthen our capacity-building efforts, forge new partnerships, and ensure that the voices of women, youth, and local actors remain central to our decision-making and project design.

WITH THANKS TO OUR DONORS



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