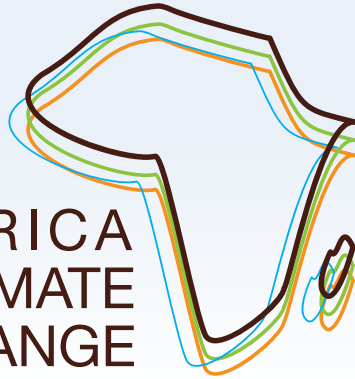


NEWSLETTER

August - December 2023

ISSUE 9

AFRICA
CLIMATE
CHANGE
FUND



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MESSAGE FROM GARETH PHILLIPS

MANAGER, CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT FINANCE DIVISION

Welcome to the last edition for 2023 of our quarterly Newsletter. This has been a very fruitful year for us. As we prepare to close, let me reflect on some of the milestones accomplished this year. The ACCF Secretariat welcomed a new donor, the US State Department with a contribution of \$5million to support a fourth call for proposals in 2024 to select projects targeting methane abatement.

Prior to that, the secretariat launched seven new projects from its 3rd Call for Proposals and conducted an extensive three-day training on basic knowledge, tools, skills, and practical experience in Results Based Management aiming to help grantees successfully design and implement the Monitoring and Evaluation system in their projects. Equally, in order to ensure smooth and effective execution of these projects, the Secretariat trained 35 persons representing the grantees from 26 African countries on Gender Transformative Climate Change Adaptation concepts and approaches and trained them on how gender equality and power balance are key to realizing climate resilience projects.

We increased the Fund's visibility by convening outreach events in the margins of Adaptation Futures, in Canada and the COP28 in Dubai (UAE). We also showcased ACCF's work at the Africa Climate Week in Kenya and at the Bank's annual CSO Forum in Cote d'Ivoire. ACCF Secretariat communicated results of its work through

publications (annual report, updated brochure and quarterly newsletter). Most essentially, the secretariat advanced projects from the second call for proposals with most projects to close early in 2024.

In line with its commitment to strengthen contributions of women in addressing climate change issues, ACCF supported four women delegates from the Ministries of Environment and Gender in Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to be part of the national delegations that contributed to the Bonn Climate Change Conference held in June in Germany, to set the agenda for the twenty-eighth Conference of Parties (COP28) negotiations. ACCF supported the launching of a competition "YouthAdapt Challenge" that resulted in selection of eight young African women who were awarded \$100,000 each by the African Development Bank to develop their business in proposing innovative solutions and technologies to fight against climate change.

We achieved these and much more through the tireless efforts of the ACCF Secretariat team and with support from specialized departments of the Bank as well as the overall guidance of the Fund's Oversight Committee. We are optimistic about the Fund's potential to expand its geographic and thematic reach. We look forward to engaging you in 2024. Meanwhile, on behalf of the whole team, I wish you and your loved ones a happy festive season!

NEWS

ACCF and UNFPA Launch a multinational project on Strengthening climate resilience in 10 countries in East and Southern Africa

On Wednesday 13, December 2023, The Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) Secretariat and the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) launched the project titled **“Strengthening climate resilience through enhanced capacity of individuals, communities and institutions for the development and implementation of gender transformative climate adaptation actions using innovative, participatory and rights-based approaches in at least 10 countries in East and Southern Africa.”** This project was selected under the framework of the ACCF’s third Call for Proposals and aims to achieve an improved gender-transformative, low carbon and climate resilient development in selected vulnerable communities, especially women, girls and youth in Africa.

This launching session was organized as part of the ACCF’s project execution approach and aims at jointly overviewing both the project proposal and grant agreement to ensure common understanding by both parties of the project objectives and activities as well as the key requirements under the Grant Agreement to ensure smooth

implementation of the project. The launching session also seeks to reinforce the capacity of the Executing Agency team on the procurement and disbursement rules and procedures to address in anticipation potential hurdles related to these.

On behalf of the Executing Agency, Mrs. Angela Baschieri presented the project and arrangements put in place for effective implementation. She commented that “we will build on previous work – which includes the stakeholder analysis –and on our regional and humanitarian focal points to ensure that we proceed and roll out a full pledge vulnerability assessment in four countries”. The ACCF team proceeded

and introduced the Executing Agency through the Bank and ACCF project implementation policy requirements. Most especially, Rita Effah, the ACCF coordinator took the project team through the Grant Agreement highlighting some key sections related to project budget and disbursement as well as conditions related to project modifications. Pierre Koffi, ACCF Procurement Specialist presented the Bank’s procurement methods and requirements. Emile Kouakou, ACCF programme and Communication Specialist introduced the templates requested for Disbursement and project reporting. These presentations were followed by an interactive session.



ACCF at COP 28 - Showcasing projects results

On December 3, the Africa Climate Change Fund convened a panel discussion to share projects results at the margins of the COP28 Climate Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates at the Francophonie Pavilion. The purpose of this hybrid side-event, which targeted francophone countries was to present the ACCF, the modalities for accessing funding and to share experiences of the Fund's grantees. The event also aimed at engaging with potential new beneficiaries with a focus on increasing the participation of Francophone countries in future calls for proposals.

Mrs. Cecile Martin Phipps, Executive Director of the 'Institut de la Francophonie et du Développement Durable' in her opening remarks commended the African Development Bank (the Bank) for choosing to host the event at the Francophonie Pavilion. She expressed her

hope that more entities from Francophone countries will benefit from the ACCF.

Mrs. Eve Sandra Beremwoudougou, Pan-Africa and Regional Development and Senior International Assistance Officer representing the Global Affairs Canada (GAC) at the ACCF joined virtually and in her remarks also commended the ACCF for the "remarkable results achieved so far" and expressed GAC's "satisfaction and commitment to strengthening its support for more actions in Francophone countries with stronger emphases on women in the climate change sectors".

Mr. Emile Kouakou, Programme Officer at the ACCF, introduced the ACCF emphasizing its funding modalities and highlighted some results from projects in Mozambique, Uganda/Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, among others. He shared

insights with the attendees of the various calls for proposals and their focus and how these grants have led to unlocking more climate finance for countries such as Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Benin, among others. He emphasized the important role of ACCF in addressing gender inequality in climate change projects under the third Call for Proposals and shared briefly on the upcoming fourth call for proposals to be launched in 2024 on methane abatement sectors such as agriculture and livestock, oil and gas and waste and called on interested eligible institutions to apply.

Mr. Gareth Phillips, Manager of the Bank's Climate and Environment Finance Division introduced the ACCF-funded project titled "Cocoa Livelihood Resilience – Piloting the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism (ABM) in Cote d'Ivoire". This project aimed to develop the



ABM methodologies for the cocoa sector and to mobilize private sector finance for climate adaptation. It also capacitated and empowered 400 smallholder cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire with a set of sustainable agroforestry measures to become more climate resilient by protect cocoa trees and diversifying incomes. The first phase of this project, which received funding from the ACCF has contributed to developing a set of methodology for resilient cocoa production. The project is entering its second phase and will be replicated in additional three cocoa growing countries including Togo, Cameroon, and Ghana.

Dr. Athanase Mukuralinda, Country Director of ICRAF Rwanda showcased the project titled "Integrated Climate smart agriculture actions for accelerating resilience of communities to climate change". Athanase commented that through the adoption of an integrated approach for implementing climate smart agriculture, this project is strengthening climate resilience and food security and improving livelihoods of farmers vulnerable to climate change in four districts in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. He added that although the project is at an early stage, it has contributed to mobilizing 715 farmers including 286 women, 215 men and 214 youth on the importance of agroforestry and tree diversification. Also, 50 lead farmers have been

trained, including 20 women on gender mainstreaming and agroforestry, nursery preparation and maintenance. Other trainings include water ponds and irrigation equipment operation, maintenance, and management. The project is equally contributing to reforestation of lands through tree planting while supporting livelihoods by promoting drought-tolerant high-yielding crop varieties.

Mrs. Marie Veyrier, Development Director of the Global Shea Alliance shared progress on the project titled "Towards Climate Resilient Shea Communities in Togo and Burkina Faso". The project which is in its first year aims to increase the climate resilience of 7,500 women shea collectors and their communities, through an increase in income from natural products (shea and apiculture), improved and community-led parkland management. She added that so far, the project has contributed to establishing 11 partnerships with private sector entities to secure co-investment and establish market links and coaching. Also, the project has empowered 357 women leaders on the development and management of cooperatives, development of SMEs.

Sophie De Coninck, Head of the LoCAL-UNCDF Mechanism presented the project titled "Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) Project -Kingdom of Lesotho Phase I and Republic of Benin Phase II" which

aims to improve the climate resilience of communities and local economies in Lesotho and Benin by increasing investments in climate change adaptation in target areas. Sophie introduced the funding mechanism of LoCAL, which enables local authorities to support implementation of the Paris Agreement, NDCs, NAPs and SDGs. In Lesotho, over 115 people, made up of 51 females and 64 males, were trained/sensitized on climate change issues. In Benin 24 adaptation investments were implemented in 9 communes directly benefiting 71,000 people, 55% of whom were women. In Lesotho, 16 water supply systems and one range management adaptation investment were implemented in the target community councils, benefiting about 6,000 people, mostly women. The project is entering its final stage for phase I and the second phase will be executed in Lesotho with support from the ACCF and GIZ. In Benin, the project supported GCF proposal was approved to scale up LoCAL to other communes.

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Arona Soumare, Principal Climate Change and Green Growth Officer at the African Development Bank. Arona welcomed participants to the session and commented that this event is part of a series of events that the African Development Bank is organizing to engagement a wide range of stakeholders on its climate change agenda.

African Development Bank makes the case for building climate resilience among youth-led enterprises through innovative financing

The African Development Bank set out ways to support Africa's youth-led small enterprises to grow sustainably and build climate resilience through innovative financing mechanisms at the 2023 Adaptation Futures 2023 Conference held in Montreal, Canada. Representatives from the African Development Bank's, [Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme \(AAP\)](#) and the [Africa Climate Change Fund \(ACCF\)](#) attended the conference to highlight some of the lessons learned in scaling adaptation solutions throughout the African continent.

The AAP Coordinator, Ms Edith Ofwona Adera, emphasized that in order to support the sustainability and growth of youth-led enterprises, financing must transition from grant-based to highly concessional funding coupled with technical assistance. "A proposed \$500 million SME green financing facility will provide concessional funding in the form of debt, guarantees, and equity alongside technical assistance grants that strengthen the capacity of financial institutions to unlock financing for young entrepreneurs," she explained at the conference's [Adaptation Fund](#) Innovation Days session.

"Ten percent of the resource allocation of the Facility will be channeled to technical assistance to build capacities of financial intermediaries and enterprises in climate finance structuring, enterprise development and performance monitoring," she said.

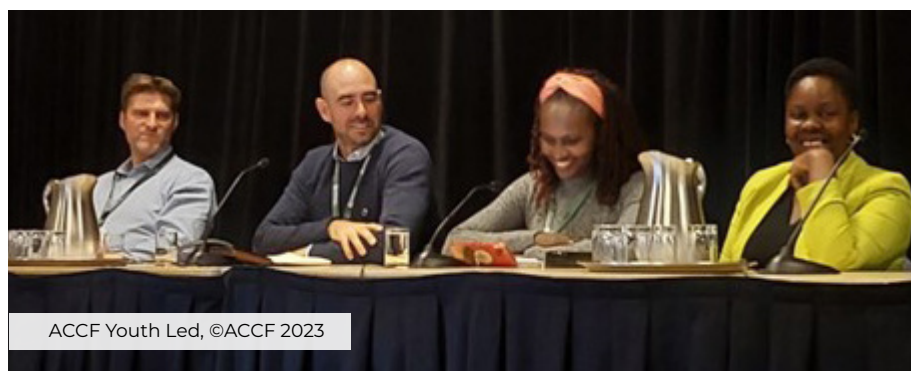
Through the AAP's YouthADAPT programme, the African Development Bank is already providing \$4 million to 33 young entrepreneurs in 19 African nations to help them scale their businesses and deepen their impact. The programme's beneficiaries have demonstrated excellent early results, including a 123% increase in average revenue, the creation of nearly 8,500 direct and indirect jobs, the securing of \$316,874 from other sources, while 20% of the enterprises have ventured into new markets.

Rita Effah, Coordinator of the ACCF, said the Fund had played a critical role in supporting youth-led climate initiatives. "The ACCF is a catalytic fund that provides funds directly to communities, including young entrepreneurs. We have supported 28 projects in 26 countries that are helping communities to address the immediate impacts of climate change and building resilience," Rita explained.

Last year, the ACCF approved grant financing of \$1 million to the AAP's YouthADAPT to support women-led enterprises deploying frontier technologies for climate adaptation in Africa. This technical assistance will create innovative, transformative climate-resilient bankable projects that are compatible with African countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to reduce climate emissions and address the impacts of climate change. Eight of the winning women-led businesses will be unveiled in December 2023 during the COP28 UN climate conference in Dubai.

Dr. Olufunso Somorin, Regional Principal Officer at the African Development Bank, stressed the need to address the disparities between demand and supply sides of climate finance capital. It is important to establish more facilitative mechanisms that can bridge the gap by aligning the financial terminology used, he said.

More than 95% of climate adaptation finance flows into Africa are largely through two financial instruments: concessional loans and grants. Yet, other instruments such as equities, bonds, swaps, guarantees, and other risk sharing instruments have not been fully explored for climate adaptation as compared to mitigation. "I strongly believe that youth-led adaptation programs can be a good testing point for all of these instruments as we seek to make more business cases for adaptation solutions," Somorin added.



ACCF Youth Led, ©ACCF 2023

African Financial Alliance on Climate Change launches its Strategy Program in Kenya

On Wednesday, 6th September 2023, the African Financial Alliance on Climate Change (AFAC) Secretariat convened a launched its Strategy Program at the Africa Climate Summit/Week in Nairobi, Kenya. The ceremony hosted by the Climate Transition Limited's Director of Climate Finance Solutions, Mr. Olumide Lala, stands as a significant milestone in the journey towards climate resilience and sustainable finance in Africa. The gathering brought together esteemed representatives from major financial institutions as well as AFAC implementation including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Global Centre for Adaptation (GCA), The Glasgow Financial Alliance on Net Zero (GFANZ), Financial Sector Deeping Africa (FSD Africa) and the United Nations Environment Programme Financial Initiative (UNEP-Fi), bore witness to impactful outcomes that complement the program's intended objectives.

This Strategy program aims to promote sustainable finance in Africa through climate finance mobilisation, enhanced capacity building, improved collaboration,

impact measurements and reporting aligned with the 2015 Paris Agreement goals. The Strategy is meant to serve toward mobilising Africa's Financial Sector for Low-carbon and Climate Resilient Development.

Speaking at the event, Professor Anthony Nyong, the Director of Climate Change and Green Growth Department at the African Development Bank, expressed his hope that concrete solutions to Africa's climate change challenges would be identified and the financial institutions in the room will offer critical steps to implementing these solutions. Dr. Kevin Kariuki, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate, and Green Growth, Bank, reiterated its support for the AFAC partnership. GFANZ's global reach, together with the Bank and GCA's local presence on the continent, Africa's private financial institutions' access to global climate finance should improve. Also addressing the audience, the FSD Africa's Director, Risk and Resilience, Mr Kevin Massingham representing the Nairobi Declaration on Sustainable Insurance (NDSI) highlighted the importance of

partnerships in the collective fight against the impacts of climate change and the need for immediate action. The Secretary-General for the United Nations Environment Programme's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), Mr Eric Usher, in his video recording, congratulated the AfDB and its partners for the launch of AFAC and emphasized the need for such collaborative initiatives to prepare Africa for the climate transition.

The AFAC strategy has five clear outcomes: (i) build awareness on the various impacts of climate risks for financial institutions and the economy; (ii) improve access to comparable data on climate vulnerability; (iii) increase the climate competences and capacity within African financial institutions; (iv) improve and strengthen regulations, market transparency and discipline and (v) mobilize capital for sustainable development. The AFAC was set up to bring African financial institutions together and include their collective voices in the global discourse on climate change.



Group Photo of Participants to the Launching Ceremony

Oxfam champions rural women at COP28 preparatory meeting

Oxfam in Malawi has advised the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) to prioritize rural women's issues during the negotiations at COP28. Oxfam said this during a two-day Pre-COP 28 held in Nairobi from 14-15 November 2023 to establish a unified African position.

Sylvia Chikalipo, Project Coordinator of the ACCF-Oxfam Malawi Gender Transformative Climate Change Resilience Project added that the advice to the AGN is informed by its engagement with rural women grassroots movements. She added, *"our recent engagement with Malawi Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) for instance informed our submission to the AGN because rural women said climate change disproportionately impacts women and girls more in their day to day lives compared*

to their male counterparts". Recently, Oxfam also engaged RWA during the launch of their chapter in Zomba City, an impact area for the Gender Transformative Climate Change Resilience project.

"We create space where rural women can input into development agenda, including on climate change", said Chikalipo.

Through the ACCF funded project, which is being implemented in Malawi and Mozambique, Oxfam Malawi is working with women grassroots movements - a move that will ensure that climate change related issues and interventions are gender sensitive and featured highly on development agenda at local, national, and global levels.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

MALAWI

Rural Women Assembly launches in Zomba

Rural Women Assembly (RWA) has recently launched in Malawi's Zomba city, a move that will ensure that climate change related issues and interventions are gender sensitive but are also featuring highly on development agenda in the district and beyond.

Seeing how crucial the role RWA could play in the Gender Transformative Climate Resilience project, Oxfam supported the mobilization of women in the city but also participated in the launch that was done in collaboration with the National Rural Women Governance structure and other district level stakeholders who included female members of parliament from the city. The event took place in Traditional Authority Mwambo in the city.

Lingalireni Mihowa, Oxfam Malawi Country Director says the collaboration of RWA and Oxfam through the Gender Transformative Climate Adaptation project will help empower women's local movements and this is important to achieving gender equality and shaping effective and just responses to climate change.

"Through this nature of mobilization and working with women movements, Oxfam and RWA will help create agency among women to inform climate resilience interventions and policy direction from a transformative perspective," says Lingalireni Mihowa. *"This is important because it will mean that women will be taking lead in finding solutions to an issue that impacts on them disproportionately".*

Launch of RWA in the city is therefore a milestone and a win for women because it will empower women to organize, raise their voices, and help in building their transformative leadership to advocate for their own needs and solutions to be included in climate policies at the local, national, and international levels such as the COP 28 agenda.

The Gender Transformative Climate Resilience project being implemented in Malawi and Mozambique aims to improve gender-transformative, low carbon and climate resilient development in selected vulnerable communities, especially for women and girls in Africa.

Fifty Lead Farmers trained on gender mainstreaming and nursery management making impacts in four Districts in Eastern Provinces

On August 21-22, 2023, the project team trained 50 farmers from the four districts of implementation of the project (including Kirehe, Kayonza, Nyagatare and Gatsibo). The main objective of this training was to educate farmers both on benefits of agroforestry as a practice of climate smart agriculture and on the need to include gender considerations in agricultural activities planning, implementation and use of agricultural income. The trainees, also identified as lead farmers, will contribute to

reaching out to other farmers in their communities to implement best agricultural gender-focused practices.

Following this training session, the lead farmers were engaged and through their support identified communities in the four districts to achieve significant results by implementing the agricultural practices they learnt with 20 women. For example, farmers planted 208,000 trees in the community lands in Kirehe, Kayonza, Gatsibo and Nyagatare districts. Eleven tree species

were planted including *Gliricidia sepium*, *Calliandra calothyrsus*, *Leucaena diversifolia*, *Acacia angustissima*, *Markhamia lutea* and *Maesopsis eminii*.

Also, the lead farmers distributed drought tolerant varieties of maize and beans (NUA 566 for beans and WH101 for maize) to farmers in Kayonza, Kirehe, Gatsibo and Nyagatare districts. The team started with 33 beneficiaries in the first round and a large quantity of seeds is going to be distributed in the upcoming season.



Participants of the training on tree nursery establishment and maintenance and gender consideration in agricultural activities ©ICRAF

Quantifying the benefits of adaptation action

Under Phase I of the ACCF “Cocoa livelihood resilience project – piloting the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism (ABM) in Cote d'Ivoire”, the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) has developed an innovative methodology to measure, verify and report on the benefits of adaptation action in the cocoa sector, contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), other co-benefits and adaptation finance involved. Upon approval by the independent ABM Executive Committee, hosted by the African Development Bank, the methodology will become public good and will be available for use free-of-charge for similar projects in the cocoa sector worldwide. The project will then also be able to move to Phase II, where the activities will be replicated in at least three other cocoa-growing countries in the region and new finance for their implementation will be mobilized through the ABM.

The methodology concerns the application of sustainable agroforestry practices in cocoa plantations for smallholder

farmers, such as shade trees planting; intercropping for income diversification; affordable irrigation (bamboo irrigation); and intercropping for food and income diversification-enhancing the resilience of smallholder cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire. Based on years of research and experience on the ground of ICRAF and the international community, these measures are considered an adequate response to the main climate change hazards experienced by the Ivorian smallholders: increasing drought, heat waves, desiccation, exceedance of tolerance thresholds for crops, and temperature variability. Some of the adaptation benefits include reduced cost of cocoa farm establishment, expressed as US Dollars per hectare; improved rural employment, expressed in number of farmers; extended productivity of cocoa farms, expressed in kilograms of cocoa beans per hectare; complementary farm output, expressed in US dollars per hectare; and avoided land use change, expressed in hectares.

Other co-benefits include biodiversity improvement, expressed in hectares, avoided land use change, expressed in hectares; sustainable land management, expressed in hectares, which is also an SDG indicator and co-benefits for reducing greenhouse gases.

The application of these measures may contribute further to the reduction of pests and diseases, farmers' labor reduction and the reduction of soil runoff and erosion, and soil fertility improvement, which may be observed on the longer term.

The methodology makes provision for, among others:

- Conducting an ex-ante assessment of the expected benefits for informing the adaptation goals and planification;
- Conducting an ex-post assessment of the generated benefits for reporting on the achievements;
- Reporting on the contribution of the generated benefits to SDGs, National Strategies (NDCs and NAP) of host countries, and sustainability strategies of private sector stakeholders.

Through the development of this ABM methodology, ICRAF has determined that sustainable and resilient agroforestry projects in the cocoa sector may contribute to the implementation of multiple SDGs, such as 1. No Poverty; 2. Zero hunger; 5. Gender equality; 8. Decent work and economic growth, 13. Climate Action and 15. Life on Land.



Breaking Barriers – Fostering Inclusion for People with Disabilities in Climate Action

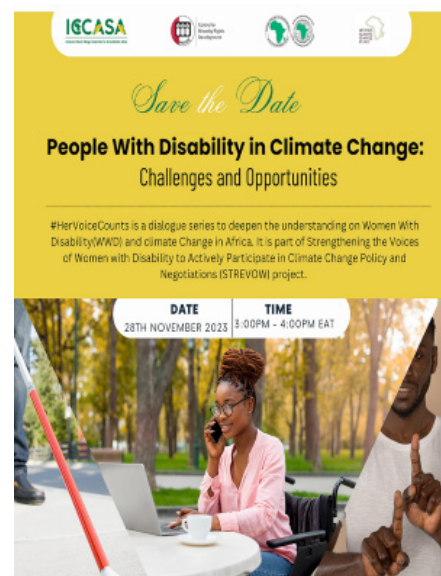
Climate change knows no bounds, affecting everyone and yet some voices are often left unheard. ICCASA and CEMIRIDE are spearheading an online dialogue to amplify the often-muted narratives of People with Disabilities in Africa. The "Her Voice Counts Dialogue," addresses climate change vulnerabilities while emphasizing tailored approaches for PWDs across communities, including women, pastoralists, and indigenous people, aiming to ensure their voices are heard and recognized in climate action.

To shape the dialogue, an online survey was conducted to capture the thoughts and ideas of PWDs and government institutions and civil societies working with PWDs. A total of 150 responses were received, with 55.7% identifying as female, of which 10.1% are women with disabilities, and 45.3% identifying as male, of which 7.1% are males with disabilities. Disabilities mentioned ranged from polio survivors to physical handicaps,

albinism, autism, deafness, visual impairments, and psychosocial challenges. The survey highlighted challenges such as societal isolation and exclusion from climate discourse but also revealed unique opportunities, emphasizing the transformative potential of inclusive policies and collaborative efforts.

Respondents, especially PWDs, advocated for the creation of safe spaces tailored for women with disabilities, empowered with knowledge and resources to address the impacts of climate change. Participants expressed keen interest in various topics, including the role of PWDs in reducing the negative impacts of climate change and addressing the psychological impacts of climate change on PWDs. The importance of digital spaces for information dissemination using disability-friendly modes, employment opportunities, and climate change adaptation strategies for PWDs was also emphasized.

This dialogue marks a crucial step toward amplifying the voices of PWDs. Recommendations from the dialogues will serve as a call to action, urging governments, organizations, and individuals to collaborate in crafting an inclusive and resilient future where every individual, regardless of ability, not only survives but thrives in the face of climate challenges.



MULTINATIONAL

Supporting the Capacity for Tracking and Monitoring the Nationally Determined Contributions' (NDCs) Implementation in Africa

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) is working in twelve (12) African countries to build the capacities of focal persons in tracking and monitoring the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions. This was preceded by stakeholder mapping and analysis in each of the study countries to identify the key players, their roles, linkages, power, and influence in the climate change and NDC implementation sub-sector. The study also aims to identify best practices, challenges, and opportunities in the NDC implementation in Africa. Results show that all the countries have capacity challenges and that there are different actors contributing one way or the other to climate action and environmental management activities. There is however disjointed implementation of NDCs with a perception that NDCs development and implementation is exclusively

the purview of the government. There is a high awareness of climate change issues in all the countries but there is little or no knowledge on NDCs among most of the actors in the sub-sector. This therefore calls for capacity strengthening activities that will not only inform the various actors but also improve their skills to participate meaningfully in the NDC implementation processes. A robust training manual that contains various modules has been developed and will be used to train the focal persons as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs). Plans are underway to kick-start the training activities from December 2023 to early next year. The trained focal persons will then be deployed to collect relevant NDC data that will be used to generate NDC indexes for each of the countries once the NDC monitoring and tracking tool is deployed. The NDC indexes will be updated annually to show the status of NDC

implementation for that year by the participating countries. This is expected to be scaled out to have one robust NDC implementation index for the entire countries in Africa. It is also expected that the indexes will generate positive competition among countries and help provide a clearer picture of the NDC implementation processes.

The Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) have been held in the 12 participating countries namely, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe as part of the activities carried out under the project titled: "Building the Capacity of Selected sub-Saharan African Countries to Effectively Measure Progress in their Nationally Determined Contributions' Implementation Using Tracking Tools and Indexes".



An FGD session on NDC implementation in Nairobi, Kenya held on 15 September 2023.

For more information
Prof. Nicholas Ozor, Executive Director, ATPS
Email: executivedirector@atpsnet.org
<https://atpsnet.org/atps-afdb-accf-ddw-ndc-project/>

Assessing drivers of gender specific climate vulnerabilities through a Gender and Power Analysis in Kenya

The Project team from the Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD) conducted a Gender and Power analysis from September 2023 in Kenya, Djibouti, and Uganda. This activity consisted of consultations with key stakeholders in formal and informal institutions, as well as with men and women in rural communities. The study commenced in Mandera county (Kenya) and was conducted in September in Karamoja (Uganda) and Tadjoura (Djibouti) with the objectives to: (a) identify, examine and understand the gender-specific forms of social inequalities as well as power relations and systems related to climate change vulnerabilities; (b) assess the factors that perpetuate women's

limited access, ownership and control of productive resources and the underlying challenges they face in dealing with the climate change phenomenon; and (c) determine the nexus between the gender specific climate vulnerabilities, and the limited access to, ownership and control of resources.

The study involved a total of 60 people through key informant interviews and 287 people through focused group discussions. Also, to encourage participation of women, the study team organized separate groups of women (including women with disabilities) as well as the elderly and the young women. The study reached a total of 470 households through

household interviews. The outcome of this activity will inform delivery of interventions that respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of the target communities. In addition, IGAD and Member states will use the findings to inform policy and to scale up interventions beyond the project scope.

The study was conducted under the framework of the two-year ACCF funded project titled Towards enhancing gender Equality in access to Land resources for transformative climate change adaptation.

For more information
Joselyn Bigirwa, IGAD Gender and Land Expert
Email: Joselyn.Bigirwa@igad.int



Female group discussions taking place in Madera during the Gender and Power analysis exercise, ©Sep 2023

Bridging the Gap: Empowering People with Disabilities in Climate Change Conversations

Engaging individuals with disabilities in climate change negotiations is not just a commendable pursuit; it is a critical step toward formulating sustainable solutions by empowering their active involvement. On December 19, 2023, ICCASA and CEMIRIDE held an online dialogue titled «People with Disability and Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities.» The aim was to deeply examine the complex intersection where disability and the impacts of climate change converge.

A powerful video kick-started the dialogue, shifting perspectives on disability. It highlighted real-life stories, emphasizing that disability isn't solely an individual's impairment but a consequence of societal barriers. The message was clear: break down these barriers, ensure unconstrained participation, and achieve equality.

Paul Mugambi, a visually impaired advocate, shared compelling narratives. He spoke about digital accessibility, climate change, mental health, and disability inclusion, resonating with the diverse audience. Mugambi painted a vivid picture of the challenges faced by 1.3 billion people with disabilities globally. He identified five major barriers: attitudinal, environmental, communication, institutional, and financial.

Mugambi introduced «techno-ableism,» the alarming exclusion of persons with disabilities in

climate-related technology development. He highlighted the absence of tailored warning systems for emergencies, emphasizing the need for accessible information. As a Blind Innovator, he unveiled a prototype service utility designed to address power outages during emergencies, catering to both disabled and non-disabled communities.

Lucy Mulombi, a grassroots disability-inclusive feminist, shared her experiences navigating climate change. While acknowledging recent advancements in appointing women with disabilities to Climate Change Committees, she highlighted persistent challenges faced by grassroots women and girls. She expressed concerns regarding financial barriers and the detrimental effects of climate change on healthcare services and gender-based violence, particularly affecting women with disabilities.

Josephat Ireri, a gender expert, elaborated on opportunities available for people with disabilities in a changing climate. He focused on legal frameworks, international perspectives, and specific initiatives within Kenya, emphasizing the importance of conventions and agreements that highlight the human rights of persons with disabilities. He delved into employment prospects, vocational training, entrepreneurship, and stressed the significance of advocacy and representation.

Participant engagement and parting reflections encapsulated essential themes: The need for inclusive language, disability champions in climate discussions, unity in confronting climate challenges, accessible venues, and open communication were all emphasized.

The dialogue concluded with a clear message: Create inclusive spaces, raise awareness, and collaborate to effectively address the challenges faced by people with disabilities in the realm of climate change.

This is part of «Her Voice Counts Dialogue» series implemented under the Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disability to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW), a three-year project, funded by the ACCF.

#HerVoiceCounts **LIVE DIALOGUE SERIES**

ICCASA **CEMIRIDE** **WWD** **STREVOW**

Save the Date

Enhancing Climate Resilience

A Reimagined Approach to Inclusive Adaptation of Women With Disability

#HerVoiceCounts is a dialogue series to deepen the understanding on Women With Disability (WWD) and climate change in Africa. It is part of Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disability to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW) project.

DATE 19TH DECEMBER 2023 **TIME** 3:00PM - 4:00PM EAT

Registration link <https://bit.ly/JoinOnlineClimateChangeDialogue>

Contact Us dialogue@iccasa-africa.org or info@iccasa-africa.org

SUCCESS STORIES

BENIN

US\$ 9M+ approved by GCF for LoCAL scale up in Benin

The Green Climate Fund has approved over US\$ 9 million for scaling up the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility in Benin for greater action on adaptation to the impacts of climate change by working with local governments and communities. The approval is a major advancement for the West African nation, which is one of the world's most vulnerable to climate change, and recognition of the results delivered in Benin since LoCAL's launch in the country in 2014.

GCF's approval came on the 25th October, paving the way for scale up of LoCAL actions from the current nine communes to

a total of 34 highly vulnerable communes across Benin. The expansion will take LoCAL results from a beneficiary base of 860,00 to a projected 2.7 million people.

"We welcome the approval of these funds for LoCAL scale up," said LoCAL Global Facility Manager, Sophie De Coninck. "The Government of Benin worked hard to meet the accreditation criteria and make the necessary submission for accessing these GCF funds, which have the potential to transform the lives of men, women and children across the country."

Benin is now one of four countries on the way to rolling out LoCAL at the national level, along with Bhutan, Cambodia and Mozambique. Over 35 countries across Africa, Asia the Caribbean and Pacific have engaged the LoCAL standard, designed and managed by the UN Capital Development Fund. The US\$ 9,387,720 mobilized from the GCF will be disbursed through the National Fund for Environment and Climate, or FNEC, which received GCF accreditation in 2019 with technical assistance from the LoCAL Facility and funding from the African Development Bank through the ACCF.



"All initiatives in the field of climate change are most visible at the grassroots level - at the local government level," said Appolinaire Gnanvi, Director General of FNEC speaking from his office in Cotonou last year. "And that is why Benin has chosen this LoCAL approach and is implementing this approach with the United Nations team." Adding that "with our application for accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, LoCAL really was our battle horse."

FOCUS

Contextual Analysis of the ACCF Gender Equality and Climate Resilience Project Portfolio ACCF Secretariat

Following the shortlisting for funding of 10 ACCF's Gender Equality and Climate Resilience Project Portfolio for the CFP3, 6 of the projects approved for funding are either undertaking contextual analysis (CA) or arrangements are underway to undertake the analysis. The CA for the rest of the four projects yet to be approved for funding will also follow soon.

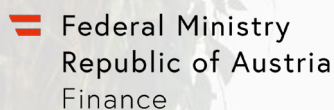
The CA of a gender and climate resilience project involves examining the existing specific social, economic, and environmental factors that influence the project's objectives, outcomes, and Development Objective. It focuses on understanding the gender dynamics, vulnerabilities, and capacities of individuals and communities in relation to climate change and resilience in terms of beneficiaries/stakeholders, trends, constraints, opportunities, and challenges. The analysis helps identify gender-specific risks, inequalities, power imbalance, and opportunities, enabling

project planners to design interventions that promote gender equality, empower women, and enhance climate resilience in a contextually appropriate manner.

From the above, it is logical and therefore appropriate that all the components of Contextual Analysis will be conducted by a multi-disciplinary team within the context of Gender Power Analysis as a lead component of this study. This is simply because the program which follows a feminist principle of Gender Transformative Approach and Rights Based Approach, promotes gender equality and power balance as key quality aspects. Other related key components of the analysis include Baseline Study/Survey, Stakeholder Analysis & Stakeholder Mapping, Social and Economic Analysis, Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA), Policy and Legal Framework Analysis, Institutional Analysis, and Opportunities and Constraints Analysis.

Key outputs of the Contextual Analysis will include Gender Action Plan (GAP); Baseline values & target values; Integration of the GAP into project level Logical Framework (LF); and Fund level Performance Measurement Framework (PMF); Revision of the project level Theory of Change (ToC) and LF in terms of outcomes, outputs, indicators, assumptions & risks. Other outputs of the CA will include revision of both project level and Fund level ToC and PMF/Logic Model (LM) in terms of outcomes, outputs, indicators and assumptions; updating the aggregation and alignment of the preliminarily planned project portfolio results to those at the Fund level; and development of Gantt chart at both project level and Fund level to track resources, activities and results of the project portfolio.

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