

AFRICA
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Season's Greetings
Meilleurs Vœux



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MESSAGE FROM GARETH PHILLIPS

*MANAGER, CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT
FINANCE DIVISION*

Dear Reader,

As we wrap up the final quarter of 2024, we are excited to share the progress made in advancing climate action and gender inclusion across Africa through projects supported by the Africa Climate Change Fund. This edition of our newsletter highlights key achievements and progress from the last quarter of 2024:

Launch of the fourth Call for Proposals: This concluded with an impressive number of submissions from across Africa, which are now under review.

Tracking NDC Progress across sub-Saharan Africa: The African Technology Policy Studies Network and its partners completed data collection in 11 African countries.

Empowering Women with Disabilities in Climate Policy: ICCASA and CEMIRIDE conducted a training session for media professionals, to empower them to amplify the voices of women with disabilities in climate discussions and foster inclusive climate action.

Gender in Climate Strategies: The Regional Collaboration Centre for East and Southern Africa convened a three-day workshop on integrating gender considerations into the Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies.

Support for Long term Climate Visions: Support given to Gabon, Liberia, Lesotho and Botswana to develop comprehensive long-term climate visions, aligning with regional and global climate goals.

ESG Taxonomy Development: A major milestone was the development of a continent-wide Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) taxonomy to guide sustainable investments and policymaking. This effort engaged 38 African financial institutions, including banks, insurers, capital markets, institutional investors, and regulators, through a series of workshops.

The articles below delve deeper into these accomplishments and progress, showcasing the dynamic work underway across the continent and the vital partnerships driving impactful change.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we remain committed to fostering collaboration and driving meaningful progress.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Update On The ACCF Fourth Call For Proposals

On October 31, 2024, the ACCF Secretariat launched its Fourth Call for Proposals (CfP4) on Gender-Transformative Methane Reduction.

The Fund seeks innovative and impactful proposals that support the empowerment of women, men, and youth in key sectors such as agriculture and waste management, utilizing mitigation technologies and innovative practices to reduce methane emissions. It also aims to help African countries transition to gender-transformative methane reduction, fostering climate-resilient, low-carbon development, and scaling up access to climate finance.

By the submission deadline on **November 29, 2024, at 23:59 GMT**, the Secretariat received 351 Project Concept Notes (PCNs) —101 from French-speaking countries and 240 from English-speaking countries. These Concept Notes are currently under review.

The ACCF's Fourth Call for Proposals represents a pivotal step in integrating gender-transformative approaches into methane reduction efforts, strengthening Africa's commitment to climate resilience and sustainability. This Call will allocate an additional \$10 million in climate mitigation financing to support African countries in addressing methane emissions and contribute to the Global Methane Pledge.



(c)image from solarturbines

MULTINATIONAL:

Collaborative Solutions For Africa's Climate Action: NDC Implementation Tracking

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), in collaboration with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the West Africa Green Economics Development Institute (WAGEDI), have successfully completed data collection for 11 out of the 12 countries involved in this project. This work focused on key indicators such as governance, adaptation, mitigation, Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), as well as finance and technology transfer.

Using co-developed tracking tools tailored to align with national priorities, the project has provided critical insights into the progress and challenges of implementing NDCs. These tools offer a practical and comprehensive mechanism to assess climate action effectively.

Central to the success of this project was 36 National Focal Climate Change Champions, serving as vital links between the project team and their respective governments. Notably, 30% of these champions are women, demonstrating the project's commitment to gender inclusivity and ensuring diverse perspectives in climate strategies. These champions facilitated accurate data collection and strengthened national ownership of the tracking process, emphasizing the importance of grassroots engagement and the inclusion of underrepresented voices in climate governance.

The regional scope of this project encouraged collaboration among the 12 participating countries. Through workshops and regular engagement sessions, technical capacities were enhanced, and best practices were shared across borders. This collective approach improved the quality of data collected and fostered a sense of shared responsibility for achieving Africa's climate goals.

ATPS is currently analyzing the data gathered, which will lead to the development of NDC implementation indexes —providing objective measures of each country's progress. The findings will guide future climate strategies and inform discussions at key global events, such as COP30 in Brazil.

Looking forward, the project aims to further build the capacity of the Climate Change Champions, equipping them to advocate for stronger, more ambitious climate policies in their respective countries. Additionally, a Regional Policy Dialogue and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop will be held in the second quarter of 2025 to disseminate the findings of the first phase of data collection.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Nicholas Ozor, at executivedirector@atpsnet.org or visit the project's website at <https://atpsnet.org/atps-afdb-accf-ddw-ndc-project/>.



Stakeholders deliberating on key issues around NDC implementation in Cote d'Ivoire. ©ATPS

Empowering Media To Spotlight Women With Disabilities In Climate Action Across Eastern Africa

On December 10 –11, 2024, 52 journalists, editors, and climate advocates from Eastern Africa gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for a groundbreaking media workshop organized by ICCASA in collaboration with CEMIRIDE. The event, part of the ‘Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities (WWD) to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW)’ project funded by the ACCF, was titled **“Empowering Media for Inclusive Climate Reporting: Gender-Transformative Journalism for WWDs and Climate Change in Eastern Africa.”**

Telling the Untold Stories of Women with Disabilities

WWDs have long been excluded from climate narratives, despite being disproportionately affected by climate change and playing key roles in community resilience. Their leadership and innovation frequently go unnoticed, leaving a gap in how their contributions are acknowledged and celebrated. This workshop aimed to transform the way journalists and editors report on WWDs in the context of climate change.

Over two days, participants delved into the intersections of gender, disability, and climate change. Interactive sessions challenged journalists to rethink storytelling approaches, moving beyond superficial portrayals. Instead of framing WWDs as passive victims of climate crises, the sessions emphasized celebrating their agency, leadership, and resilience.

A central theme was the importance of disability-sensitive reporting and inclusive language. Participants explored how thoughtful reporting can shape public perceptions, influence policies, and create a more inclusive narrative. Journalists learned practical techniques for making their stories accessible, such as incorporating sign language, Braille, and plain language formats to ensure broader reach.

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The workshop also focused on uncovering stories of WWDs’ contributions to climate adaptation and resilience. Journalists brainstormed and developed pitch highlighting WWDs as leaders in sustainable agriculture, disaster preparedness, and advocacy for inclusive policies. This shifted the focus from seeing WWDs as recipients of aid to recognizing them as active contributors to climate solutions.

This transformative experience left a lasting impact on the participants. Many left the workshop with a renewed commitment to telling stories that amplify the voices of WWDs and challenge stereotypes. By the end of the sessions, participants had developed actionable story ideas that reflect the leadership of WWDs in climate action, signaling a shift in how the media approaches the intersection of gender, disability, and climate change.

Looking Ahead: Sustaining the Momentum

As the workshop concluded, participants collaborated to develop impactful story pitches aimed at amplifying the voices of WWDs in climate action. These stories—centered on resilience, leadership, and innovation— challenge stereotypes and inspire inclusive policy changes.

The workshop’s success aligns with the core mission of STREVOW’s mission: empowering WWDs to actively participate in climate change programs and decision-making processes.

For more information, please contact: Wambui Muchaba at tmuchaba@iccasa-africa.org and Faith Gikunda at fgikunda@iccasa-africa.org.



Regional Workshop For East And Southern Africa On Integrating Gender In NDCs And LT-LEDs



Participants at the workshop posing for a group photo. ©RCC-ESA

From November 28–30, 2024, stakeholders from 17 East and Southern African countries convened in Windhoek, Namibia, for the fourth workshop in a series designed to build capacity of Women Climate Change Negotiators in the region. This collaborative workshop aimed at integrating gender considerations into NDCs and Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDs).

The workshop brought together 38 participants, including national gender focal points, gender experts from ministries, NDC experts, and four regional climate change experts. The diverse group, comprising 17 men and 21 women — fostered rich on enhancing gender inclusivity in climate strategies.

Hosted by Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) and the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), and supported by the ACCF, the workshop was officially opened by key representatives from MEFT, RCC East and Southern Africa, ACCF, and the Environmental Investment Fund. The opening emphasized the urgent need for gender inclusivity in climate strategies, particularly in the upcoming NDC 3.0 updates.

Participants were introduced to the Gender Integrated Continuum and the ACCF's approach to gender equality and climate resilience. Presentations covered key themes such as emissions and mitigation actions in critical sectors such as energy, agriculture, land use, forestry, and waste as well as Conference of Parties on Climate Change decisions and their gender implications for women in Africa. A highlight of the workshop was a case study from Burkina Faso, showcasing practical approaches to embedding gender considerations in NDCs.

Participants explored gender-responsive and transformative approaches, allowing them to identify gender gaps across NDC sectors and proposing actionable solutions. These interactive sessions led to the development of country-specific roadmaps for integrating gender considerations into climate strategies. Key outcomes of the workshop included:

- **Enhanced Understanding and Knowledge of Gender Integration:** Participants gained practical tools and insights on incorporating gender into LT-LEDs.
- **Actionable Insights and Best Practices:** The Burkina Faso case study provided replicable methodologies for gender integration in NDCs.
- **Improved Collaboration and Peer Learning:** East and Southern Africa stakeholders shared experiences, fostering regional networking and knowledge exchange.
- **Practical Outputs for Gender Integration:** Participants developed country-specific roadmaps for integrating gender considerations into NDCs and LT-LEDs.
- **Strengthened Policy Engagement:** Attendees enhanced their capacity to engage in climate policy discussions, negotiations, and decision-making.

The Regional Collaboration Centre for East and Southern Africa is currently reviewing these outcomes to create comprehensive guides for integrating gender into NDCs and LT-LEDs in the participating countries.

For more information, please contact: William Otieno at WOtieno@unfccc.int and Maclina Birungi at mbirungi@unfccc.int.

Supporting Development of Long-Term Visions In Gabon, Lesotho, Botswana, And Liberia

The development of a long-term vision for climate, funded by the ACCF and implemented by the Africa NDC Hub, reached a critical milestone in 2024 with the finalization and validation of the **Long-Term Vision (LTV) documents** for Gabon, Lesotho, Botswana, and Liberia. These documents outline actionable low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways. The goal of the LTV is to support the beneficiary countries in achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Stakeholder consultation workshops, attended by women, youth, and sectoral representatives from each country, ensured that the LTV documents reflected diverse perspectives, creating comprehensive frameworks for long-term climate resilience.

A cornerstone of the project has been its focus on capacity-building. Between July and December 2024, **19 institutions and 73 climate experts** (41% women) from the four countries received targeted training. These sessions enhanced the technical expertise critical to designing and implementing sector-specific strategies and Long-Term Strategy (LTS) frameworks. This investment in capacity-building ensures that beneficiary countries are equipped to independently refine and implement their climate strategies.

Guiding the Future: LTS Elaboration Plans

In parallel with the LTVs, the project also developed **Long-Term Strategy Elaboration Plans** for each of the four countries. These plans integrate social, economic, and environmental dimensions, providing a comprehensive guide for achieving low-carbon and climate-resilient development. By collaborating with government agencies and development partners, the project team ensured that these plans are both actionable and aligned with national and global climate goals.

Spotlight at COP29: Showcasing Success

At the margin of the COP29, the Africa NDC Hub, hosted a dedicated side event to showcase the project's achievements. This session highlighted the project's progress and approaches, with a focus on the role of inclusive stakeholder engagement, capacity-building, and strategic planning in advancing climate action. Delegates discussed how the validated LTVs and LTS Elaboration Plans can integrate into broader national policies, demonstrating their alignment with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Monitoring Progress for Lasting Impact

To ensure long-term success, the LTV Project implemented a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and plan. These tools provide a clear roadmap for tracking the project's effectiveness, ensuring that lessons learned can inform future climate initiatives across the continent.

For more information, please contact, Davinah Millenge at d.millenge-uwella@afdb.org and Ekeoma at e.onuoha@afdb.org.



Group photo of Participants at the Gabon's LTV Validation Workshop © Executing Agency

Empowering Government Officials And Stakeholders On Navigating The Climate Change And Sexual And Health And Rights Nexus In Zimbabwe

Building on the success of workshops in Kenya and Mozambique, UNFPA held its third workshop on the impact of climate change on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, from December 2-6, 2024. This workshop, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife as part of the Resilient Future project funded by the ACCF and the Safeguard Young People programme.

Zimbabwe's revised NDC identified gender issues and their intersectionality as key climate vulnerabilities. Women, particularly those in agriculture, face increased risks due to limited access to markets and education, which hinders their ability to diversify income when their primary sources are affected. The Government is undertaking stakeholder consultations on the Climate Change Management Bill and developing their NDC3.0, presenting an opportune moment to ensure that SRHR and gender are significant components of climate change policies and strategies, including implementation plans, programs and projects.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of government officials and stakeholders to navigate the intricate linkages between SRHR, gender, adolescents and young people, and climate change, ensuring their integration into national climate policies, strategies etc. This will contribute to reduce preventable maternal deaths, reduce gender

based violent-related mortality and morbidity, and promote resilient health outcomes in climate change affected communities.

Mr. Zhakata, the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife and Vice Chairperson of the Adaptation Fund Board, commended UNFPA for partnering with the government on this training. He committed to facilitating the incorporation of SRHR, GBV, and harmful practices into the funding metrics of the Adaptation Fund. He also emphasized the need for mental health and psychosocial support in climate disaster settings, a point repeatedly raised by stakeholders as an essential area to expand and incorporate into the final action plan. UNFPA representative, Ms. Miranda Tabifor thanked the government for their commitment and assured follow up support to ensure the successful integration of gender-transformative climate action.

The workshop, attended by 45 participants, was an opportunity for the Ministry of Environment to collaborate with over fifteen-line ministries including the Ministries of Health and Child Care, Youth, Sports and Culture; and Women Affairs, as well as UN agencies and key CSOs, on integrating SRHR and gender equality into the NDC 3.0 and National Adaptation Plan. Key government officials shared insights on successful engagement, leading to the development of action plans across key areas of work, with responsibility assigned to stakeholders for implementation.

For media enquiries, please contact: Chiagozie Udeh at udeh@unfpa.org.



SRHR and Gender Workshop for Key National Stakeholders in Zimbabwe. ©UNFPA

Supporting The Development Of An African Environmental, Social, And Governance Taxonomy



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In 2024, The African Development Bank, in collaboration with Financial Sector Deepening (FSD)-Africa, facilitated the development of an African ESG Taxonomy through a consultation process with the financial sector. The African ESG Taxonomy is designed to help African financial actors categorize financial assets, transactions, and companies based on their contributions to sustainability goals within the African context. Potential use cases for the Taxonomy include originating and structuring sustainable financing products, improving efficiency in screening, informing regulatory guidelines, identifying investment opportunities, and ensuring consistent product labeling. The Taxonomy aims to provide clarity, transparency, and agency for African financial market participants in defining fit-for-purpose green/sustainable finance frameworks needed to unlock capital flows across the continent.

Under the framework of the ACCF-funded project, 38 financial institutions from various sub-sectors, including banking, insurance, capital markets, institutional investors, and financial regulators —were engaged over a nine-month period. The first four months featured five workshops where stakeholders shared insights on various aspects of the Taxonomy's design.

There was consensus on the strategic and sustainability objectives of the Taxonomy, drawing from Africa's ESG challenges and international best practices. Incorporating the insights from the webinar, the initial draft of the taxonomy will be finalized by February 2025, with a dissemination and validation workshop scheduled for May 2025.

As a way forward, the immediate next step at the start of 2025 is to convene a webinar on developing a sustainable finance taxonomy for the African Financial Sector. The webinar will disseminate the findings of the benchmarking and consultation process and to identify and address barriers to its adoption. (Mandera County) and Uganda (Kotido).

Incorporating the insights from the webinar, the initial draft of the taxonomy will be finalized by February 2025, with a dissemination and validation workshop scheduled for May 2025.

For media enquiries, please contact: Davinah Millenge at d.milenge-uwella@afdb.org and Derek Apell at d.apell@afdb.org.

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