

AFRICA  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
FUND



# NEWSLETTER

January - March 2025 **ISSUE # 14**



Group Photo of Participants at the Women with Disability Climate Action Capacity Building Workshop

## CONTENTS

<b>01</b>	MESSAGE FROM GARETH PHILLIPS	<b>1</b>
<b>02</b>	UPDATES FROM THE FIELD   PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS	<b>2</b>
<b>03</b>	OUR DONORS	<b>11</b>



# MESSAGE FROM GARETH PHILLIPS

MANAGER, CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT  
FINANCE DIVISION

Dear Reader,

As we kick off the first quarter of 2025, we are pleased to share key highlights from the Africa Climate Change Fund's (ACCF) efforts to advance climate resilience, gender inclusion, and innovative financing across the continent. This edition brings together powerful stories from ACCF-supported projects and partners:

- **Strengthening Women's Resilience in Djibouti:** In Tadjourah, pastoral women are boosting their adaptive capacity through sustainable fodder production, securing both livelihoods and food supply in the face of climate shocks.
- **Tracking Climate Action Across Africa:** A new data-driven tool is helping countries track progress on their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), enhancing climate planning and accountability.
- **Village Savings and Loans for Climate Resilience:** In Malawi and Mozambique, women and community groups are building financial resilience through savings and loan training that also supports collective climate adaptation strategies.
- **Amplifying the Voices of Women with Disabilities:** The STREVOW initiative has launched a podcast series to spotlight the experiences and leadership of women with disabilities in climate action across Africa.

- **Best Practices in Cooperative Models:** Burkina Faso and Togo share successful experiences from warehouse cooperatives, enhancing farmer benefits and local climate resilience.

- **Gender and Climate Resilience in Ethiopia:** Gender-transformative approaches are being mainstreamed into climate programs in Afar and Oromia across three districts.

- **Climate-Inclusive Financing in Senegal:** A study on climate-inclusive mechanisms for intergovernmental transfers gains political support, advancing more climate-responsive local governance.

- **Climate-Smart Agriculture in Rwanda:** Forty-six farmer led projects in Eastern Province secure funding to scale up climate-smart agricultural practices.

These articles highlight the key role of communities, governance, and partnerships in driving climate action across Africa.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.



## MULTINATIONAL

# Strengthening Pastoral Women's Resilience Through Sustainable Fodder Production In Tadjourah, Djibouti

From 23–26 February 2025, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in collaboration with the local Authorities of Tadjourah (Djibouti) and representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, and Women, led a series of community-driven initiatives in the rural communities of Dafaynatou, Sagallou, and Kallaf.

The initiative focused on distributing drought-resistant seeds—Sudan grass and panic grass— alongside agricultural tools tailored for women and young female farmers. Practical training sessions were also held, equipping participants with hands-on knowledge in sustainable farming and water/soil conservation methods. A total of 87 women benefited from the training and resource distribution: 48 in Dafaynatou, 23 in Sagallou, and 16 in Kallaf.

The initiative aims to empower women and build local climate resilience through improved forage production. Climate change has increasingly disrupted rainfall patterns and caused frequent droughts, threatening food security and livestock-based livelihoods in the region.

Women's empowerment was a key focus. Community dialogues promoted women's involvement in agricultural decision-making and encouraged them to take leadership roles.

"The importance of distributing these agricultural materials cannot be overstated," said Mr. Daher Elmi, Director of IGAD's Agriculture and Environment Division. "It enables producers, especially women, to improve the quality and sustainability of fodder production—critical for their food security and livelihoods."

A participatory monitoring system was set up, engaging local stakeholders to track progress and ensure sustainable impact. The approach fostered community ownership and allowed adaptive project management.

The expected outcomes include increased fodder yields, healthier livestock, improved food security, and stronger female leadership in natural resource management.

This initiative is part of the project "Enhancing Gender Equality in Access to Land Resources for Transformative Climate Change Adaptation in the IGAD Region," funded by the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) of the African Development Bank. The project supports climate resilience in Uganda, Djibouti, and Kenya by promoting equitable access to land and sustainable agriculture.

For more information, please contact:  
 Joselyn Bigirwa – [joselyn.bigirwa@igad.int](mailto:joselyn.bigirwa@igad.int)



Local community women beneficiaries from Tadjourah, Djibouti

## Tracking Africa's Climate Action Using Data And The Innovative NDC Implementation And Monitoring Index

Over the past quarter, the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its partners have conducted extensive climate data collection in 12 African countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Ghana.

Working with government institutions, climate agencies, and local stakeholders, the team gathered, verified, and analyzed data across key sectors—energy, agriculture, forestry, and emissions reduction. This effort is feeding into the development of country specific Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Indices that provide a clearer picture of each country's progress under the Paris Agreement.

A major milestone of the project is the development of an **Online NDC Implementation Index Platform**—a centralized, real-time hub that will host the indices and allow countries to track, compare, and improve their climate performance. The platform, currently under development, will feature interactive dashboards, national data repositories, and analytical tools to support evidence-based policy and decision-making. Once launched, it will be an open-access resource for policymakers, researchers, climate advocates, and the public.

This work is part of the ACCF-funded project “Building the Capacity of Selected Sub-Saharan African Countries to Effectively Measure Progress in their NDCs Implementation Using Tracking Tools and Indices,” implemented by ATPS in collaboration with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the West Africa Green Economics Development Institute (WAGEDII).

Beyond tracking progress, the initiative supports countries in preparing their next NDC submissions (NDC-3) by identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement. The platform's real-time capabilities will promote transparency, strengthen national commitments, and accelerate effective climate action across the region.

Looking ahead, the project will publish the NDC Implementation Indices and finalize the online platform. A two-day **Regional Policy Dialogue and Dissemination Workshop** will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2025, engaging stakeholders in capacity-building and knowledge sharing to ensure strong national ownership of the index.

*For more information, please contact:*

✉ **Dr. Nicholas Ozor** – [executivedirector@atpsnet.org](mailto:executivedirector@atpsnet.org)  
<https://atpsnet.org/atps-afdb-accf-ddw-ndc-project>



Stakeholders discussing key issues around NDC implementation in Nigeria



# Promoting Financial Empowerment And Climate Resilience Among Women's Groups Through Village Savings And Loans

To enhance the economic viability of women and youth, the Gender Transformative Climate Resilience Initiatives for Malawi and Mozambique Project recently conducted Training of Trainers sessions on Village Savings and Loans (VSL) in Mwambo, Chikowi, and Malaemia traditional authorities within Zomba district. The sessions equipped women group leaders and VSL Community Facilitators with essential skills to strengthen and expand VSL groups—promoting financial savings and economic empowerment at the community level.

A total of 73 participants (47 women and 26 men) took part in the two-day sessions led by government Community Development Officers. Key topics covered included group formation, constitution drafting, share-out procedures, loan disbursement, and repayment processes. Armed with this training, participants are now supporting their communities to establish and grow VSL groups, fostering a culture of financial inclusion and savings. By reducing economic inequalities and strengthening local resilience to climate impacts, the initiative is helping pave the way for greater financial security and sustainable development in rural areas.

For more information, please contact:  
Lingalireni Mihowa – [lmihowa@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:lmihowa@oxfam.org.uk)



Hon. Grace Kwerepeta speaking during a Campaign in Zomba District, Malawi (c) OXFAM

## STREVOW Launches Podcast Series Elevating The Voices Of Women With Disabilities In Climate Action



STREVOW Project

About STREVOW

Voices

Episodes



To amplify the voices of Women With Disabilities (WWDs) and ensure their experiences inform climate policies and interventions, the STREVOW project has launched a new podcast series titled *Her Voice Counts*. The series highlights the lived experiences of WWDs, alongside insights from experts, stakeholders, and policymakers, addressing key issues around climate resilience, policy inclusion, and accessibility.

The platform is equipped with disability-friendly features to promote inclusive access. It forms part of the broader Strengthening the Voices of WWDs in Climate Policy Negotiations and Policy (STREVOW) initiative, implemented by Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA) and the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE), with support from the ACCF.

Organized in thematic episodes, *Her Voice Counts* sheds light on critical and underrepresented perspectives. Highlights from the first six episodes include:

- **From the Frontlines: Amplifying WWD Voices for Inclusive Climate Action** Emphasizes the importance of integrating WWDs into all levels of climate policy and decision-making.
- **Resilience in Action: Data and Technology-Driven Solutions for Inclusive Climate Policies** Explores how data and digital tools can elevate WWD participation and inform more inclusive climate responses.
- **Wisdom in Diversity: Leading with Indigenous Knowledge** Showcases how WWDs contribute indigenous knowledge to climate adaptation strategies, blending the old with the new.

- **From the Frontline: Our Experiences at the Climate Negotiation Table** Focuses on the barriers WWDs face in global climate fora and their critical contributions to negotiations.

- **Voices of Change: Sharing Knowledge on Disability and Climate** Highlights the role of accessible knowledge platforms in empowering WWDs and connecting inclusive networks.

- **Changing the Narrative: Empowering WWDs Through Technology and Inclusive Practices** Examines the transformative role of assistive technologies in supporting active WWD participation in climate governance.

Through *'Her Voice Counts'*, STREVOW is providing a platform where WWDs can share their perspectives, advocate for change, and contribute to building inclusive, sustainable climate solutions.

### Access Links:

- Website Platform: <https://podcast.strevowdisabilityplatform.org/>
- YouTube: [STREVOW Project Podcast](#)
- Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/user/31ttbzd7ogjeljvleidh6hldgzm>

For more information, please contact:

📞 Wambui Muchaba – [tmuchaba@iccasa-africa.org](mailto:tmuchaba@iccasa-africa.org)



## Enhancing Climate Risk Management Capacity At Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank

From January 13–17, 2025, the AFAC Support project provided climate risk assessment training to staff at the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), as part of broader efforts to support the development of an African Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) taxonomy.

The training aimed to enhance TADB's resilience to climate change impacts by equipping staff with practical skills to identify and assess climate risks affecting agricultural investments. Participants were introduced to tailored climate risk assessment tools and methodologies developed specifically for TADB, which they applied to real-world scenarios. Their feedback will help refine these tools for greater accuracy and usability.

In addition, the sessions facilitated the collection of detailed field-level data to improve TADB's climate risk heatmaps and due diligence frameworks—critical for making informed investment decisions. Participants also helped refine the Bank's climate stress testing methodology and a catalogue of adaptation strategies suited to TADB's asset portfolio.

Looking ahead, TADB staff will continue working with the trainers to enhance the assessment tools using insights gathered during the training. A follow-up session is planned to finalize alignment and prepare a board-level presentation.

*For more information, please contact:*

✉ Davinah Milenge – [d.milenge-uwella@afdb.org](mailto:d.milenge-uwella@afdb.org)

Derek Apell – [d.apell@afdb.org](mailto:d.apell@afdb.org)



Group photo of TADB staff participating in a climate risk assessment training



# Increasing Cooperatives Benefits: Best Practices Through The Warehouse Cooperative Model

What role can a warehouse play in empowering women in the shea industry? According to Adjara, a member of a shea cooperative in Burkina Faso, the impact is transformative: "Imagine several groups coming together to sign a contract with a buyer. They can leverage their collective strength to negotiate better deals, increase individual profits, and cut operational costs by sharing space and resources," she explains.

By joining cooperatives and signing contracts to sell their kernels, women producers benefit from secure, well-ventilated storage, training in quality assurance, and access to educational programs—all of which contribute to higher incomes. Additionally, through their women's groups, they can participate in a community social fund that acts as a financial safety net.

These benefits are part of the broader vision of the "Towards Climate Resilient Shea Communities in Togo and Burkina Faso" project. Implemented by the Global Shea Alliance (GSA), the two-year project (2023–2025) seeks to strengthen the resilience of 15 women shea cooperatives through income-generating and climate adaptation interventions.

A key component of the project is the construction of 15 warehouses for these cooperatives to boost their business capacity. The initiative is expected to directly impact 7,500 women shea collectors and reach approximately 30,000 people across both countries.

In Togo, Madam Tchatchobo from the Mango women's cooperative shares her optimism: "In our community, we are hardworking, but we lack infrastructure and equipment. We hope the warehouse will be completed soon—it will improve our aggregation capacity, help us secure better contracts, and ultimately raise our incomes. Thanks to training in aggregation, business development, and cooperative governance, we are confident in meeting market demands."

### Local Engagement and Best Practices

The warehouse cooperative model is built on strong community involvement. Local communities contribute land, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. Each cooperative is overseen by a management committee that includes representatives from each participating women's group. A leadership team—comprising a president, secretary, and treasurer—guides decision-making and operations. The warehouse is managed daily by a designated warehouse manager, with the management committee convening monthly.

Other key benefits include easier access to pre-financing, enabling cooperatives to aggregate and store larger quantities of kernels, which improves negotiation power and leads to higher prices per bag.

Curious to see the results? Stay tuned—we'll share the impact of these 15 warehouses at the end of the 2025 shea season!

For media enquiries, please contact:  
✉ Nestor Dehouindji – [ndehouindji@globalshea.com](mailto:ndehouindji@globalshea.com)



Group photo of Cooperative Members ©GSA



## Advancing Gender Transformation And Climate Resilience In Afar And Oromia Regions



Group photo of participants at the project launching workshop

Farm Africa, in collaboration with PHE-EC and UWECA, officially launched the project through a high-level workshop on March 25, 2025. The event brought together federal, regional, and local government officials, representatives from key stakeholder institutions, and implementing partners. It served as a platform to present the project's objectives, scope, and anticipated impact on local communities, while also outlining the implementation strategy and defining the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder.

Prior to the launch, the project partners conducted an in-depth contextual and gender power analysis to better understand the gender dynamics, climate vulnerabilities, and capacities of individuals and communities in the targeted districts. The analysis examined existing trends, constraints, and opportunities, and helped identify gender-specific risks, inequalities, and power imbalances. The insights gained have been crucial in designing tailored interventions that promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and climate resilience in a locally relevant and impactful manner.

Key findings revealed deep-rooted gender disparities and significant socio-economic vulnerabilities in the project districts, underscoring the need for transformative approaches.

These findings were shared during the workshop, providing a solid evidence base to guide implementation.

The project was warmly welcomed by regional and local government officials, reflecting strong institutional support for its goals.

### Rangeland Resource Assessment

In parallel with the launch, a joint team composed of experts from relevant government institutions and the project team conducted a comprehensive assessment of rangeland resources in the three intervention woredas/districts. Participating institutions included the Office of Agriculture, the Natural Resource Management Department, the Land Administration and Certification Office, and Kebele Administrators. The assessment identified three rangeland sites—one in each woreda—for further analysis and development, laying the groundwork for sustainable

For media enquiries, please contact:  
Shewit Emmanuel – [shewite@farmafrica.org](mailto:shewite@farmafrica.org)

## Political Endorsement Of A Climate-Inclusive Financial Mechanism For State-to-local Government Transfers

Local governments in Senegal continue to face significant challenges in accessing climate finance due to limited technical capacity, language barriers, and lack of information. In response, the project "Removing Barriers to Local Government Access to Climate Finance" commissioned a study to identify viable solutions. The findings of this study were officially validated by local government executives during a meeting held on 28 January 2025.

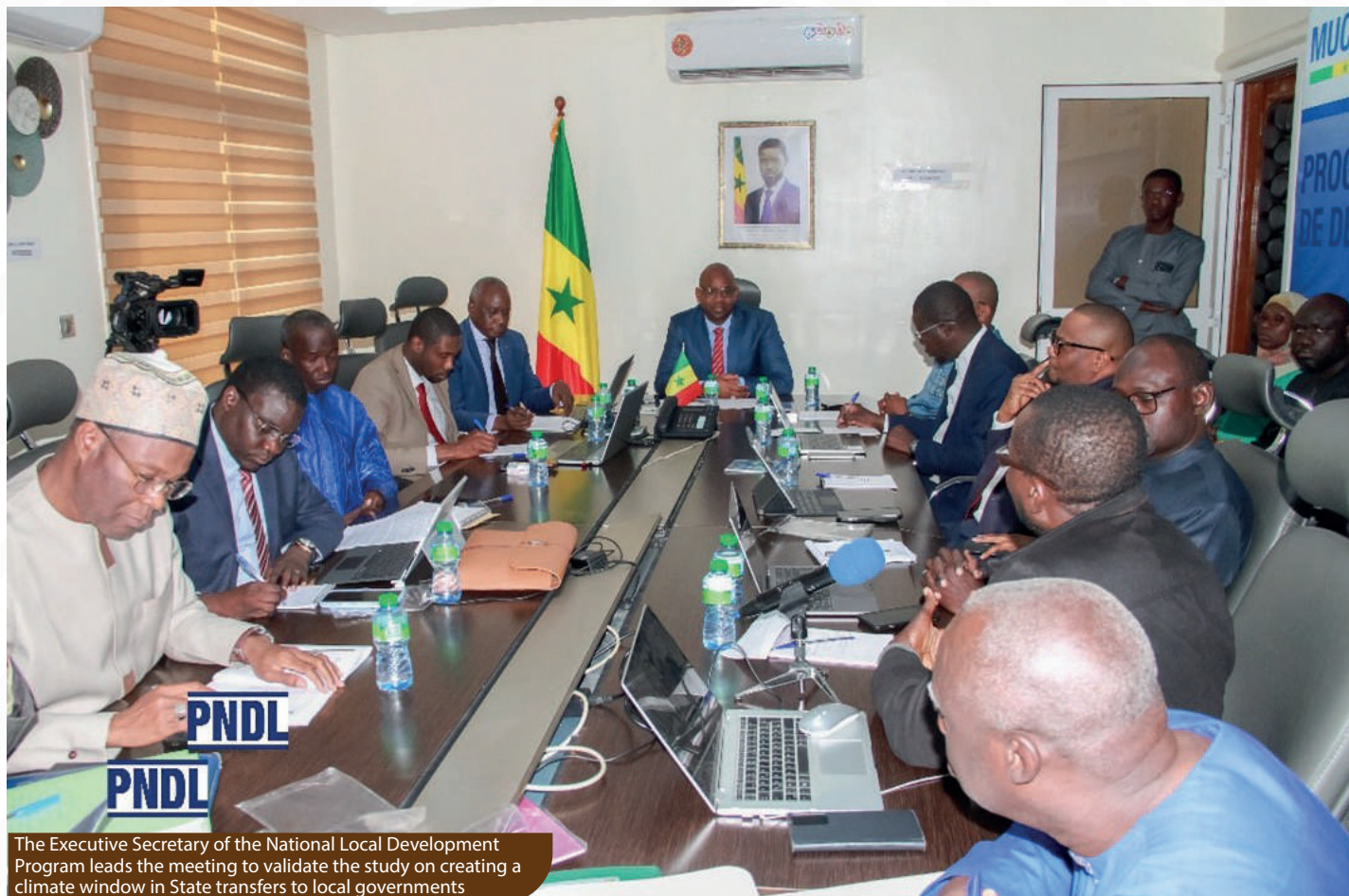
This study marks a major step forward in equipping local authorities with tools to anticipate climate risks, invest in their territories, and better protect communities against climate-related hazards. The territorial executives from six regions within the project's intervention area formally endorsed the proposal to establish a climate change funding window within the Local Authority Equipment Fund (FECT).

This new funding window is envisioned as a one-stop shop to enable local authorities to access national-level financing for climate adaptation and mitigation actions.

Unlike global climate funds—which are often complex and inaccessible—this mechanism would serve as a direct, streamlined channel for municipalities to implement locally driven climate solutions.

For local authorities, the funding mechanism would simplify and clarify access to climate funding from national resources, presenting an important opportunity to identify and implement actions that best meet local needs. It is expected to become a catalytic instrument for financing strategic local investments aligned with national climate goals. This window could be the forerunner of a real green bank for these local authorities, which would be equipped with skills in climate engineering and finance to ensure good governance.

For more information, please contact:  
Babacar Dia – [diababacar@hotmail.com](mailto:diababacar@hotmail.com)



The Executive Secretary of the National Local Development Program leads the meeting to validate the study on creating a climate window in State transfers to local governments



## 46 Climate-Smart Farming Projects Secure Funding In Eastern Province

Forty-six farmer-led projects aimed at promoting climate adaptation and resilience in Rwanda's Eastern Province have received funding under the "Promoting climate smart agriculture for improved rural livelihoods and climate resiliency in the climate-vulnerable Eastern Province of Rwanda" project, implemented by a consortium led by International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF). These projects were selected from applications submitted by farmers across targeted areas following an open call.

The funding is intended to support farmers in implementing climate-smart agricultural practices that mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Selected initiatives include beekeeping, agroforestry, composting, and the cultivation of drought-tolerant crops.

On March 20, ICRAF convened a well-attended workshop in Kayonza District that brought together 95 participants, including farmers from Nasho and Kigarama sectors in Kirehe District, Musheru and Rwimiyaga in Nyagatare District, and Rwimbogo and Kabarore in Gatsibo District. Sector agronomists and cooperative leaders also took part.

The workshop aimed to sign grant agreements with the selected beneficiaries, provide guidance on the proper use of the funds, confirm the beneficiaries' bank account details and identification documents, and review and update project budgets based on current market conditions.

In his remarks, Jean Paul Munyaneza, Administrative Officer at ICRAF, encouraged beneficiaries to ensure that the grants are used strictly for the purposes outlined in their proposals, noting that projects would be closely monitored to assess impact.

Participants were grouped to conduct peer reviews of their projects, offering feedback on planned activities and budgets. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the implementing partners and committed to using the funds as planned. They were also informed that the transfer of funds to their bank accounts would be completed during the first half of 2025.

 *For more information, please contact:*

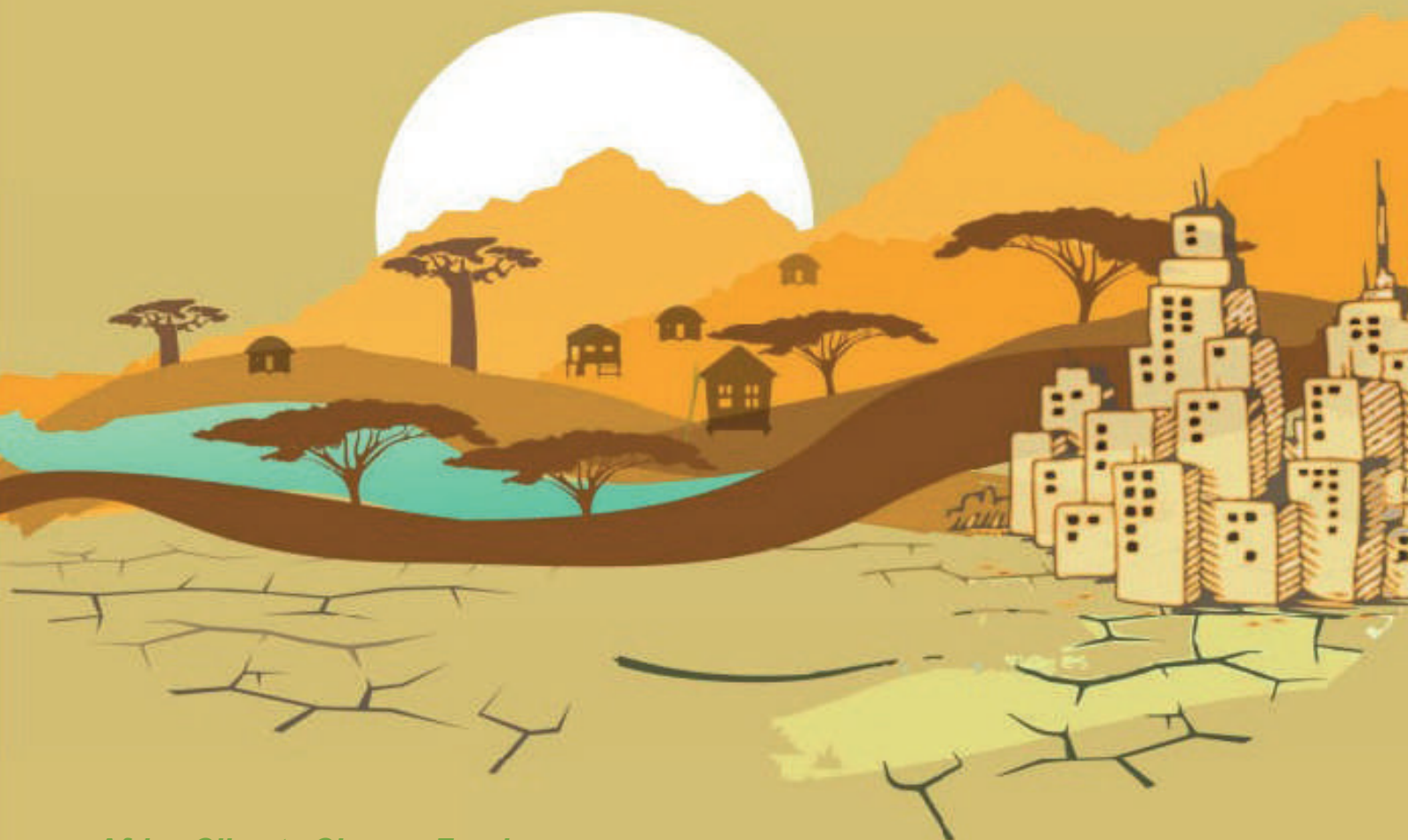


Group photo during the contracts signing ceremony

# OUR DONORS







***Africa Climate Change Fund***

***Climate and Environment Finance Division  
Climate Change and Green Growth Department  
African Development Bank  
CCIA Building I Jean Paul II Avenue, Plateau  
01 P.O. Box 1387 Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire  
Contact - ACCF Secretariat  
Tel: +225 25 20 26 4260***

***Email: [AfricaClimateChangeFundACCF@AFDB.ORG](mailto:AfricaClimateChangeFundACCF@AFDB.ORG)***

***Website: <https://accf.afdb.org/>***



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP  
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE  
DE DEVELOPPEMENT

