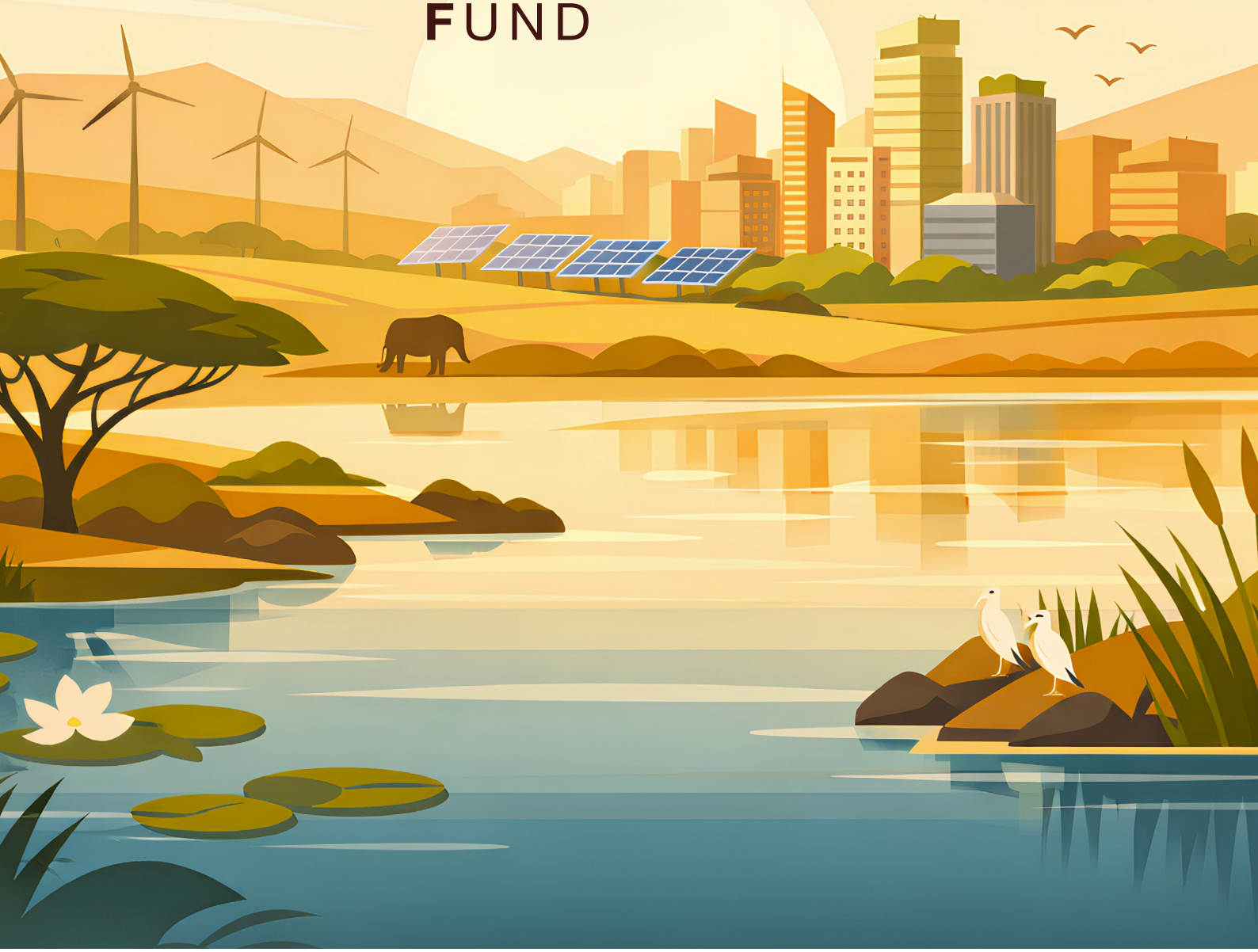
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025 **ISSUE 17**

AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE FUND



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



MESSAGE FROM GARETH PHILLIPS

MANAGER, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT FINANCE DIVISION

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the seventeenth and final edition of the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) newsletter for 2025, highlighting key milestones from the last quarter of the year.

This edition reflects ACCF's continued commitment to inclusive, locally grounded, and evidence-based climate action across Africa. We are pleased to launch the ACCF's new website, an important step in increasing visibility of the Fund and strengthening transparency, accessibility, and engagement with our partners and stakeholders.

Across our portfolio, this issue showcases how ACCF-supported initiatives are driving action on the ground. From community-led climate adaptation in Puntland, Somalia, to gender-responsive land governance in the IGAD region, we highlight how empowering women, youth, and local institutions strengthens resilience to climate shocks. We also share insights from COP30, where ACCF-supported partners advanced disability inclusion, gender equality, health, and human rights within global climate policy discussions.

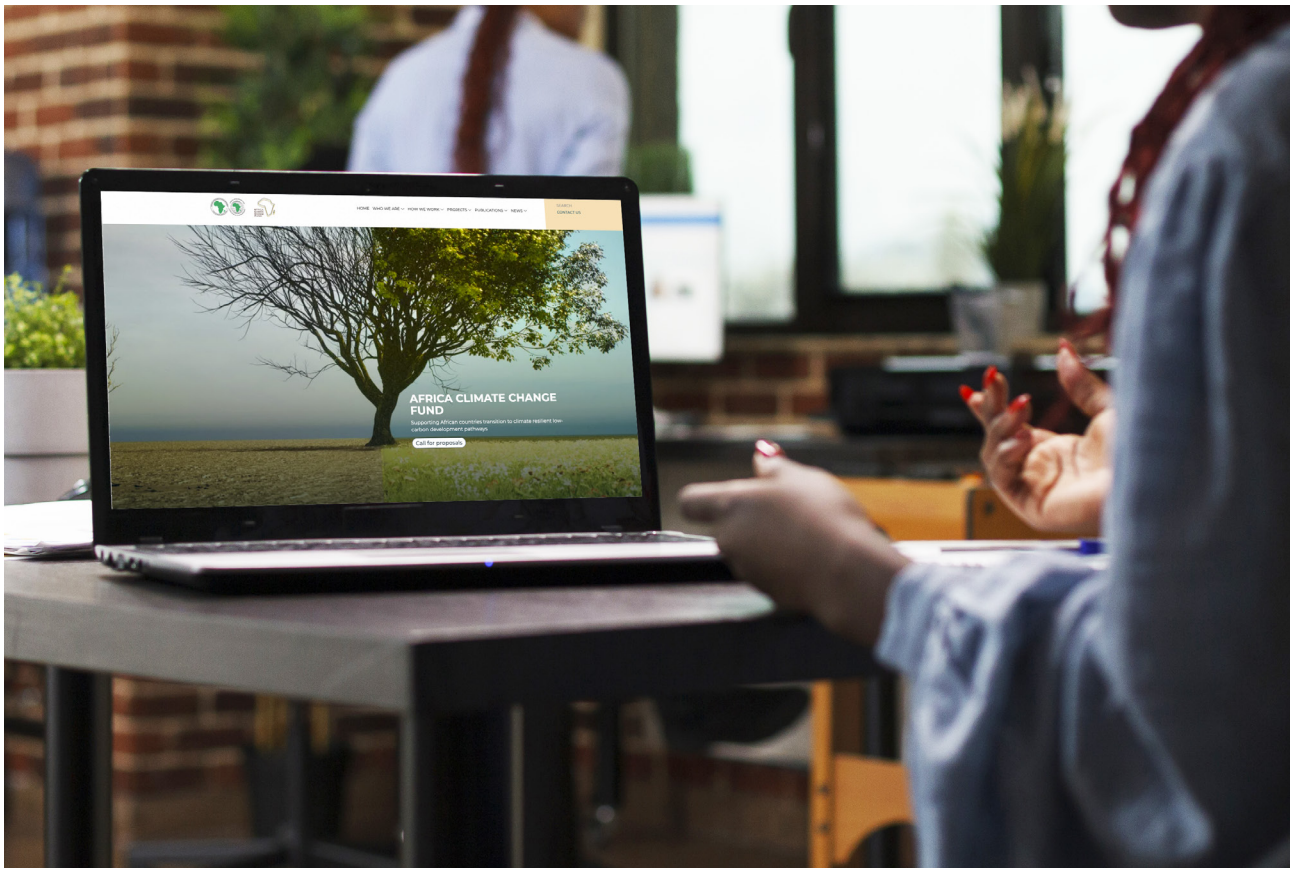
This edition further highlights progress in climate accountability and systems change, including the completion of Africa's first NDC Implementation Tracking Tool, supporting countries to monitor progress and scale ambition through data-driven decision-making. We also reflect on the successful closure of projects, such as the Senegal Removing Barriers to Access to Climate Finance, where strengthened local capacities is improving access to climate finance for sub-national governments.

As we close 2025, this edition offers a snapshot of how ACCF-supported initiatives have moved from commitment to action, reinforcing inclusive climate action across Africa.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration throughout the year. We hope you enjoy this final edition.

Happy reading!

LAUNCH OF A NEW WEBSITE



The ACCF has officially launched its new website, marking an important step in strengthening access to information and engagement with its partners, donors, and stakeholders.

Designed to offer a more user-friendly experience, the new platform provides improved access to information on the Fund's activities, projects, and opportunities. It reflects ACCF's ongoing commitment to transparency, accessibility, and effective communication.

We invite you to explore the new website and learn more about how the ACCF continues to support Africa's transition toward climate-resilient and low-carbon development.

Visit the website:
www.accf.afdb.org

INCLUSIVE RESILIENCE IN ACTION: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN PUNTLAND, SOMALIA

From October to December 2025, World Vision Somalia, in partnership with the Puntland State Ministry of Environment, Range and Climate Change, implemented a series of integrated, community-driven and gender-inclusive interventions to strengthen climate resilience among vulnerable households in Eyl and Garowe Districts, Puntland State of Somalia.

The project, "Inclusive Resilience of Vulnerable Households, Especially Women and Youth, in Puntland, Somalia, in the Face of Climate Change," delivered tangible community-led climate resilience outcomes aligned with Somalia's National Development Plan (NDP-9), Pillar 4 on Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Adaptation, the National Climate Change Policy, and the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). It addressed climate change-induced land degradation, weak natural resource governance, and limited community awareness.



Disaster risk reduction club formation and training



Community construction of half-moon structures on degraded rangelands

During the reporting period, climate change and land restoration awareness campaigns were conducted in 10 villages across Eyl and Garowe districts, reaching 1,300 community members, including 827 women. To strengthen local natural resource governance, 50 Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCs) were formed and trained, ensuring gender balance with 25 women and 25 men. Using the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) approach, the committees were trained on Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and supported to develop 10 village-level land restoration plans and bylaws addressing controlled grazing, land protection, accountability, and community enforcement.

In parallel, 250 community members including156 women, received hands-on FMNR training focused on vegetation regeneration, soil fertility improvement, and climate-resilient agro-pastoral practices. Through a cash-for-work programme, 258 households constructed 6,000 half-moon structures, supporting the rehabilitation of 120 hectares of degraded land, improving water retention and soil moisture, and providing short-term income support. To promote early awareness and disaster preparedness, child-led Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) clubs were established in 10 schools, involving 200 children and supported by 10 trained patron teachers, strengthening school–community linkages and climate risk awareness.

Overall, the interventions strengthened community ownership, environmental stewardship, and local understanding of climate risks and solutions. By empowering women, youth, and children, strengthening local institutions, and restoring degraded ecosystems, the project laid a foundation for sustainable and inclusive climate adaptation in Puntland.

For more information, please contact:

Joseph Githinji, Senior programme Officer
World Vision Somalia

Email: joseph_githinji@wvi.org

ADVANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH GENDER-RESPONSIVE LAND GOVERNANCE

Under the project "Enhancing Gender Equality in Access to Land Resources for Transformative Climate Change Adaptation in the IGAD Region," implemented by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the articles below highlight progress made between community-led action in Uganda and regional policy dialogue on women's land tenure, demonstrating how inclusive land governance strengthens climate resilience across the IGAD region.

1. UGANDA: KACHERI RISES TO CLIMATE CHALLENGE AS IGAD LAUNCHES MASSIVE GREEN INITIATIVE TO COMBAT DROUGHT AND DEFORESTATION



Kotido RDC Charles Ichogor (in coat) plant a tree together with Paul Komol Lotee the Kotido district LC 5 chairperson (in yellow) at the district headquarters. Photo by Bondry Kilenga

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has officially launches a large-scale Greening Initiative in Kacheri Town Council and Kacheri Sub-County, Kotido District, Uganda, marking a decisive step toward environmental restoration and climate resilience in one of the country's most climate-vulnerable regions.

The three-day launch event, held from 17 to 19 November, brought together district leaders, local authorities, community members, women's groups, and youth to confront the area's pressing environmental challenges, including prolonged drought, food insecurity, land degradation, and deforestation.

The pilot initiative forms part of IGAD's regional programme titled "Enhancing gender equality in access to land resources for transformative climate-change adaptation in the IGAD Region." In Kacheri, it focuses on operationalizing the newly finalized Physical Development Plan (PDP), translating climate policy into concrete, community-driven action.

A core component of the initiative is the expansion of green infrastructure through tree planting across strategic public spaces. Dr. Addis Teshome, from IGAD's Land Governance Unit, outlined the ambition of the first phase:

"We are committed to planting 5,000 seedlings across public spaces, schools, and community woodlots. These trees will serve as green buffers, improve soil health, and strengthen the climate resilience of a region that has long battled environmental degradation."

Beyond environmental restoration, the project seeks to address the root causes of ecosystem degradation in Kotido, where unsustainable land-use practices have historically undermined livelihoods. By promoting sustainable alternatives, the initiative aims to contribute to economic stability, peacebuilding, and long-term resilience.

Women and youth are central to the initiative's design and implementation. Oyuku Emmanuel Ocen, Chief Administrative Officer of Kotido District, stressed the importance of local ownership:

"When women and youth are actively involved in planting and protecting these trees, we are not just growing forests. We are securing water sources, improving nutrition, and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters."

Local leaders strongly endorsed the programme. LC5 Chairperson, Paul Komol Lotee, called on IGAD and development partners to expand the greening efforts to other sub-counties, while Resident District Commissioner Charles Ichogor emphasized accountability and protection of the seedlings:

"The future of our children depends on the shade, fruit, and ecological benefits these trees will provide. Let's not let a single seedling perish."

Planting activities targeted key sites, including the district headquarters, Kacheri Sub-County offices, primary schools, and market areas, supported by community consultations and radio sensitization to ensure broad participation.

The initiative is implemented in collaboration with Ugandan government institutions, local NGOs, and women's groups. By planting 5,000 seedlings and empowering communities, particularly women and youth, the Greening Initiative is laying the foundation for a greener and more resilient Kacheri, better equipped to withstand climate shocks and secure a sustainable future.

Source:
KARAMOJA TIMES
District Communicators' Newsletter, Weekly Edition, Issue 83, Written by Bondy Kilenga.



Addis Teshome, Planting Tree at Kacheeri Subcounty Kotido

2. ENHANCING WOMEN'S TENURE SECURITY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN CROSS BORDER PASTORAL COMMUNITIES: KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE AFRICA LAND POLICY CONFERENCE



Panelists at the IGAD Side event at Africa Land Conference Session.

On 10 November 2025, policymakers, gender and climate experts convened at the Africa Land Policy Centre (ALPC) for a high-level side event on "Enhancing Women's Tenure Security for Climate Resilience", with a focus on cross-border pastoral communities in the IGAD region. Speakers from Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), national parliaments, local governments and the African Development Bank underscored that women's land rights are central to climate resilience, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

Moderated by Ms. Evelyne Nairesiae (Landesa), the session examined the structural drivers of women's tenure insecurity in pastoral areas, where climate shocks, conflict, mobility and patriarchal norms intersect. Ms. Joselyn Bigirwa, IGAD Head of Mission to Uganda, highlighted IGAD's community-driven approach, including participatory land-use planning, gender-responsive policy harmonization, and strengthening local institutions to support women's representation in land governance.

From the Karamoja region of Uganda, Ms. Harriet Draleru, Senior Land Management Officer in Kotido District, highlighted challenges such as weak documentation systems and exclusionary customary norms, noting that climate shocks intensify competition over rangelands and risks for women and children. Collaboration between IGAD, national ministries and local leaders is helping strengthen dispute resolution, tenure documentation and community awareness.

Representing women parliamentarians, Dr. Lilian Gogo (Kenya) emphasized the role of the IGAD Regional Women Parliamentarians Platform in amplifying grassroots voices and advancing policy reform. She called for sustained dialogue with policymakers, stronger engagement with traditional and religious leaders, and regional cooperation to address discriminatory norms.

From South Sudan, Hon. Dr. Ghada, Chairperson of the Agriculture and Food Security Committee, stressed that women's land rights are fundamental to food security and resilience, calling for legislative reform, awareness among traditional leaders, and targeted support for women farmers.

Representing the AfDB, Ms. Rita Effah, Senior Climate Finance Officer and Coordinator of the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF), emphasized that climate investments cannot succeed without addressing tenure insecurity. She highlighted AfDB's partnership with IGAD as a model for scaling gender-responsive climate action.

Key takeaway: Women's tenure security is a climate resilience imperative, requiring coordinated action across governments, communities, traditional institutions and financial partners.

For more information, please contact:

Joselyn Bigirwa
Head of Mission to the Republic of Uganda, Gender and Land Expert - IGAD

Email: joselyn.bigirwa@igad.int

FINANCING SRHR, GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE AND HUMAN-RIGHTS BASED CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH NDCS & NAPS



Panelists at the IGAD Side event at Africa Land Conference Session.

At the 30th Session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025, the Resilient Futures project marked a milestone contribution to advancing human rights-based, gender-responsive approach in national climate policies and actions.

The Taking Action: A handbook for integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, and harmful practices into national climate policies and action, funded by ACCF, was launched to provide guidance to key stakeholders in ensuring that national climate policies and actions are gender-transformative. High-level speakers at the launch event included Ministers from Brazil, Assistant Secretary Generals from UNDP and OHCHR, and the Vice President of AfDB.

This hybrid side event, jointly organized by UNFPA, UNDP, AfDB, and OHCHR, themed "Financing SRHR, Gender-Transformative and Human-Rights Based Climate Action through NDCs & NAPs" emphasised the urgent need to integrate International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) principles, including human rights, population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health, and gender equality into global climate action like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

The event highlighted the alarming policy and financing gaps that compromise the protection of women, girls, and vulnerable groups from the climate crisis.



THE HANDBOOK: BRIDGING POLICY GAPS

The newly launched Handbook, developed in response to gaps in NDC reviews, provides national and sub-national stakeholders with actionable steps, good practices, and tools for integrating these considerations into NDCs and other relevant policies/plans. The six-section handbook covers SRHR and climate intersections, an integration checklist, actionable steps, and useful resources. It aims to strengthen national capacity, contributing to a sustainable, gender-transformative and human-centred climate future.

RESILIENT FUTURES' RELEVANT COP30 OUTCOMES

Gender and health gained meaningful ground at COP30, with the adoption of the nine-year Belém Gender Action Plan (BGAP) (2026 - 2034) which includes 27 activities to shape gender-responsive climate action, including texts on violence against women and girls, health, protection, safeguarding and care work. The official launch and ministerial adoption of the Belém Health Action Plan (BHAP), a voluntary framework for integrating human health and rights into the climate response, explicitly includes SRHR and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. Progress was also recorded on advancing the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) with 59 indicators adopted, including gender-responsive indicators, and 122 new NDC3.0 submissions recorded, a few of which were supported through the ACCF-funded project activities.

This milestone builds on year-long advocacy supported through the ACCF–UNFPA project, which equipped over 150 key national stakeholders across East and Southern Africa, including National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs), with strengthened knowledge on the intersection of SRHR, gender, and climate.

Dr. Kevin Kariuki, AfDB Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth (PEVP), em phasised, "Integrating and financing SRHR within NDCs and NAPs is essential to ensure health systems are inclusive, resilient, and equipped to respond to climate shocks".

The Resilient Futures project, implemented by UNFPA across 10 East and Southern African countries, remains committed to strengthening capacity to integrate gender, SRHR, and climate action.

For more information, please contact:
Chiagozie Udeh, Programme Specialist, UNFPA
Email: udeh@unfpa.org

REFLECTING ON DISABILITY INCLUSION IN CLIMATE ACTION: STREVOW AT COP 30



Photo Courtesy of the Global Disability Caucus ©2025

Women with Disabilities (WWDs) remain largely underrepresented in global climate discussions, despite facing disproportionate climate and disaster risks.

In response, the STREVOW project, implemented by ICCASA (Centre for Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa) in partnership with CEMIRIDE, (Centre for Minority Rights Development) is advancing disability-inclusive climate action across 12 Eastern African countries and Small Island Developing States, amplifying WWD's voices in regional and global climate processes.

In the spirit of COP 30, we take this moment to highlight the key milestones of STREVOW that are shaping disability-inclusive climate action across Africa and globally.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF MILESTONES:

Capacity strengthening across 12 countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS):

Women with disabilities across 12 countries and SIDS strengthened their capacities in climate policy, decision-making, advocacy, leadership, and negotiations. In total, 500 women with disabilities acquired knowledge and skills in climate change policy and decision-making, including 62 trained specifically in climate policy engagement and negotiations.

Formation of the African Alliance for Women with Disabilities in Climate Action (AWAC Alliance):

Established as a regional platform uniting WWD organizations, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, civil society, government actors, and disability champions to advance collective advocacy and disability-inclusive climate policy at national, regional, and global levels.

Active Participation in Key Climate Forums:

STREVOW supported the participation of 180 women with disabilities in major climate spaces, including COP29, SB62, the Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa, and other UNFCCC-related platforms, ensuring that disability perspectives were reflected in high-level climate discussions.

Nomination to COP 30 Global Disability Caucus:

STREVOW beneficiary Josephine Mwatibo was nominated as a Global Disability Caucus Focal Point at COP 30, elevating disability concerns in UNFCCC negotiation spaces and reflecting the ongoing hope for formal recognition of the Disability Caucus.

Development of national engagement frameworks:

Three engagement frameworks were developed in Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan to guide governments and partners on the meaningful inclusion of women with disabilities in climate policies, programmes, and planning processes.

Dialogue and coordination on disability inclusion:

The project convened 20 multi-stakeholder dialogues, providing spaces for learning, coordination, and experience sharing among women with disabilities, civil society, government stakeholders, and partners, reaching a total of 1,052 people.

Country Level Capacity Assessments:

Assessments across all target countries identified gaps in disability inclusion, informing advocacy, policy engagement, and programme adjustments.

Training on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Resilience:

WWDs were trained to advocate for disability inclusion in climate planning and finance processes and equipped with practical DRR skills.

- National Level: Capacity built to influence NDCs and National Climate Action Plans.

- Sub National Level: Advocacy strengthened for inclusion in CIDPs, MTPs, and County Climate Disaster Committees.

Disability-focused communication and awareness:

A total of 450 disability-focused communication materials were developed and disseminated to strengthen awareness, advocacy, and visibility of women with disabilities in climate action.

Impact and Way Forward

The STREVOW Project continues to demonstrate that meaningful climate action must be inclusive, with women with disabilities increasingly engaging in policy spaces, community resilience efforts, and regional networks, including at COP 30. The nomination of a STREVOW beneficiary as a Global Disability Caucus Focal Point reflects the ongoing hope for formal recognition of the Disability Caucus within UNFCCC processes, which would mark an important step for disability inclusion in global climate governance. Funded by the Africa Climate Change Fund of the African Development Bank Group, STREVOW reinforces that empowering women with disabilities is essential to inclusive and effective climate action.

For more information, please contact:
Faith Gikunda, Programs Director, ICCASA

Email: fgikunda@iccasa-africa.org

TANGIBLE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE PROJECT "REMOVING BARRIERS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE" AT PROJECT CLOSURE IN SENEGAL



Panelists during the project closing workshop

After four years of implementation, the project "Removing Barriers to Local Governments' Access to Climate Finance," anchored in the National Local Development Programme (PNDL), was officially closed on Thursday, 29 October 2025.

Supported by the ACCF and implemented by the Centre de Suivi Écologique (CSE), the initiative aimed to equip local governments and stakeholders with the resources and skills needed to understand climate finance mechanisms and to design and submit "green" projects. Particular emphasis was placed on supporting local authorities who, despite being on the frontlines of climate change impacts, often lack the technical expertise required to access and mobilize available climate funds. To address these challenges, the project implemented several high-impact activities.

When asked about the project's achievements, beneficiaries reported tangible results. Especially, training sessions delivered to local actors have strengthened their ability to support local governments in applying more effectively to international calls for proposals, thereby reducing a significant structural disadvantage. This, in turn, is expected to facilitate access to climate finance for local governments and strengthen their resilience, as noted by the President of the Union of Associations of Local Elected Officials of Senegal (UAEL).

According to the representative of the Minister in charge of Local Governments, it is essential for institutions such as the PNDL to develop assistance mechanisms for local actors. In this regard, the creation of a collaborative French-language platform on climate finance opportunities, combined with capacity building for national and regional stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, represents a major step forward in supporting local governments in mobilizing additional resources.

The representative of the CSE , an accredited entity to the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, recalled that an initial diagnostic conducted at the start of the project revealed that local governments had limited knowledge of climate finance access modalities. Local actors reported difficulties in understanding access requirements due to institutional barriers and lack of up-to-date information on available climate finance programmes. They also faced challenges in identifying and positioning projects for direct access to climate finance.

Today, however, with the development of practical guides, capacity-building activities, and the launch of an online platform, many of these barriers are beginning to be addressed. For this reason, the CSE recommends that strong actions be undertaken to further support local governments in gaining easier access to climate funds.

The closure of the project thus opens a new phase focused on sustaining the mechanisms put in place. However, the issue of continued financing for certain activities remains, highlighting the need for sustained engagement from technical and financial partners to consolidate achievements and extend the initiative nationwide. Local governments are also encouraged to strengthen collaboration with the private sector to enhance its involvement in financing climate action.

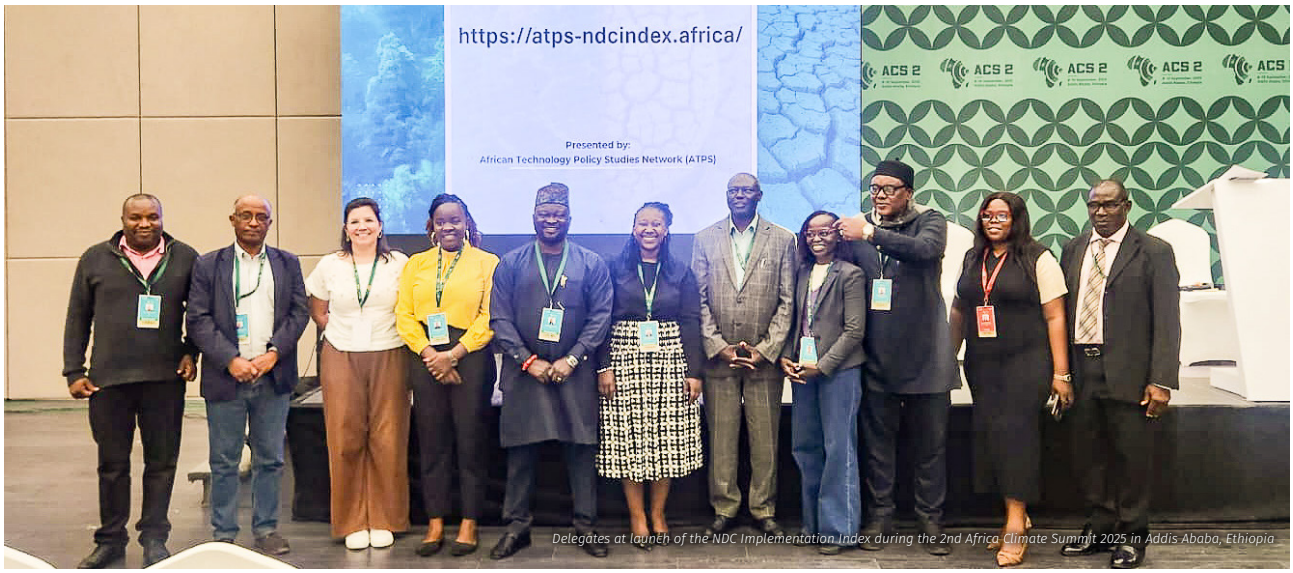
For more information, please contact:

Khadidiatou Aidara Diagne

Officer in Charge of Climate Fund Financing – PNDL

Email: khadidiatou.aidara25@gmail.com

AFRICA ADVANCES CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY AS ATPS CONCLUDES LANDMARK NDC IMPLEMENTATION TRACKING PROJECT



Delegates at launch of the NDC Implementation Index during the 2nd Africa Climate Summit 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Africa's climate governance landscape has taken a significant step forward as the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its partners—the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the West African Green Economics Development Institute (WAGEDI)—conclude the ACCF funded project on strengthening the capacities of African countries to effectively measure their NDCs. The project formally wraps up in December 2025 with the completion of the Project Completion Report (PCR) and a comprehensive external audit confirming adherence to expected standards of transparency, financial integrity, and accountability.

The project delivered one of Africa's most significant climate innovations: the NDC Implementation Tracking Tool and the first-ever NDC Implementation Index for Africa. Launched during the NDC Regional Policy Dialogue in Addis Ababa in July 2025, the platform has since become a reference point for policymakers, researchers, and development partners seeking evidence-based insights on NDC implementation progress in Africa. Built around five core components—Governance, Mitigation, Adaptation, MRV, and Finance & Technology Transfer—the tool distills complex climate data into accessible analytics, helping countries translate climate ambition into measurable action. The platform can be accessed at https://atps-ndcindex.africa/.

As the platform matured throughout 2025, countries are increasingly using the data to refine policies, strengthen institutional coordination, and improve reporting consistency. Results highlighted strong performance in climate governance and MRV in countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya, while Zimbabwe emerged as a top overall performer. The momentum continued during the Africa Climate Summit 2 in Addis Ababa in September, where ATPS and partners showcased the Index's continental relevance and its potential for scale-up.

The newly completed PCR captures these achievements, documenting strengthened national capacity, improved stakeholder engagement, and the establishment of a replicable data framework for long-term NDC implementation tracking across Africa. The audit further validates the project's sound financial management, effective implementation, and compliance with AfDB and ACCF standards.

With the project successfully completed, ATPS and its partners have set the foundation for continent-wide adoption of the NDC Implementation Index—positioning Africa as a leader in data-driven climate accountability and ensuring that the region's contribution to the Paris Agreement remains measurable, transparent, and impactful.

For more information, please contact:

Prof. Nicholas Ozor

Executive Director, ATPS

via executivedirector@atpsnet.org OR visit the NDC platform at: https://atps-ndcindex.africa/ OR the project's website at: https://atpsnet.org/atps-afdb-accf-ddw-ndc-project/

VOICES OF ACCF #3: CHIAGOZIE UDEH: PUTTING WOMEN, GIRLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF CLIMATE ACTION

"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.

Chiagozie Udeh is a Programme Specialist focused on Climate Adaptation and Innovation at UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). He is advancing regional work on climate change including support for development of NDCs, NAPs and climate change Gender Action Plans. Previously, he worked as a Policy and Advocacy Analyst on Climate Change at UNFPA ESARO focused on climate adaptation, especially the integration of SRHR and Gender in national climate policies.

Can you tell us about yourself and your role?

I work at the intersection of climate change, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at UNFPA in Eastern and Southern Africa. My role focuses on supporting governments and communities to ensure that climate adaptation and resilience efforts respond to the real, lived needs of women, girls and young people.

Over the years, I've worked with colleagues and communities across humanitarian and development settings, and what has stayed with me is how quickly climate shocks such as floods, droughts, displacement turn into health crises, protection risks and lost opportunities, especially for women and girls. That is why integrating SRHR and gender equality into climate action is not optional; it is essential.



Why is it important to address climate change through a gender and SRHR lens?

Climate change is not gender-neutral, and I have seen this firsthand. In communities affected by floods or drought, women and girls are often the first to feel the impact and the last to receive support. Health services are disrupted, livelihoods disappear, and risks of gender-based violence increase.

In South Sudan, for example, flooding has repeatedly cut off access to maternal health services. We have met women who were forced to give birth at home without skilled care, simply because roads were underwater and clinics were unreachable. For adolescent girls, displacement often means interrupted education and increased exposure to early marriage or violence.

What worries me most is that these impacts are predictable and preventable. When climate policies overlook gender and SRHR, they unintentionally deepen inequality. When they include them, they save lives and protect dignity.

How does UNFPA, with support from ACCF, address these challenges?

With support from the ACCF, UNFPA is working to ensure that climate action is grounded in the realities of women, girls and young people. This means supporting countries to integrate gender-responsive and SRHR-inclusive measures into national climate plans, while also investing in community-level solutions.



Group photo from the UNFPA Kenya-ACCF training on the intersection of climate change and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).

What I value about the ACCF partnership is that it allows us to move beyond policy commitments and into practice. We are able to pilot innovative approaches, support young climate leaders, and generate evidence that shows why inclusive climate action works.

At the policy level, we work closely with governments to strengthen national climate strategies, including NDCs and NAPs, so that they reflect gender and health priorities. At the community level, we support initiatives that build resilience where it matters most - in people's daily lives.

Can you share an example that illustrates this work on the ground?

One story that stays with me comes from flood-affected communities in South Sudan. A young mother we met through this project, Akot, described how rising waters had destroyed her crops and cut her off from the nearest health facility. What she needed was not just emergency aid, but continuity of care, safety, and the ability to plan her future.

Through integrated approaches that link climate resilience with health and protection services, we are working to ensure women like Akot are not left behind when crises hit. These experiences constantly remind me that climate action is ultimately about people.

Young people play a key role in climate action. How are they engaged?

Young people are not just beneficiaries of climate action. They are leaders. I am continually inspired by the creativity and determination of young climate advocates across the region.

Through ACCF-supported initiatives such as Let's Hack Climate Change, we have supported young innovators to develop solutions that respond to climate challenges while advancing gender equality and SRHR. One example is Marta, a young woman involved in the BAIIKE initiative, who used her platform to mobilize peers and advocate for climate-smart, gender-responsive solutions in her community.

What excites me most is seeing young people connect climate action with social justice. They understand that resilience is not only about infrastructure but also about rights, inclusion and opportunity.

Looking ahead, what needs to change to strengthen inclusive climate action?

Looking forward, I believe we need to do three things better.

First, we must invest more in people, especially women, girls and young people as agents of climate resilience. They need resources, leadership opportunities, and a real seat at the table Second, climate financing must become more accessible and responsive to gender and health priorities. Funds like ACCF play a critical role in bridging gaps and enabling innovative, inclusive solutions.

Finally, we need to keep listening. The most effective climate solutions come from communities living with impacts every day. Our role is to amplify those voices and ensure they shape decisions at every level.

For me, inclusive climate action is about protecting hard-won gains in gender equality and ensuring that as the climate changes, progress does not move backwards. With the right partnerships, I believe we can build a more resilient and more just future.

OUR DONORS

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

MINISTERO DELLA TRANSIZIONE ECOLOGICA

Government of Flanders

GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

Global Affairs Canada
Affaires mondiales Canada

Québec

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Finance

Irish Aid
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Climate Finance Division
Climate Change and Green Growth Department
African Development Bank
CCIA Building | Avenue Jean Paul II, Plateau 01
Box 01 1387 | Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Contact: The ACCF Secretariat
Tel : +225 27 20 26 59 42 / 27 20 26 42 53
Email : AfricaClimateChangeFundACCF@AFDB.ORG

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE FUND