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AFRICA
CLIMATE
CHANGE
FUND



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



MESSAGE FROM GARETH PHILLIPS
MANAGER, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT FINANCE DIVISION

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) newsletter, covering highlights from July to September 2025.

This edition reflects the continued growth of ACCF's impact and partnerships. At the Second Africa Climate Summit in Addis-Ababa, the Fund showcased results from over a decade of work supporting climate-resilient, low-carbon development across Africa. From empowering women with disabilities through the Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities (STREVOW) project to restoring shea parklands in Togo and Burkina Faso and strengthening rangeland management in Ethiopia, the ACCF continues to support nature-based solutions that restore ecosystems and empower local communities. The Fund also backed initiatives in South Sudan, Madagascar, and Kenya, advancing gender equality, youth participation, and health within climate action frameworks. We also highlight the launch of Africa's first digital NDC Implementation Tracking Tool, helping countries monitor progress and scale up climate ambition through evidence-based data.

Together, these achievements reflect Africa's growing leadership in climate resilience, where inclusive partnerships and innovation continue to drive lasting change across the continent.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. Happy reading!

AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE FUND DEMONSTRATES IMPACT AT 2ND AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT



Panelists of the Africa Climate Change Fund side event during the Africa Climate Summit

The ACCF, hosted by the African Development Bank, showcased the impact of its portfolio's during a side event at the Second Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa. The event, titled ***"Showcasing ACCF Project Results: Advancing Climate-Resilient, Low-Carbon Development in Africa"***, highlighted how the Fund's investments across 33 projects is building climate resilience throughout Africa.

Proven Results Across Sectors

Prof. Anthony Nyong, the Bank's Director of Climate Change and Green Growth, opened by emphasizing the Fund's track record. "***Over eleven years, ACCF has reinforced community-led resilience and mobilized climate finance across Africa***," he said, while calling for increased donor support to meet growing continental needs.

A panel discussion, moderated by ACCF Coordinator, Rita Effah offered project leaders an opportunity to share concrete achievements.

The African Technology Policy Studies Network Executive Director, Dr. Nicholas Ozor said it has made significant policy gains, training 72 climate champions across 12 countries, publishing 12 policy briefs, and launching Africa's first online NDC Implementation Index.



Participants of the side event on the Africa Climate Change Fund during the Africa Climate Summit

Gender inclusion remains central to ACCF's approach. "***Women with disabilities are survivors, solution-holders, and builders of resilient communities***," said Faith Gikunda of ICCASA-CEMIRIDE, which advocates for the rights of vulnerable and indigenous communities in Kenya. She concluded by calling for disability inclusion across all climate programs.

Youth-led initiatives also show promise. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Deborah Nzarubara—known as the "mother of bees"—has transformed her childhood beekeeping passion into a resilience-building enterprise. Working with ETS-GRECOM, she now coordinates 23 cooperatives and 1,200 members using connected hives.

In Ethiopia, Farm Africa's project in Afar and Oromia regions is already benefiting 37,000 people—primarily women and youth. "***Gender equality is a prerequisite to climate resilience***," explained Programme Director Tom Cadogan.

Donor Commitment Continues

Canada reaffirmed its partnership through Ms. Claude Landry, Head of Global Affairs Canada's Pan-African and Regional Development Program. "***Climate change affects people differently, and effective responses must reflect this***," she said, emphasizing Canada's ongoing commitment to expanding inclusive climate finance access.


Effah led an ACCF clinic during the Africa Climate Summit

The event concluded with actionable next steps to reflect the lessons learned in new ACCF programming. To keep the conversation going beyond the panel, Ms. Rita Effah led an ACCF Clinic on September 9, offering direct guidance to stakeholders on accessing funding and replicating successful models, reinforcing the Fund's transparency and accessibility.

ADVANCING INCLUSION OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AT AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2 AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CLIMATE ACTION ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK



Group photo of participants supported by the STREVOW project during the ACS2 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

From 8th to 10th September 2025, African governments, policymakers, practitioners, businesses, and civil society gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the second Africa Climate Summit (ACS 2) convened by the Government of Ethiopia and the African Union Commission. The Summit provided a platform for unifying Africa's voice and leadership in global climate action, advancing African led climate solutions, and catalyzing bold financial and political commitments.

STREVOW (Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations) joined the climate leaders, supporting the participation of 11 women with disabilities and disability advocates to call for inclusive climate financing.

"***We do not want sympathy. We want access, inclusion, and to be part of the decisions shaping our future.***"- Stella Nkhonya, a woman with disability from Malawi's Human Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities.

Stella called upon stakeholders to commit real resources to disability inclusive climate action. Her words captured the urgency of ensuring that women with disabilities are not only present but fully empowered to participate in climate spaces. It was unfortunate that the summit was not disability friendly; for example, there were insufficient wheelchairs, a lack of sign language interpreters at the venue, steep ramps, and inaccessible halls due to missing elevators. These obstacles hindered the full participation of people with disabilities. This highlights the urgent need for stronger advocacy and systemic change.



Participants during the National Engagement Framework development workshop organized by the STREVOW project.

In August and September 2025, STREVOW conducted National Engagement Framework development workshops in Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan.

The workshops brought together 108 women with disabilities (WWDs), climate line ministries, and other CSOs, including youth groups, 48 in Kenya, 36 in Uganda, and 24 in South Sudan, to establish national pathways for inclusive engagement.

"***Thanks to the STREVOW project, we have gained confidence to advocate and document how climate change affects our lives differently depending on one's disabilities. This workshop has enabled us to identify entry points for engagement at the local, county, and national levels in climate policies, projects, and programmes to champion inclusivity.***" - Halima Sharif, a woman with multiple disabilities, representing Kajiado County.

"Women with disabilities are excluded in decision making, policies, programmes, and budgets. Their lived experiences must be recorded and documented. I advocate for them to be appointed, educated, and empowered to participate in climate dialogues at national and international forums." said- Hon Safia Nalule Juuko, Chair, Equal Opportunity Commission, Uganda.

"This engagement framework is a turning point. It ensures our issues are no longer overlooked but embedded in climate policies and action" indicated Joyce Dikun, a woman with a disability from South Sudan.

The engagement frameworks, soon to be validated, will be a mechanism for structured interaction between WWDs and governments, policymakers, practitioners, businesses, and civil society, ensuring increased participation in climate action. Kenya has committed to integrating WWDs into the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) programme, Uganda will reform policies, and South Sudan will use the framework for awareness and empowerment.

STREVOW is a project implemented by the Centre for Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA) and the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE), with funding from the ACCF.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE STREVOW ANNUAL MAGAZINE

The STREVOW Annual Magazine captures a year of impactful achievements in advancing the participation of WWDs in climate action across Africa. From the launch of the African Alliance of Women with Disabilities in Climate Action (AWAC) to the project's active presence at UNFCCC COP 29, the magazine showcases inspiring stories, innovative tools, and capacity-building initiatives that continue to shape a more inclusive climate agenda.

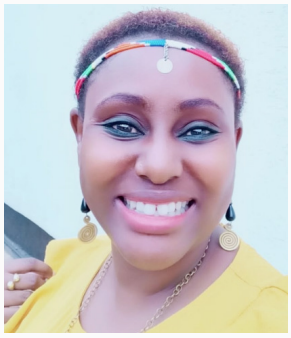
(Read the magazine →)



CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSEPHINE MWATIBO!

Josephine Mwatibo, a passionate disability inclusion advocate whose journey began with the STREVOW project , has been nominated as a Focal Point for the Global Disability Caucus to the UNFCCC COP 30.

At COP 30, she will represent millions of people with disabilities who cannot attend in person or virtually, ensuring that their voices, perspectives, and needs are reflected in global climate discussions. This immense responsibility reflects her passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment to inclusion.



REVIVING SHEA PARKLANDS THROUGH FARMER MANAGED NATURAL REGENERATION

Under the "Towards Climate-Resilient Shea Communities" project implemented in Togo and Burkina Faso, women's cooperatives strengthened their skills in Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) during the third quarter of 2025. This simple yet transformative technique enables communities to restore degraded shea parklands, enhance soil fertility, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

FMNR builds the natural ability of trees to regenerate from existing roots and stumps. Rather than planting new trees, shea tree custodians protect and manage shoots already present in their fields, pruning and guiding them to maturity. This low-cost, climate-smart method enriches biodiversity, restores soil fertility, and strengthens the resilience of farming communities.


Members of women's cooperatives practicing tree regeneration techniques in Burkina Faso.



Group photo after the tree regeneration training in Togo.

In Burkina Faso, eight women's shea cooperatives participated in highly interactive Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions combining theory and field practice. A total of 160 women were trained and went on to replicate the training with 25 others in their communities, reaching about 4,000 women in total. Participants learned to identify viable shea shoots, apply selective pruning, and create firebreaks and protective measures against livestock and drought. Even where young shea trees were absent, women practiced techniques on alternative species, sparking discussions about the urgent need to restore aging and depleted parklands. Over 600 shoots were directly managed during the sessions, with women pledging to transfer their knowledge across their communities.

"We realized that with our own hands and knowledge we can bring life back to our parklands," said Traoré Gnima, Noussondia Cooperative, Burkina Faso.

In Togo, seven women's cooperatives followed the same cascading approach, with 20 women leaders trained in each cooperative, 140 in total, who then passed on their knowledge to 500 members per cooperative, reaching about 3,500 women overall. Beyond pruning and shoot management, participants practiced complementary techniques such as mulching, creating water retention pits, and building protective fences using local materials. Cooperative leaders highlighted the potential of FMNR to ensure a sustainable supply of shea kernels while improving food security through healthier soils and diversified tree cover. ***"FMNR is more than a technique; it is a way to secure both our livelihoods and the future of our children,"*** explained Tchable Kiyome from Lampouuini Women's Cooperative, Togo. The training also reinforced women's leadership in resource management and strengthened community-level structures for monitoring and protection.

The enthusiasm of participants in both countries demonstrated the value of FMNR as a solution grounded in nature and rooted in local knowledge. ***"This training has given us the confidence to teach others in our villages. By restoring trees, we are restoring hope,"*** said Traoré Gnima of Noussondia Cooperative, Burkina Faso. Scaling up these practices is helping to revive shea trees while empowering women as key actors in climate adaptation and shea parkland restoration.

The Global Shea Alliance remains committed to expanding FMNR across shea-growing communities, building landscapes that are productive, resilient, and sustainable for generations to come.

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EMPOWERING WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES TO RESTORE RANGELANDS IN ETHIOPIA



Group photo of members of the new Rangeland Managing Cooperatives in Afar Region, Ethiopia.

Farm Africa, together with the Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHEEC) and the Union of Ethiopian Women and Children Association (UEWCA), achieved important milestones under the project supporting sustainable rangeland management in the Afar Region from July to September 2025.

Three new Rangeland Managing Cooperatives were established in Amibara, Awash Fentale, and Fentale Districts, bringing together 650 members, including 382 women. In a remarkable demonstration of social transformation, women were elected as chairpersons in all three cooperatives. This outcome reflects the project's emphasis on gender inclusion and the positive impact of training and awareness sessions that encouraged shared leadership and equal participation in decision-making.

To promote sustainable land use, the project organized a series of consultative meetings with traditional leaders, community elders, and cooperative members. These discussions focused on participatory rangeland delineation and mapping, helping build consensus on management priorities and ensuring that decisions were locally owned and implemented at the grassroots level.

Following these consultations, 48 executive committee members from the cooperatives were trained on rangeland delineation, preparation of management plans, and cooperative governance. The training emphasized collective decision-making, accountability, and transparency. In parallel, government experts from the Land Administration, Agriculture, and Livestock & Fisheries offices in the three districts were trained on the use of Global Positioning System and Geographic Information System tools for environmental management.

As a direct result of these efforts, community members and government experts jointly delineated the rangeland areas and produced detailed maps that now guide local management practices. Together, the three cooperatives have begun managing a total of 5,672 hectares of rangeland, marking an important step toward sustainable resource management and climate resilience in pastoral communities.



"Before this project, we had no experience with participatory rangeland management. Farm Africa's consultations and awareness sessions helped our community understand and adopt this new approach. Women's participation was prioritized from the start, and I was elected chairperson of our cooperative. More women are now taking leadership roles, and we hope future activities will create livelihood opportunities that increase our income and reduce our workload," said Chali Amedo, Chairperson, Abdi Boru PRMC, Gelcha kebele, Fentale District.

Through this initiative, local institutions have been strengthened, community ownership has been enhanced, and women's leadership in natural resource management has become a powerful driver of change in the Afar Region.

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PIONEERING NDC DIGITAL DATA PLATFORM TO ACCELERATE AFRICA'S CLIMATE ACTION



Prof. Nicholas Ozor, Executive Director of ATPS, moderates a panel discussion during the NDC Regional Policy and Dissemination Workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9th July 2025.

A groundbreaking digital platform designed to track and accelerate climate action across Africa was successfully launched at the NDC Regional Policy Dialogue and Dissemination Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from July 8-9, 2025. The NDC Implementation Tracking Tool is a first-of-its-kind, African-led initiative that provides practical, evidence-based resources to help countries transform their climate ambitions under the Paris Agreement into measurable progress.

Developed by 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), with crucial support from the ACCF, the platform is a key outcome of the project aimed at "Building the Capacity of Selected Sub-Saharan African Countries to Effectively Measure Progress in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)". The tool simplifies complex data across five key NDC components: Governance; Mitigation; Adaptation; Measurement, Reporting & Verification (MRV); and Finance & Technology Transfer. The NDC tool enhances transparency and empowers policymakers with the data needed to make informed decisions for climate action.

Initial findings from the platform are already generating valuable insights, with an early analysis highlighting Ethiopia and Kenya as leaders in climate governance and reporting, and Zimbabwe as a top overall performer across the components.

The initiative's momentum continued at the Africa Climate Summit 2 held at the Addis Ababa International Convention Centre from September 8-10, 2025. On September 8, Prof. Nicholas Ozor, delivered key insights as a panelist at the African Development Bank's Pavilion, where he explored how the NDC Implementation Index strengthens inclusive, evidence-based climate policies for effective climate action. ATPS and its partners hosted a dedicated side event at the Convention Center, further proving the results of the first-ever NDC Implementation Index for Africa. It revealed the performance of beneficiary countries across the different components, thereby enabling monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of NDCs as set by the respective countries. During the high-level policy and stakeholders' engagement, the participants drawn from the different stakeholder categories, such as government, researchers/ academia, civil society, the private sector, and the media, were very enthusiastic, underscoring the platform's significance, fostering a future where data-driven governance and regional collaboration are driving Africa's response to the climate crisis.

For more information, please contact:

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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/

STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH GENDER-SENSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE ACTION

The "Strengthening climate resilience through enhanced capacity of individuals, communities, and institutions for the development and implementation of gender-sensitive climate adaptation actions using innovative and participatory approaches," project implemented by the UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office achieved key milestones between July and September 2025. From South Sudan, Madagascar, and Kenya, the project continues to connect climate resilience, gender equality, and youth empowerment, ensuring that communities are better equipped to adapt to a changing climate while safeguarding human rights and inclusion.

1. SOUTH SUDAN PUBLISHES VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT SHOWING 50% INCREASE IN GBV IN CLIMATE-AFFECTED AREAS SOUTH

UNFPA, in partnership with the Sudd Institute and the National Bureau of Statistics, with support from the Government of Japan and the ACCF, conducted a vulnerability assessment on the impact of climate change on gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence (GBV) in South Sudan.



The assessment, which was conducted in Malakal, Kapoeta South, and Rubkona, revealed that 50% of respondents reported an increase in GBV in climate-affected areas, with droughts identified as the strongest predictor of violence. Seventy-two percent of women reported facing GBV while fetching water or firewood in climate-stressed areas.

"Most often, girls not attending school are expected and forced to marry. Child or Forced Marriage is seen as the solution to alleviate the family's poverty, especially during flooding," said Tutchar, a 39-year-old widow from Rubkona.

The study also found that heatwaves and floods disrupted maternity services and schooling, further exposing women and girls to harmful practices such as early marriage and child labor. The report highlights urgent recommendations, including expanding GBV response services in displacement settings, strengthening women's economic empowerment through financial inclusion, integrating gender-responsive climate policies into national development plans, and investing in climate-resilient healthcare systems to safeguard SRH services.

The report serves as a strong evidence and advocacy tool to influence gender-responsive national climate policies, including South Sudan's NDC 3.0 and National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

Read the report:
https://esaro.unfpa.org/en/publications/vulnerability-assessment-impact-climate-change-gender-equality-sexual-and-reproductive

2. MADAGASCAR PUTS YOUTH AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE ACTION: PAVING THE WAY FOR NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDC 3.0) AHEAD OF COP30



Group photo from the national youth consultations in Antsahavola, Madagascar, held to inform NDC 3.0 ahead of COP30.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), with support from the ACCF, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the AIKA Alliance, launched a series of national youth consultations to inform Madagascar's third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) ahead of COP30.

The initiative, officially launched at a press conference on 25 July 2025 in Antsahavola, aims to involve young people who make up nearly 70% of Madagascar's population in shaping the country's climate agenda. Over 200 youth from 22 regions took part in regional consultations held in Toamasina, Toliara, Diego and Mahajanga, where they discussed local climate challenges and co-created community-based solutions.

"Young people will inherit the world we are shaping today. This fact confirms the importance of their engagement and active participation in designing climate policies," said Max Andonirina Fontaine, Minister of Environment.

"It is crucial that the 70% of the population who are young are fully involved in this dialogue. Youth and women, often the most affected by climate change, are also a source of innovation and solutions," said Arlette Rahajarijaona, Director General of Youth.

"Youth represent a vital human capital for sustainable development in Madagascar," emphasized Christine Jaulmes, UNFPA Resident Representative, together with Ngoy Kishimba, Deputy Representative.

The outcomes of these consultations will feed into Madagascar's national position for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, ensuring that youth perspectives and solutions are fully reflected in climate policy and the implementation of NDC 3.0.

3. AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES ON CLIMATE ACTION AND HEALTH RIGHTS IN KENYA



Group photo from the JKP Economic Bloc Youth Conference on Health and Climate Action in Kilifi County, Kenya

UNFPA, in partnership with the ALIN's Oxfam IBIS Project, Natural Justice, LCOY Kenya 2025, and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, hosted the Jumuia ya Kaunti za Pwani (JKP) Economic Bloc Youth Conference on Health and Climate Action in Kilifi County from 25 to 28 August 2025. Supported by ACCF, the conference brought together 40 youth from Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Taita Taveta, and Tana River to discuss the intersection of climate change, health, and gender.

The event focused on enhancing youth engagement in climate change policy processes and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), while addressing barriers to climate financing and youth inclusion. Participants explored Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP 2023–2027) and proposed youth-led solutions for gender-responsive, inclusive climate policies.

"***What stood out most for me was that the conversation at this conference did not shy away from these hard truths. We talked about SRHR, GBV, and harmful practices, and how they intersect with climate policies. For young people, this knowledge is crucial. We must design climate responses that are inclusive, gender-responsive, and protective of rights,***" said Leshan Kereto.

"***I walked away reminded that youth are not just beneficiaries but key actors in shaping climate solutions, and that true progress will come when policy, gender equity, financing, and innovation are woven together for collective impact,***" added Ashelyna Kazungu.

The conference concluded with recommendations for youth innovation hubs, climate education, and increased access to climate finance, reinforcing the vital role of young people in linking climate action, health, and human rights.

4. COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION FOR EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION



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

Climate change is intensifying existing inequalities, making young people, especially girls, more vulnerable to negative health outcomes. Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) offers a powerful, evidence-based intervention that equips youth with knowledge, skills, and values to make informed decisions, promote gender equality, build resilience, and understand climate change impacts.

To respond to these challenges, UNFPA Kenya, with support from the ACCF trained 30 youth(15 young women as trainers on the intersection between climate change and CSE. The initiative empowered participants to understand climate change's impact on health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and to identify actions to minimize harm.

"*Climate action must integrate reproductive justice. Climate policies cannot only be about reducing emissions, they must also be about building resilience in ways that protect human rights*," said Norah Nyadzua, a climate change youth champion.

The four-day training used learner-centred participatory methodologies to explore foundational CSE concepts, review implementation approaches, and dispel common myths and misconceptions. Participants reflected on how healthy living and bodily autonomy are linked to climate resilience and made personal commitments to center reproductive justice within climate action.

"*True climate action demands intersectionality. We cannot claim to be building a sustainable future while ignoring the bodily autonomy and health of half the population. Reproductive justice is climate justice. And climate justice will only be achieved when everyone regardless of gender, age, or background has the freedom, resources, and rights to thrive in a changing world*," Norah asserted.

The youth also gained advocacy and facilitation skills, learning how to train their peers and promote inclusive climate education.

"As Youth Dare Initiative, and as a youth voice from Kilifi County, I carry these lessons with pride. This journey is not just about knowledge, but about sharpening our ability to act, to connect climate change with health, gender, and equity, and to turn awareness into solutions," pledged Edwin Kiritu, leader of the Youth DARE Initiative.

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VOICES OF ACCF #2: EMILE BELA KOUAKOU: DRIVING SUCCESSFUL CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH HANDS-ON SUPPORT

"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.

Emile Bela Kouakou is an International Development Program Management Specialist with a strong background in project management methodologies in the areas of governance (Economic, Social and Political), Migration and Regional Integration and sustainable development (climate finance). Emile has 10 years of experience working with international organizations, including Civil Society Organizations, Development Cooperation Agencies and Multilateral Development Banks such as the African Development Bank, where he currently serves as a Programme Officer for the ACCF, coordinating programs in the Southern, Eastern and Central Africa Regions.



You are on the front line of project implementation. In your view, what are the key factors behind the success of an ACCF-supported project?

At the ACCF secretariat, we strongly believe that every single dollar counts and must be utilized in strict compliance with the Bank's rules and procedures for procurement and disbursement in the utmost interest of the target beneficiaries. Success of Executing Agencies (EAs) is our shared success. We have adopted a unique approach that has proved effective and efficient, providing consistent desk support and occasional field supervision to EAs at all levels of implementation.

At the start of the project, we have a launch session to review the scope, expected outcomes, timeline, and budget. We also review the Grant Agreement to ensure common understanding and address questions from grantees. Most importantly, we take the Project Implementation Units through the Bank and ACCF's requirements on procurement, disbursement, and reporting. These efforts help us navigate potential hurdles and anticipate challenges that may cause delay or failure. For us, it is not just about ticking the box to execute a project but an opportunity to build the technical and institutional capacities of our grantees and ensure projects achieve their objectives. So far, feedback from our grantees and the target populations during our field visits confirms that ACCF's support is more than helpful to the success of the projects.

The ACCF operates in very diverse contexts across Africa. How does the team ensure that each project remains well adapted to local realities?

ACCF's funding approach is mainly through competitive calls for proposals. Projects originate from entities who know and understand local realities. Before approving funds, we assess the relevance of projects against their objectives and alignment with national priorities as outlined in the Nationally Determined Contribution and climate agenda, as well as with the Bank's country strategy. We also ensure that projects have strong endorsement from local authorities and buy-in from target communities.



Emille Kouakou and partners during a supervision mission in Uganda.

Constant monitoring, both desk and in-person, enables us to verify the practicality of what was proposed and make recommendations about where improvements are needed.

You have been part of the Fund since 2018. How have you seen the collaboration between the ACCF, its partners, and beneficiaries evolve over the years?

ACCF has come a long way since its inception in 2014. From a bilateral fund with a single donor, it has now grown to nine donors, eight of whom are currently active. When I joined in 2018, the Fund had only three donors, namely GIZ, Flanders (Belgium), and Italy. Today, several have renewed their commitments with additional funding, and we have also seen an increasing demand from potential beneficiaries through the growing number of applications to ACCF calls for proposals.

At that time, the first generation of ACCF-funded projects was still ongoing and the annual progress report reports focused mainly on climate finance readiness activities such as capacity building, workshops, and concept note development. These early initiatives were essential in laying the foundation for the tangible results we are now witnessing. Today, we can proudly showcase measurable outcomes and impactful stories from countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Benin, illustrating how ACCF's financing has improved the lives of thousands of women and youth in rural communities across Africa. While we continue to celebrate our humble beginnings, it is important to acknowledge the remarkable progress achieved, which confirms the Trust Fund's role as a truly catalytic mechanism supporting African countries in their climate ambitions.

With over 30 approved projects and 11 years of existence, what is your personal wish for the future of the ACCF and its impact on the continent?

My best experience working with ACCF goes beyond office work from Abidjan. It is the incredible memories I have built from the field engaging with direct beneficiaries. It is so rewarding to hear their stories and how the Fund contributes to improving their lives. Anyone who knows ACCF's work can only hope for a positive future for the Fund. Personally, I strongly hope that ACCF grows beyond its current size with more donors, more funding, more projects, and more lives transformed positively. My utmost wish is for ACCF to become a special initiative, such as SEFA, which was almost similar to ACCF back in 2017–2018 but has impressively expanded due to the great work done.

Any time you meet beneficiaries in the field, they have the same message: what you have done is good but too small to significantly and sustainably change the lives of populations. We call on the African Development Bank to do more for more impact. This is the message we bring back from the field visits, from Tadjoura in Djibouti to Mocubela in Mozambique, from Kotido in Uganda to Nyagatare in Rwanda. Of course, there will never be enough funds to address all needs, but I strongly wish ACCF will grow to reach more people affected by the impacts of climate change from different regions across Africa.

OUR DONORS



A group of palm trees in the desert landscape in Dafenaytou, Djibouti, ©ACCF 2025



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