

PROJECT

Building the Capacity of Selected Sub-Saharan African Countries to Effectively Measure Progress in their Nationally Determined Contributions' Implementation Using Tracking Tools and Indexes

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AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

AFRICAN TECHNOLOGY POLICY STUDIES NETWORK

PACJA
PANAFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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Background

Increased global temperatures have a positive correlation with increased impacts on the environment and livelihoods as prevalently being experienced on the African continent. These increases have brought about negative effects such as increased intensity of precipitation and drought on the continent, biodiversity loss and extinction, sea level rise and reduced glaciers on mountains among other socioeconomic effects. The rapid population growth in the region further complicates matters due to increased food demand. The severe droughts and rainfall in some areas have led to food insecurity hence hindering the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 2 targets of the United Nations by the year 2030.

To address these issues, ATPS and its partners through funding from the AfDB's ACCF facility initiated and implemented a project to build the capacity of focal persons/champions in twelve selected SSA countries to effectively measure their NDCs implementation progress using the tracking tools and Indexes. An NDC implementation index was developed to provide the first-ever ranking of countries on their NDCs implementation as well as offer the base for comparisons between and among countries/regions. Overall effect was to spur healthy competition and overall compliance with the Paris Agreement. The interventions implemented were in line with the global UNFCCC's Transparency, Accuracy, Comparability, Consistent and Completeness (TACCC) framework and the ETF of the Paris Agreement that took off in 2024. The three-year project was successfully implemented.

The goal of the project was to have SSA countries successfully implement their NDCs and progressively increasing their NDC ambitions in compliance with the Paris Agreement. This was achieved through both capacity development and policy and practice interventions. Six (6) focal persons and climate change champions were identified in each of the target countries and trained as Trainers of Trainers (ToT) on how to collect data, use it to develop indexes and deploy the indexes to facilitate informed decision-making and interventions.



Key Activities

01

Conducting initial and updated key stakeholder mapping analysis around climate change and NDC implementation & identifying 6 focal persons and climate change champions in each participating country.

Activity led to a stakeholder report cataloguing key actors in each of the countries, their roles, linkages, power and influence in climate change and NDC implementation



02

Developing a Training of Trainers Training Manual- for the training with detailed facilitators notes.

The Training Manual was the main reference capacity building educational material was applied in all the 12 participating countries.

03

ToT training and Stocktake/Refresher workshop of the selected focal persons and climate change champions

The training was conducted on the use of NDC implementation tracking tools.

04 Sensitization workshops conducted on the project and NDC implementation

To increase stakeholder buy in and ownership of the project across the 12 countries.



05 Working with the trained focal persons and climate change champions to collect NDC relevant data

Country indexes were developed and country ranking of target countries was initiated.

06 Working with focal persons and climate change champions to developed country specific indexes

Ranked country NDC Indexes Disaggregated by the 5 components and twelve policy briefs (one per country).





07

Organized a 2-day Regional Policy Dialogue and Dissemination workshop

Brought together high-profile decision-makers across the target countries, targeting different stakeholder categories and key sectors to discuss pertinent issues relating to the Paris Agreement

08

Developed and published knowledge products

Research papers, communication materials, Policy Briefs, Communique

09

Developed and hosted an annually updated NDC index online

Online NDC index launched

10

Participated in an International/global NDC Side event to disseminate project findings

The African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) side event.



Key Achievements

- All the 12 countries met their NDC targets and are all transitioning from NDC 2.0 to NDC 3.0.
- 72 focal persons/climate champions (6 per country) were identified, trained directly, consisting of 28 women (38.9%) and 44 men (61.1%) in the 12 participating countries.
- 12 commitment letters and MoUs signed with government NDC focal points
- 1 online NDC Implementation Index is launched and live, being used by stakeholders. It can be accessed at: https://atps-ndcindex.africa/
- 41 stakeholder meetings held with government officials across the 12 countries. The number of men and women varied by country, but the 1/3 gender threshold was consistently observed.
- 3 regional sensitization workshops and 356 people per country sensitized. 136 were women, representing 38%.
- 1 regional policy dialogue and dissemination workshop conducted





- 29 knowledge products produced (13 policy briefs, 12 Stakeholder analysis reports, 1 Journal Paper, Workshop proceedings, and a Training Manual)
- 12 national institutions actively contributing data to the NDC index
- 12 countries with dedicated staff for maintaining and updating the NDC tools
- 45 focal persons/climate champions participated in data collection. 27 of them were women.
- 12 countries and regional bodies formally endorsing the use of the NDC index tool
- 1 online NDC Implementation Index is launched and live, being used by stakeholders. It can be accessed at: https://atps-ndcindex.africa/
- 3 joint regional initiatives incorporating the NDC index



Good Practices

1. The online NDC Index platform is sustainable and will be maintained and regularly updated beyond the project's completion to share the NDC indices and support the development of NDC 3.0.

2. The acceptance by 12 countries to Integrate country-level NDC processes into overall national development plans/strategies and budgetary allocations will lead to sustainability.

3. Engagement of all relevant and key stakeholders including non-state actors, private-sector players, civil society teams, academia, and other independent actors to support and streamline the data collection process was critical for national level project buy-in.



Lessons learned

- Potential for project scalability as it stands out as the only Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) initiative focused on the NDC Index that combines progress assessment with capacity building.
- Government buy-in critical for project success. Half of the trained climate champions were government civil servants, which facilitated data collection due to their access to official information.
- Process of data collection is intensive and expensive. Allocating sufficient funds is important because the data collection approaches used were constrained by the limited budget.
- Structured NDC 3.0 consultation process is multi-stakeholder-led and more successful.
- Political instability (in some countries) is a threat to long-term NDC processes: In some countries, competing short-term development priorities driven by political and economic challenges risk diverting attention and resources away from NDC implementation and long-term climate planning.



Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries

A total of 85 people consisting of 40% women were directly involved in the project, and trained on NDC tracking tools and index updates. These were focal persons/climate champions that were identified and trained.

- Government ministries, agencies and departments
- Non-Governmental Organizations/ Civil Society Organizations
- Private sector
- Research/Academia (universities and
- International research organizations

Indirect beneficiaries

A total of 4,272 people/stakeholders sensitised in the 12 countries at the rate of 356 persons per country.

Gender Breakdown

Among the participants:

Women – 39% of total participants

Youth – 28% of total participants



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