NEWSLETTER

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



MESSAGE FROM GARETH PHILLIPS
MANAGER, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT FINANCE DIVISION

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) newsletter of the year. In 2026, we remain committed to advancing inclusive, locally grounded, and impactful climate action across Africa. This issue highlights key milestones and progress across our portfolio, from the launch of new initiatives to results emerging from ongoing projects.

In Senegal, we feature a new project on sustainable plastic recycling for climate resilience, demonstrating how environmental action can also drive job creation and women's empowerment. We also share updates from the Fourth Call for Proposals, marking an important step forward in advancing gender-transformative methane reduction across the continent.

Stories from Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, as well as Togo and Burkina Faso, illustrate how ACCF-supported initiatives are strengthening resilience on the ground. From climate-smart agriculture and clean energy solutions to livelihood diversification and local governance, these efforts show how empowering women, youth, and communities drives sustainable impact.

At the policy level, we highlight progress in shaping more inclusive climate strategies. In Madagascar and Mozambique, consultations on NDC 3.0 reflect a growing focus on integrating gender equality, health, and social inclusion into national climate planning. We also feature the recognition of the Disability Caucus under the UN climate framework, a key milestone for inclusive climate governance.

Finally, through our "Voices of ACCF" series, we continue to amplify perspectives from across the continent, showcasing how youth-led innovation and partnerships are contributing to climate-smart solutions.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Happy reading!

NEW PROJECT LAUNCH: SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC RECYCLING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN KAOLACK, SENEGAL



In March, the project led by the National Company for Integrated Waste Management (SONAGED) was officially launched under the Third Call for Proposals of the Africa Climate Change Fund. The initiative focuses on plastic waste collection and recycling as a lever for community climate resilience in Kaolack, Senegal.

The project aims to improve the living conditions of Kaolack's residents, particularly women, who are disproportionately affected by climate-induced flooding. A women-led facility will be established to collect and recycle plastic waste and produce building materials for rapid infrastructure reconstruction after floods.

In addition to strengthening climate resilience, the project is expected to create at least 5,000 green jobs, with 80% allocated to women, along with over 100 direct and indirect jobs throughout its implementation.

With a grant of USD 700,000 from the ACCF, this project illustrates how climate action and gender empowerment can be mutually reinforcing.

FOURTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS: KEY UPDATES



The ACCF's Fourth Call for Proposals (CFP4), focused on Gender-Transformative Methane Reduction, has reached an exciting milestone. A total of 15 projects has been shortlisted across 17 countries, spanning all five sub-regions of Africa. These projects are requesting USD 10.42 million in funding, complemented by USD 3.93 million in co-financing.

The shortlisted initiatives cover a wide range of sectors, including climate-smart agriculture, rice production, livestock management, solid waste and wastewater management, and waste-to-energy solutions such as biogas production. Importantly, CFP4 places people at the center, empowering women, men, and youth through mitigation technologies and innovative practices to reduce methane emissions across agriculture, waste management, and the oil and gas sector.

In the coming year, shortlisted projects will go through a review process to ensure their financial soundness and alignment with the ACCF's standards, before being submitted to the Governing Committees for final approval.

Beyond the 15 shortlisted projects, the ACCF also maintains a pipeline of 30 additional initiatives, earmarked for future resource mobilization to sustain momentum in climate action across the continent.

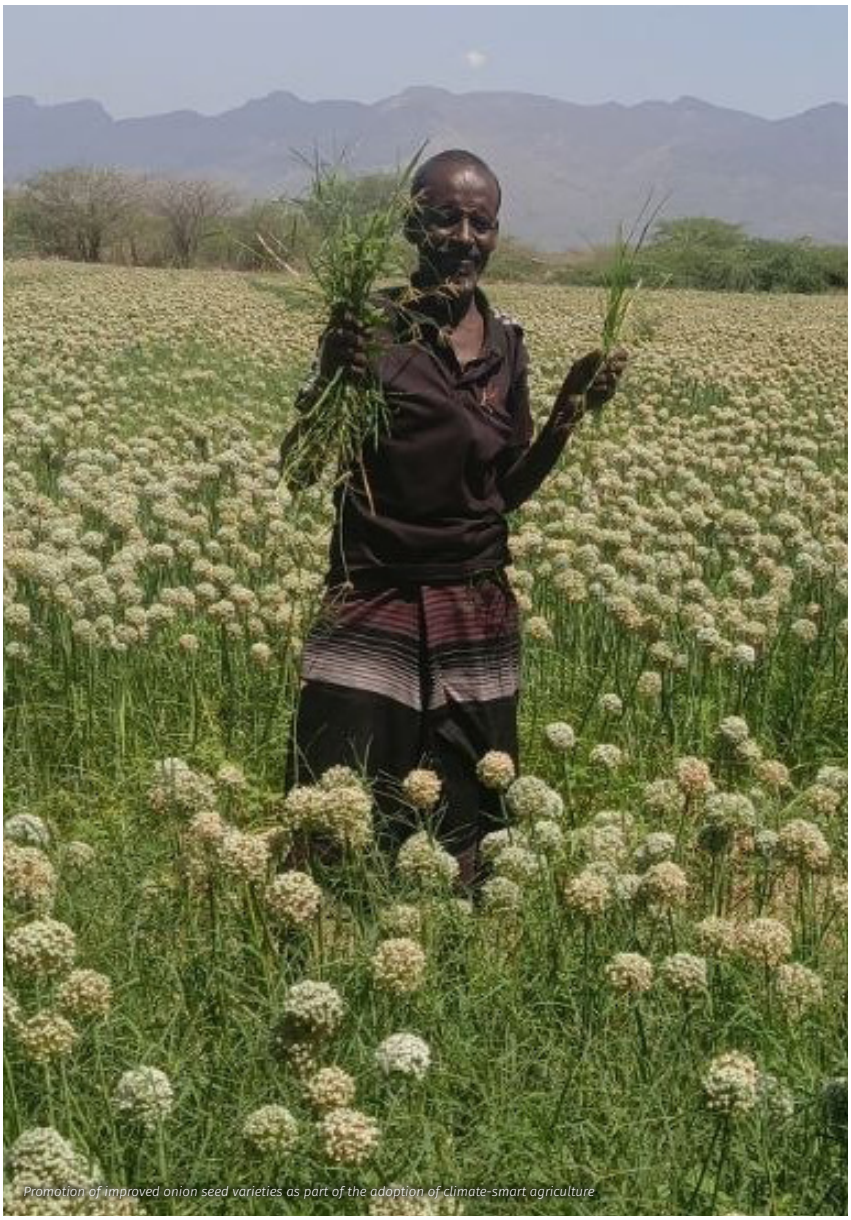
GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN AFAR AND OROMIA REGIONAL STATES, ETHIOPIA

PROMOTION OF IMPROVED ONION SEED VARIETIES

The Gender Transformation and Climate Resilience project in Afar and Oromia has established seven irrigation groups comprising a total of 159 members, including 103 women, thereby strengthening community level adoption of climate smart agriculture practices. Each group was equipped with a surface solar irrigation pump, and all seven pumps have now been fully installed, commissioned and are operational. This has enabled reliable, clean energy powered irrigation, reducing dependence on expensive fuels while increasing year round agricultural productivity.

Beyond providing clean and reliable energy, these solar pumps are delivering measurable social and economic impact. They directly benefit seven formal community groups, reaching 159 members, 65 percent of whom are women. In the current season, 43 hectares of land have been prepared for irrigation, supporting improved agricultural productivity and more resilient livelihoods.

By reducing the time and physical labour associated with water collection and irrigation, the pumps are helping to advance gender equality. They create pathways for women's leadership and economic empowerment, while contributing to the transformation of gender biased social norms and strengthening climate resilience at the community level.



Promotion of improved onion seed varieties as part of the adoption of climate-smart agriculture

The project strengthened irrigation groups through training, mentoring and access to improved seeds, enabling full adoption of climate smart agriculture. As a result, all groups now practice climate smart agriculture, with 43 hectares under improved seeds, including fruit, vegetable and crop production. When combined with gender transformative approaches, these efforts significantly enhance climate resilience while advancing gender equality.



Irrigation pepper production cluster as CSA

INTEGRATED SOLAR IRRIGATION AND FISH FARMING FOR ENHANCED FOOD AND NUTRITION, INCOME AND RESILIENCE

To further enhance food and nutrition security, income generation and climate resilience, four of the seven irrigation groups have adopted an integrated approach combining solar powered irrigation with fish farming. This represents a pioneering initiative, introducing a system that integrates water management and aquaculture. The project is currently supporting the final preparatory stage, including the introduction of fingerlings into the ponds.

This integrated system is expected to increase productivity and resource efficiency by maximizing the use of available water. It provides households with an additional source of income and nutrition through fish production. This model could serve as a scalable and replicable approach for other communities seeking to strengthen resilience, improve food security and diversify livelihoods in similar agro ecological contexts.



Caption

WOMEN-LED MILK PROCESSING AND MARKETING ENTERPRISE


Caption

The project has successfully established and supported five milk processing and marketing enterprises, employing 41 women and strengthening women's economic participation. By providing essential dairy equipment, such as cooling systems, cream separators, and butter churners, the project has created community-owned, market-oriented milk processing hubs. These hubs enable the transformation of raw camel and cow milk into higher-value, shelf-stable products, highly reducing post-harvest losses.

The women-led groups are now actively collecting and processing milk, shifting from the sale of highly perishable raw milk to diversified products including pasteurised milk, yoghurt, butter, and cream. This transition enhances income stability and market access for pastoral households while building resilience to climate-related shocks. It also promotes women's economic empowerment, strengthens local value chains, and contributes to improved food security and nutrition through increased availability of safe, processed dairy products.

TRAINING AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS (CAHWS)



Caption

The project facilitated training for community animal health workers in collaboration with the Woredas Livestock Development Office. The 15 day training was provided to 9 individuals, 5 women and 4 men, selected from four intervention kebeles in two pastoralist woredas, Amibara and Awash Fentale, and was delivered by a certified trainer. Furthermore, the project supplied community animal health workers with kits and veterinary medicines to enable them to deliver effective animal health services in their respective woredas and kebeles. This support strengthens local animal health systems and improves timely access to veterinary services for pastoralist communities, thereby enhancing livestock productivity and resilience.

These trained community animal health workers are now providing veterinary services in areas not covered by government services. They receive a service fee to ensure the sustainability of this model. Over the past two months, they have treated 3,452 cattle belonging to 218 people.

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FROM SHEA TO HONEY: HOW BEEKEEPING IS SWEETENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN TOGO AND BURKINA FASO



Caption: Beneficiary Minata and her peers during a beekeeping training.

In the sprawling shea parklands of Togo and Burkina Faso, a transformation is taking place. Women who have spent generations collecting and transforming shea fruits into kernels and butter are now embracing a new role: guardians of the bees.

Traoré Minata is a co-operative leader from the Noussondia Co-operative in Burkina Faso, a beneficiary of the "Towards Climate Resilient Shea Communities in Togo and Burkina Faso" project implemented by the Global Shea Alliance. From April to May 2025, Minata and her peers received training and coaching in beekeeping and were provided with the equipment to produce honey and its by-products. By placing hives at the foot of the trees, women's co-operatives have created a natural alliance. The bees pollinate the shea blossoms, ensuring better kernel yields, while the trees provide the bees with shelter and high-quality nectar. "We have learned that protecting the bee means protecting the tree. By caring for our hives, we are safeguarding our shea parklands. The climate is changing, but our community is growing stronger through this partnership with nature," Minata explained.

FIGURES THAT SING!

Among the key results, Minata's co-operative produced 50 liters of shea honey and 100 kg of honey cake between November 2025 and March 2026. Honey cake is a mixture of honey and wax that remains after extracting the honey from the hives. Each liter of pure honey is sold between $5 and $10 USD, while 1 kg of honey cake costs $1.50 USD. "Before this project, we only had the shea harvest. Today, with the honey, our income never sleeps. Every liter sold is a promise of school fees for our children and a more secure home for our families," Minata said. Similar to her co-operative, throughout the project, honey is becoming "liquid gold" that shields rural households from climate shocks. Four other pioneering co-operatives have extracted 159 liters of pure honey from their first harvest. "With the new equipment and training, we are no longer just shea collectors, we are professionals. It's just the beginning, as we now have the tools to build our own future," a member of a co-operative in Togo told us.

Beyond the figures, the deepest impact is perhaps the one you cannot see: to protect their bees, these communities have become the primary guardians of the forest. Bushfires are decreasing, and illegal logging is retreating. These women are no longer just beneficiaries; they are the leaders of a successful ecological transition. "Before, we waited for nature to give to us. Today, with the bees, we are co-creating with nature," Minata concluded.

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WITNESSING HOPE IN THE FIELDS, SMALLHOLDER FARMERS ADVANCING CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE IN EASTERN RWANDA

In the Eastern Province of Rwanda, smallholder farmers are turning modest support into tangible progress, adopting climate smart agriculture practices that are already transforming their fields and livelihoods.

These efforts are being supported under the project "Promoting climate smart agriculture for improved rural livelihoods and climate resiliency in the climate vulnerable Eastern Province of Rwanda."

Through a targeted call for applications, 37 farmers and 5 cooperatives were awarded small grants to implement climate smart agriculture activities at the household level. Each farmer received 500,000 Rwandan francs, approximately $345, while cooperatives received 1,000,000 francs, approximately $690. Women represented 64 percent of the individual beneficiaries, reflecting the project's commitment to inclusive climate action.

From 18 to 28 February 2026, the project team visited all grant recipients to assess progress on the ground. The visits highlighted strong adoption of sustainable practices and a growing sense of ownership among farmers.


Dieudonne Mutsinzi, 22 years, on his farm.

At just 22 years old, Mutsinzi Dieudonne is already demonstrating what climate smart agriculture can look like in practice. On his one hectare plot, he has strategically combined tomatoes, passion fruit, maize and banana to maximize yields while preserving soil health. Using organic farming methods, he is reducing his environmental footprint while building a more resilient production system.

Beyond his own farm, Dieudonne is also supporting others. He is currently training 25 young people in his village on sustainable agriculture and has participated in local youth competitions to showcase his approach. His efforts recently earned him first place in the "Gera ku ntego" business competition organized by DOT Rwanda and the Mastercard Foundation.

For Musabyimana Jaqueline, the grant has helped accelerate a family effort already rooted in resilience. A mother of six, she works alongside her husband on their 1.5-hectare farm, where they have planted more than 200 fruit trees, including mango, lemon, papaya and avocado.

What began as a small initiative at the start of the project is now steadily growing. The family has started harvesting oranges and lemons for home consumption, an early sign of the long-term benefits of diversified and climate resilient farming.

Together, these stories reflect a broader shift across the province, where small investments are enabling farmers to adapt, innovate and build more sustainable futures.


The project team and Musabyimana Jaqueline, together with her family (Jaqueline is wearing a headwrap).

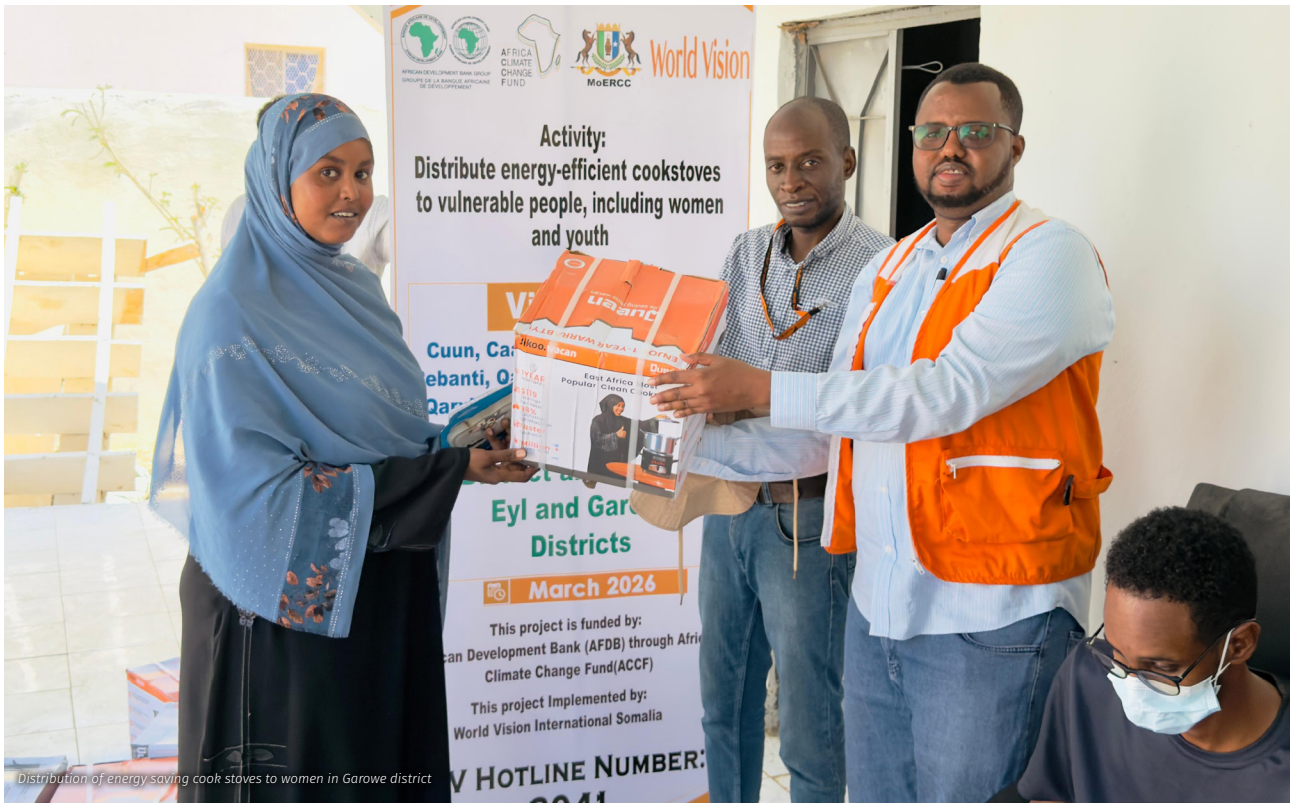
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INCLUSIVE RESILIENCE IN ACTION: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN PUNTLAND, SOMALIA



Distribution of energy saving cook stoves to women in Garowe district

In Puntland, Somalia, communities are taking the lead in building resilience to climate change, with women and youth at the center of locally driven solutions.

Implemented by World Vision Somalia, the project "Inclusive Resilience of Vulnerable Households, Especially Women and Youth, in Puntland, Somalia, in the Face of Climate Change" is strengthening community led adaptation while restoring ecosystems and improving livelihoods in the climate vulnerable districts of Eyl and Garowe.

Between January and April 2026, the project delivered a series of integrated interventions designed to address climate related challenges, including land degradation, weak natural resource governance and limited community awareness, while aligning with Somalia's national priorities on climate resilience and sustainable development.

COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION AND EDUCATION ON LAND RESTORATION BYLAWS

Community awareness campaigns were carried out in ten villages across Garowe and Eyl districts, reaching 1,000 people. These efforts helped communities understand and support newly established bylaws designed to protect restoration sites and regenerate degraded land.


Community sensitization on NRM

FORMATION AND TRAINING OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM) COMMITTEES AND DEVELOPMENT, HARMONIZATION AND FORMALIZATION OF COMMUNITY LAND RESTORATION BYLAWS

Following community sensitization, ten NRM committees were established and trained. These committees led the development of community bylaws on environmental protection and land regeneration across the ten target villages. With support from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, these bylaws were aligned with national frameworks and can now be enforced, strengthening local governance of natural resources.



DRR awareness messaging for child-led DRR clubs in schools

TRAINING OF AGRO-PASTORAL FIELD SCHOOL FACILITATORS

Fifty agro pastoral facilitators were trained and went on to establish ten farmer field schools, one in each village. Each group, composed of twenty-five members, brings together a total of 500 participants, strengthening knowledge transfer and adoption of sustainable agro pastoral practices.

DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY SAVING COOKING STOVES

A total of 330 energy saving cooking stoves were distributed to households across the ten target villages. These stoves reduce carbon emissions by up to 60 percent and cut charcoal consumption by half, while also generating estimated savings of 119 US dollars per household per year. For many families, this means lower expenses, reduced pressure on natural resources, and improved daily living conditions.

ESTABLISHMENT AND TRAINING OF VSLAS

Twenty Village Savings and Loan Association groups were established across the ten villages, each composed of twenty-five members. Through financial literacy training and collective savings, participants are now able to invest in income-generating activities and strengthen their economic resilience.

For many women, these groups are more than savings platforms, they are spaces for decision making, leadership and economic independence.

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FROM TRAINING TO INVESTMENT: STRENGTHENING CLIMATE FINANCE CAPACITY IN ETHIOPIA



Participants and facilitators during the Climate Finance training in Adama, Ethiopia

From January to March 2026, the African Development Bank, through its Africa NDC Hub and with support from the Africa Climate Change Fund, supported Ethiopia in strengthening its capacity to access climate finance and develop bankable projects aligned with national priorities.

A three-day Climate Finance and Proposal Development training was held in Adama from 21 to 23 January 2026, bringing together 32 experts from key federal institutions. The sessions focused on climate finance architecture, funding opportunities and proposal development processes, equipping participants with practical tools to navigate complex financing mechanisms and mobilise resources in support of Ethiopia's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Opening the workshop, Dr Benti Firdisa from the Ministry of Planning and Development described the initiative as critical to accelerating climate project development across Ethiopia's public sector, highlighting the importance of strong national ownership and partnerships.

The Bank's Officer-in-Charge and Country Manager for Ethiopia, Mr Nathaniel Agola, emphasized that the programme marks an important step in strengthening Ethiopia's climate and development pathway. He noted that the training is part of a broader ACCF-financed regional project supporting NDC implementation and building pipelines of credible climate investments across multiple countries.

Participants engaged in hands-on sessions covering project identification, prioritisation, preparation of concept notes and funding proposals, and alignment with climate fund requirements. Coming from a wide range of sectors, including planning, health, energy, agriculture, and infrastructure, they reflected the cross-sectoral nature of climate action.

Building on this momentum, a follow-on write-shop was held in Bishoftu from 24 to 26 March 2026, enabling participants to develop concrete project concept notes aligned with funding opportunities.

At the close of the workshop, government officials highlighted that the training would strengthen institutional readiness to attract climate finance and better integrate climate objectives into national development planning. Participants received certificates of participation.

Together, these efforts are contributing to Ethiopia's climate finance readiness by strengthening institutional capacity and supporting the development of a pipeline of investment-ready projects.

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MADAGASCAR'S BOLD VISION: PIONEERING A GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE NDC 3.0 FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

In a significant step toward systemic climate reform, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Population, and UNFPA, through the ACCF-funded Resilient Futures project, convened a sectoral consultation on 13 February 2026 in Antananarivo. Bringing together more than 40 key stakeholders, the consultation marked an important shift in Madagascar's climate strategy, placing gender equality at the core of its third Nationally Determined Contribution.

The objective is to move beyond compliance toward a truly transformative approach that addresses the root causes of inequality and ensures that climate action effectively reaches the most vulnerable populations.



UNFPA Madagascar / 2026: Participants at the National Consultation on the Integration of Gender into NDC 3.0 in Antananarivo in February 2026

A CRISIS OF INTERSECTIONAL VULNERABILITY

Madagascar remains highly exposed to climate shocks, having experienced 47 tropical storms since 2000. Prolonged droughts in the Grand Sud have left 1.22 million people facing chronic food insecurity, while recurrent "Tiomena" red sandstorms continue to affect livelihoods and health.

An ongoing climate vulnerability assessment under the Resilient Futures project shows that these shocks amplify existing inequalities. For adolescent girls, displacement and food insecurity often lead to harmful coping mechanisms, including early marriage. At the same time, gender-based violence tends to increase following climate crises, while disruptions to supply chains limit access to essential services. Marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities and vulnerable communities communities, face additional barriers, as early warning systems and shelters are often not inclusive.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR A GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURE

The roadmap also prioritizes the financial and technical aspects of climate resilience through Gender-Sensitive Budgeting (GSB) and Technical Intersectoral Integration. By generalizing "gender tagging" across climate portfolios and establishing a dedicated "basket fund", the government intends to break down financial silos that have historically marginalized gender-focused initiatives. Furthermore, the strategy recognizes the urgent need to bridge the gender gap in the green economy, where women currently hold only 32% of jobs in the renewable energy sector. Through targeted STEM training and capacity building, the NDC 3.0 will prioritize women's leadership in infrastructure and renewable energy projects. Finally, the pillar of Local Knowledge and Sovereignty emphasizes the vital role of women in agroecology and the protection of indigenous seeds, working in close partnership with local actors like FARM and ONG TANY IFANDOVANA to honor and scale traditional sustainable practices.



UNFPA Madagascar / 2026: Speakers at the National Consultation on the Integration of Gender into NDC 3.0 in Antananarivo in February 2026

FROM COMMITMENT TO CONCRETE ACTION

The consensus emerging from Antananarivo is clear: a "gender-blind" climate response is a strategic failure that ignores the lived realities of over half the population. Despite a significant humanitarian funding deficit of $125.1 million, Madagascar is committed to transforming these high-level commitments into measurable, trackable actions. By defining clear indicators and allocating dedicated budgets, the country is positioning women not merely as beneficiaries, but as the primary agents of climate solutions. As the government prepares the final draft of the NDC 3.0, which will be further enriched by the validation and presentation of findings of the climate vulnerability assessment scheduled for May 2026, this consultation reinforces the principle that sustainable resilience can only be achieved through a climate policy that is as inclusive as it is ambitious.

MOZAMBIQUE CHARTS A CLIMATE-RESILIENT FUTURE WITH INCLUSIVE NDC 3.0 CONSULTATIONS



UNFPA Mozambique / 2026: Dignitaries at the Public Consultation and Validation of Mozambique's NDC3.0 in Nampula in February 2026

In a significant step toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries (MAAP), through the National Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DINAMC), led a series of intensive public consultations from 5 to 17 February 2026 to shape the country's third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0). With support through Resilient Futures project, two roundtable consultations were held, in Maputo and Nampula, on 12–13 February 2026, supporting Mozambique's commitment to a nationally driven process that reflects the priorities of its most vulnerable citizens.

These sessions brought together a diverse array of over 130 stakeholders, including His Excellency, Henriques Bongece, Secretary of State for Maputo Province, Ms. Teresinha Pascoal, Director of the Provincial Environmental Service; governors, civil society organizations, academia, young people, and private sector representatives to assess the preliminary draft of Mozambique's NDC 3.0 and to inform the revisions to be made before validation at the national level by the Council of Ministers. The consultations aimed to ensure that the NDC 3.0 draft is not only technically robust but also inclusive and interactive, reflecting the unique climate and development challenges faced by different provinces. The engagement focused on six priority sectors including Energy, Agriculture and the Blue Economy, Solid Waste, Industrial Processes, Infrastructure, and cross-cutting sectors such as Water, Health, and Education.

AMPLIFYING VOICES: GENDER, YOUTH, AND DISABILITY INCLUSION

A hallmark of the February sessions was the prominent focus on social equity through collaborative efforts that ensured gender issues remained central to the agenda. A parallel session led by UNFPA and UNICEF focused specifically on youth inputs, which have already been integrated into the NDC3.0 feedback loop alongside contributions from the Ministry of Gender and other actors. Participants issued a powerful combined message to the Council of Ministers, advocating for non-negotiable gender-responsive and disability-sensitive approaches. This includes the essential integration of SRHR to protect maternal health during disasters, strategies to address the increased risk of GBV during climate crises, and a commitment to ensuring climate ambitions align with inclusive governance for people with physical and psychosocial disabilities.



UNFPA Mozambique / 2026: Group activities at the Public Consultation and Validation of Mozambique's NDC3.0 in Nampula in February 2026

SECTORAL INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE

The consultations generated concrete proposals to strengthen Mozambique's resilience across sectors by integrating adaptation and mitigation strategies into national planning. In the health sector, experts highlighted the need to better integrate reproductive health and gender-based violence into climate responses, including ensuring continued access to maternal and neonatal care during crises. Recommendations include incorporating the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) and Clinical Management of Sexual Violence (CMR) into national training curricula for health workers to improve emergency preparedness. Gender-responsive measures were also proposed, including integrating a gender lens into climate policies and decision-making, strengthening data and research, and promoting gender-responsive climate finance. In agriculture, recommendations focused on insurance schemes, subsidized financing, and conservation practices to address recurring floods and droughts. In energy and transport, participants called for expanded renewable energy and improved public transport systems. In education, proposals included adapting school calendars to climate disruptions and integrating environmental education from early levels.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE ROAD TO VALIDATION

As Mozambique faces recurring floods and cyclones that threaten lives and infrastructure, the urgency of implementing NDC 3.0 remains a top priority. The National Facilitator for the NDC process has confirmed that all inputs, including critical contributions on gender and health, are currently being consolidated into a final document. A revised draft of NDC 3.0 is expected by mid-April 2026, with final validation by the Council of Ministers scheduled for shortly thereafter. Through this participatory process, Mozambique is setting a regional standard for inclusive climate governance, ensuring that the path to a sustainable future leaves no one behind.

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STREVOW WELCOMES UN'S FORMALLY RECOGNITION OF THE DISABILITY CAUCUS AHEAD OF COP31



Josephine Mwatibo second from the left during Disability Caucus meeting at COP 30 in Belém, Brazil © Disability Caucus

Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW) welcomes the formal recognition of the Disability Caucus by the UN Climate Framework. The decision, confirmed in February 2026, marks a historic milestone for the world's 1.3 billion persons with disabilities, many of whom face disproportionate risks from climate change yet have long been underrepresented in international climate policy.

"Disability inclusion in climate action isn't optional, it's fundamental to achieving real justice and meaningful impact. The official recognition of the Disability Caucus by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an important step forward, but what truly matters now is turning that recognition into action, ensuring that women with disabilities are supported, included, and empowered to lead in building climate resilience," said Josephine Mwatibo, Disability Caucus Focal Point and STREVOW beneficiary from Kenya.

Josephine Mwatibo is among more than 200 women with disabilities from Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Seychelles, and Uganda whose capacity in negotiations, climate finance, and Loss and Damage has been strengthened through the STREVOW project. The project is implemented by the Centre for Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA) and the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE), and funded by the African Development Bank's Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF).

The Disability Caucus represents more than 120 disability groups, including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and disability focused organizations. The newly recognized Caucus is preparing to engage more actively in upcoming negotiations, with a key objective of achieving full Constituency status within the UNFCCC process, which would grant it the ability to intervene directly in official sessions and contribute to negotiation texts.

STREVOW will continue to empower women with disabilities across Africa to advocate for their inclusion in climate change negotiation processes, both globally and on the continent.

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VOICES OF ACCF #4: STEPHANIE MELTUS: EMPOWERING CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE THROUGH YOUTH-LED INNOVATION

"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.

1. What inspired you to start Green Eden Farms and focus on climate-smart agriculture?



Green Eden Farms was born from a refusal to accept the status quo of farming in Nigeria. Growing up, I saw my parents and many farmers struggle with recurring crop failures, vegetative losses, and significant post-harvest losses, often without clear explanations or access to reliable data.

Over time, I became increasingly curious about these challenges. As I started asking questions, one key factor consistently emerged: climate change. Flooding, drought, pest infestations, declining crop quality, and yield losses were all interconnected and driven by increasingly unpredictable climate patterns.

I realized that climate change was silently limiting the potential of agricultural transformation in Nigeria, especially for smallholder farmers with limited access to information and technology. Together with my co-founder and a team of engineers, we launched Green Eden Farms to address this gap through innovation, data, and climate-smart solutions that help farmers adapt, improve productivity, and build resilience.

2. In simple terms, how does technology help farmers improve productivity and resilience?

Technology helps farmers make better decisions at the right time. Instead of relying on guesswork, farmers can use real-time data on weather, soil conditions, pests, and crop health.

Through tools such as sensors, mobile applications, and automated alerts, farmers can anticipate risks, reduce losses, and use resources more efficiently. This shift farming from a reactive activity to a more predictive and resilient system, ultimately improving yields, income, and long-term sustainability.

3. You were selected as a 2023 YouthAdapt Solutions Challenge winner supported by ACCF. How did this support help move your solution forward?

Over the past two years, the YouthAdapt award has opened significant opportunities for Green Eden Farms. The visibility, both nationally and internationally, allowed us to connect with innovators, policymakers, and technical experts, helping us refine our vision and strategy.

With this support, we improved our ScareGrow climate-smart monitoring model and are now operating an upgraded version, while continuously strengthening our data systems. We have expanded sensor deployment across multiple locations and are supporting a growing number of farmers in adapting to climate risks.

The programme also provided access to mentorship and technical guidance, which strengthened our operations, governance, and

scalability. This support enabled us to recruit skilled personnel, optimize our structure, and position the company for sustainable growth.

4. Looking ahead, what change do you hope Green Eden Farms will bring to Nigerian agriculture and young farmers?

Green Eden Farms aims to contribute to a more resilient and modern agricultural sector in Nigeria by making climate-smart and digital farming tools more accessible to farmers.

Our objective is to increase food production by reducing post-harvest losses, minimizing crop losses from pests and diseases, and improving monitoring of growing conditions through data-driven insights.



With over 70 percent of Nigeria's population being young, we are also committed to encouraging youth engagement in agriculture. By showcasing innovation and impact, we aim to demonstrate that agriculture can be modern, profitable, and purpose-driven. Strengthening youth participation is essential to building more resilient and sustainable food systems.



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