

Short report
of the
Climate Finance training for EAC Partner States



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Arusha, Tanzania



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Introduction

As part of the Needs based Finance (NBF) project's¹, implementation phase, the UNFCCC Secretariat supported the EAC Secretariat in holding a three-day climate finance workshop for the seven partner states, including Republic of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, and Republic of Uganda. As per the mandates anchoring the NBF project, the training was delivered in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund; as well as accredited Entities including the Africa Development Bank (AfDB), UNDP, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) all of which have a strong regional presence. Altogether, the workshop had fifty participants – see annex 2.

The workshop aimed to equip officials in the Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Finance and Ministries of regional (EAC) Affairs with the necessary knowledge and skills to mobilize and access climate finance. Specifically, the workshop elaborated on:

- (a) Existing climate finance facilities or funding windows, access modalities, and the key aspects in project preparation for each funding institution;
- (b) Social and gender considerations, environmental and social safeguards, and risk management;
- (c) How to assess project viability and meet the investment framework of the Funds;
- (d) Mobilization of private sector climate finance i.e. instrument of climate finance and the role of blended finance in the context of climate funds; and
- (e) Provide a logical framework of at least 3 regional projects for further development into submission ready funding proposals.

Proceedings

(a) Opening remarks



Ms. Farhat Ali Mbarouk, Director of Environment, the First Vice President, representing the United Republic of Tanzania – the host government, welcomed participants, and thanked the EAC Secretariat and UNFCCC for organizing the workshop as an important step towards the implementation of the Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy and priority climate change projects in the region.



On behalf of the EAC and the Secretary General, the **Director of Productive Sectors, Mr. Jean Baptist Havugimana** also welcomed participants, and acknowledged productive collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat under the NBF, and support of development partners at the regional and nation level. Jean Baptist emphasized, building community resilience, promoting ecosystem sustainability

¹ Long-term climate finance: Decision 6/CP.23 para. 10; Decision 4/CP.26 para. 22; Decision 13/CP.27 para. 11.



and efficient and sustainable utilization of natural resources as a key principle which guides EAC's strategic development objectives.

A study on Protecting East Africa's Natural Capital was cited, which estimated a potential annual economic value of US\$ 11.3 billion, and highlighted the recent efforts to enhance prudent natural resources management. These include an Action Plan to protect transboundary ecosystems and invest in nature-based solutions along with several policies and strategies, including climate change, Forestry, Water, biodiversity and Integrated Water Resources Management. Noting the magnitude of required financial resources, where Nationally Determined Contributions only, require more than US\$ 26 billion annually, he emphasized need to start mobilization of resources and implementation, and no more time for studies.

Optimism was expressed that the workshop would enhance the needed knowledge and expertise to kick-start the preparation of priority programmes in the region and emphasized that the programmes must deliver impact and build resilient institutions and communities. In conclusion, he assured stakeholders of EAC's keenness to work as a region for a better outcome and not leave anyone behind.



Dr. Grant A. Kirkman, the UNFCCC's Climate Finance Subdivision, Country and Private Sector Engagement Team Leader, expressed his appreciation the hosting government, partner states, and collaborating institutions for their commitment to strengthening regional capacity and knowledge on climate finance access and project preparation. He reminded Partner States that Needs Based Finance support is fully country driven. Mr. William Otieno, the Regional Lead for the Eastern and Southern Africa Collaboration Centre informed the participants on the role of the RCC and welcomed Partner States to reach out with any inquiries related to the UNFCCC process and the implementation of various mandates.

(b) Session 1: Regional Priorities

During the development of the [EAC Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy](#) in 2021/22 three priority regional programmes were identified. In addition, the EAC Secretariat and Partner states have since identified five other potential programmes which were endorsed by the Sectoral Council for Environment and Natural Resource Management in September 2022.

EAC Priority Programmes

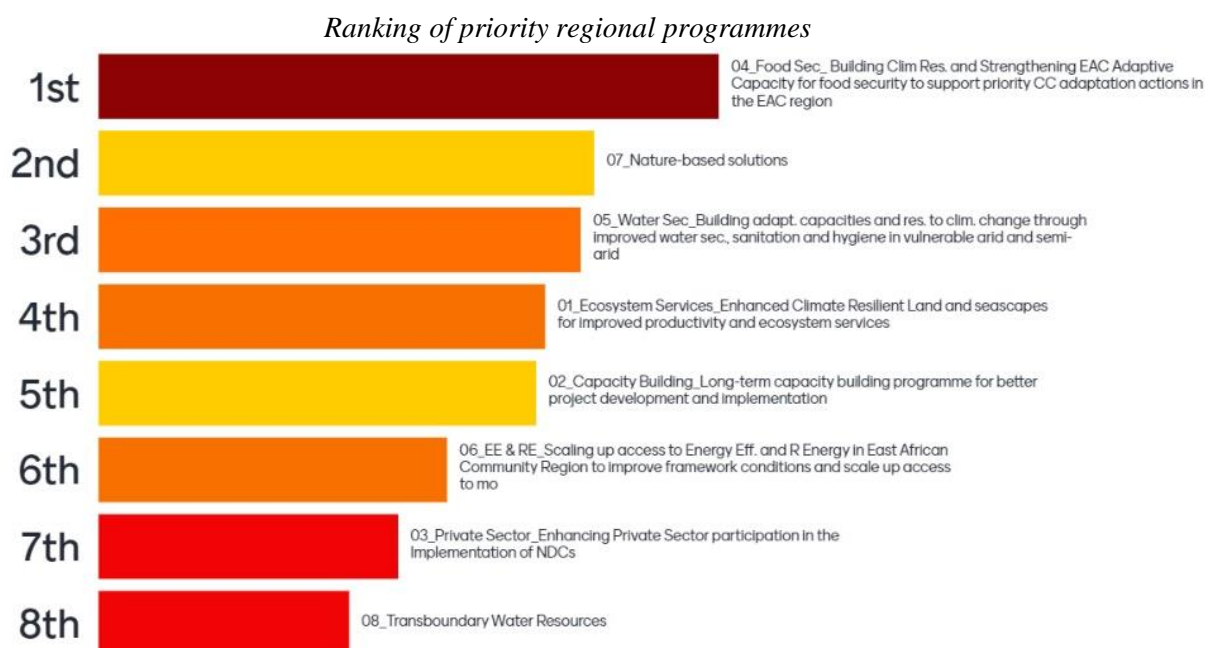
S/N	Description	Sector	US\$ Mill.
1.	Enhanced Climate Resilient Land and seascapes for improved productivity and ecosystem services	Ecosystems services	210
2.	Long-term capacity building programme for better project development and implementation	Capacity building	85
3.	Enhancing Private Sector Participation in the Implementation of NDCs	Private sector	10
4.	Building Climate Resiliency and Strengthening EAC Adaptive Capacity for food security to support priority CC adaptation actions in the EAC region	Food security	70



S/N	Description	Sector	US\$ Mill.
5.	Building adaptive capacities and resilience to climate change through improved water security, sanitation, and hygiene in vulnerable arid and semi-arid communities in East Africa	Water security	60
6.	Scaling up access to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in East African Community Region to improve framework conditions and Scale up access to modern energy services	Energy efficiency & renewable energy	50
7.	A framework of nature-based solutions for climate change Resilient communities focus on natural resilience through targeted delivery of restoration, sustainable management and protection-related initiatives	Nature-based Solutions	100
8.	Transboundary Water bodies shorelines Integrated Management Programme on Integrating land management with Ecotourism and industrial parks in water basins	Transboundary water resources	10

The first session also gave opportunity to Partner States to discuss their current national priorities most of which were already mirrored in the eight programmes above. A poll was taken from which **Food Security, Water Security and Nature Based Solutions** emerged as the top three programmes for further elaboration during the workshop.

Figure 1
Prioritization of the concept notes



Source: Plenary discussion (2023)

Participants acknowledged the linkage or similarity between these priorities and agreed to review the nature-based solutions and ecosystem services pre-concepts together, as well as the water security



and transboundary water pre-concepts. There was also consensus to treat capacity building as a crosscutting component and knowledge management being critical for all regional projects.

(c) Sessions 2-9: Presentations & group work

The workshop was structured with short presentations – annex 2, interactive/ Q&A sessions, and group exercises. On the first day, the Climate Funds (GCF, GEF, AF) presented their existing funding windows, access modalities, priorities, and project cycles, which gave Partner States an understanding of the current general requirements to accessing finance.

On the second day, climate funds introduced practical aspects of project preparation, including: developing a theory of change, establishing a climate rationale, social and environment risk considerations, and assessing project viability using their respective investment criteria. During this deep dive, accredited and partner states shared their field experiences and challenges. Later, participants formed three subgroups to discuss the selected pre-concept notes on Water Security, Food Security and Nature-based Solutions, these subgroups were maintained through the third day, which mainly for group exercises. Partners states deliberated on:

- (a) How to package regional programmes;
- (b) The desired long-term impact;
- (c) A climate and regional rationale;
- (d) Theory of change and programme components; and
- (e) Potential funding mechanisms and delivery mechanisms.

Figure 2
Group Exercises – Day





The climate funds and accredited entities facilitated the group discussions and provided inputs on the online working (Miro) board, and on the presentations made by countries after the exercises. The comments and inputs will be taken into consideration while advancing the pre-concept documents into complete concept notes acceptable to the targeted funding institutions.

In identification of potential accredited entities to move forward these programmes, Partner states and accredited entities indicated a preference for IFAD to support **Food Security**, and, with UNDP and AfDB for **Nature Based Solutions** and **Water Security** respectively.

Agreed follow up actions

In consolidating inputs from the workshop and to further develop these programmes, the following were agreed as next steps:

- (1) EAC to officially communicate to the identified accredited entities to secure support for taking the 3 programmes to submission to the Funds;
- (2) UNFCCC to install a consultant to work with the entities and Partner states to support the EAC Secretariat and Partner States to develop the pre-concepts into substantive fundable proposals for submission of the programmes to the funds at a final handover meeting of the EAC-NBF project to the EAC (investment forum);
- (3) AfDB to invite delegates to its annual climate rationale workshop scheduled between October/November in conjunction with GCF, WMO and Global Centre for Adaptation, which seeks to enhance understanding of the climate rationale and enhance support to institutions seeking accreditation roles.



Annex 1: Presentations

1. An Overview of the EAC Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy [Link](#)
2. EAC Climate Change Regional Priority Areas [Link](#)
3. Adaptation Fund Project Cycle Overview [Link](#)
4. GCF Project Cycle Overview [Link](#)
5. Overview of the GEF [Link](#)
6. IFAD Climate Change Portfolio Overview [Link](#)
7. Adaptation Fund – Adaptation Reasoning [Link](#)
8. GEF Climate Adaptation Rationale [Link](#)
9. CDKN – Overview of the theory of change approach [Link](#)
10. Adaptation Fund – Going from theory of change to theory of sustainability [Link](#)
11. CDKN – Gender in the Project Cycle [Link](#)
12. Adaptation Fund – Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy [Link](#)
13. GCF's approach to environmental and social safeguards, Gender and Indigenous Peoples issues [Link](#)
14. Adaptation Fund - Determining financial viability and establishing the investment framework [Link](#)

All programme and all presentations can be accessed on the [event page](#)



ANNEX 2: Participants' feedback

Q1: Feedback on this workshop's process of co-creating regional programmes



Q2: What are your key takeaways from this workshop and peer-peer training process?

Knowledge on developing a regional programme	excellent opportunity to learn	Capacity Building is Key
The GCF, GEF and Adaptability funds are very valuable towards the achievement of climate finance objectives across the region; through the available grants and or other forms of finance (loans, equity	Capacity Building is key.	It was great to see the Climate Funds working together
Theory of change was for me a take, i had no idea what was theory of change in relation to Climate Change, the funding windows that out there to address the adverse impact of Climate Change	Nature based solution, food security and water security are the pillars of this training process	Climate Change Rationale
I have learnt of the way of accessing and mobilization of climate funds	project development and access to climate finance	knowledge of climate finance mechanisms, the climate finance structure and window, and opportunities available for the EAC region regarding climate finance access for adaptation projects.
	opportunity to meet finance partners.	The knowledge of available funds from GCF, GEF, IFAD and AF to support climate funding. The process involved in developing a climate fundable proposal.
	1. Capacity building on access to climate finance from climate funds is key 2. Member State consultation is important for addressing their current climate needs. 3. Climate rationale requires data	



Capacity building is important and awareness

I have also learnt to use the mirror board to flesh out information for enriching the concept note of the EACE projects for soliciting funds

I have learnt something on the Theory of change.

climate rationale articulation training absolutely necessary

Mirror wall

Knowledge sharing, precision, innovation, understand the country specific issues. Understanding the GCF, Adaptation Fund and GEF operational frameworks.

1. In light of the theory of change, impacts of any project to funded under GCF should be sustainable; 2. Knowledge management is critical for implementation of regional projects.

Q3. What are your personal immediate next steps after this workshop to carry forward the outcomes of this workshop?

Seeking more climate and non climate information to support EAC programme

Continue interacting with the funding partners.

Train more staff of the institution.

improve bankable projects presentation.

Design three full projects, mobilize and implement

Engage with the Technical Ministry on taking forward the concept.

Implementation of what I have learned, Dealing with reducing climate risks through funding institutions and even create awareness on the society (different institution on climate finance)

Source for attainment of accreditation from the various funds (GCF, Adaptation fund); as a route to resource mobilisation from the funds

to continue giving technical support to the journey that has commenced on the climate finance access and mobilization for the EAC region for the impactful implementation of the projects.

Actualisation of the skills acquired.

Get more knowledge on what's required to have my organization accredited to be able to participate in the climate financing.

I will look into the C/N and see the budget part of it to see the costing because the amount put there is lumpsum. The EAC secretariat has to see to it that the begin looking for accredited entities

taking preCN to CN and proposals

To do more research on available data in my country and share it with EAC Secretariat for purposes of improving the concept notes.

Q4: What could be improved in the training and programme development and peer-to-peer approach?

circulate draft pre CN well in advance of workshop

New tools should be introduced, but not against the limited time.

More time given the diverse subject matter

confirm the countries signed up for each of the programs for ease of next steps

The training was good and the peer-to-peer approaches were really motivating and enhanced my learning. To improve the learning the facilitators could be increased in number so that they are not bored

Focus more discussion on practical related approach

The WMO and IPCC should be invited virtually or physically to the training and deliver their insights regarding climate rationale. This will enhance capacity of Member States



Documents where there is hands on participation to be shared in advance.

More time could be allocated to this important training to enable both the useful, insightful presentations and the group interactions.

There was too much to go through and absorb in a short time

To put accent also to water harvesting for controlling inundation in case of the aspect of climate change is evocated.

There is a need to provide an interpreter for French-speaking countries so that we maximise the delivery of the training.

It was a tightly packed program. In my view, the program required four days.