Report For The East Africa Policy Makers on formulating proposals for Clean Energy Access, Environment And Climate Change Mitigation And Adaptation For Accessing The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Held in Lake Elementaita Country Lodge From 9th – 20th July 2018

The East African policy makers with their certificates at the end of the two week training at the Elementaita Country Loge in Kenya.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACTS	African Centre for Technology Studies
AfDB	Africa Development Bank
AMA	Accreditation Master Agreement
AP	Adaptation Fund
ASH	Africa Sustainability Hub
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
COP	Conference of Parties
CRIBS	Climate Relevant Innovation system-Builders,
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
GHG	GreenHouse Gas emissions
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
GCF	Green Climate Fund.
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
ITAP	Independent Technical Advisory Panel
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LDC	Least Developed Countries
MIE	Multilateral Implementing Entities
MOFEC	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NDA	National Designated Authority
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NIE	National Implementing Entity
P.A	Paris Agreement
RIEs	Regional Implementing Entities
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund

SIDS	Small Island Developed States
STAP	Secretariat Technical Advisory Panel
TOC	Theory of Change
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organisation

1. Introduction

In July, 2018, the Africa Sustainability Hub (ASH) at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) in partnership with researchers from the University of Sussex held a two weeks training workshop for East African policymakers from Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda on the preparation of Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals using the Climate Relevant Innovation-system Builders (CRIBs) approach. The GCF is the financial mechanism responsible for funding implementation of the United Nations (UN) climate policy.

Africa is amongst the worst hit continent by the impacts of climate change despite contributing less than 5 per cent of the global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Considerable evidence of climate change in Africa continues to be recorded as Africa's six warmest years on record have all occurred since 1987. Lake Chad has shrunk from 26,000 square kilometres in the 1960s to 1,500 in 2,000 while ice caps on Africa's highest mountains are receding with an example of Mount Kenya which has lost 92 per cent of its glaciers in the last 100 years. These impacts continue to affect the vast populations in the continent.

The GCF was established to promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways in developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Nevertheless, most African countries continue to grapple with challenges on accessing the fund. It's against this backdrop that ASH organised for a training for policy makers from the East Africa region to build their capacity and skills on developing, implementing and monitoring GCF projects.

The aim of the internship was to enhance the skill-set of specific policymakers working on GCF activities in developing relevant proposals to mobilise funds from the GCF. Further, the workshop hoped to provide training and capacity building for these policy makers and engage them on how to use policy mechanisms to leverage international climate funding for climate change-compatible economic development and poverty reduction. It augments previous projects which have addressed how to leverage policy mechanisms to fund collaborative Research and Development enhancing the delivery of climate technology transfer under the Paris Climate Agreement.

To be considered for the training, participants were required to either be working with a national or county government; they were also required to have a proposal scheduled to be submitted for the GCF funding; as well as provide an outline of their GCF idea or proposal being worked on. They were also required to have knowledge of GCF proposal requirements and or may have been part of other submitted/successful GCF proposals. The target for the training included: staff from NDAs, staff from Accredited Entities or those seeking accreditation, Entrepreneurs, Consultants, Project developers, government officials, policy advisors, and staff of utility companies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs.)

The training was critical in offering well thought-out strategies that would enable them gain the requisite knowledge and competencies on the GCF processes to develop competitive fundable projects that would ideally support the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on climate change. It was expected that after the completion of the internship, the participants would have gained sufficient knowledge and experience in effectively understanding how to engage the current international policy concerning climate change and clean energy; know the funding options for clean energy access and promoting energy efficiency and would effectively assess energy markets and sustainable development impacts whilst identifying and assessing options for implementation as well as develop knowledge and capacity to design, draft and submit applications to the GCF to fund implementation using the CRIBs methodology.

Expectations from the policy makers was that the training would offer splendid insights on the GCF processes by critically analysing funded projects whilst asking critical questions on projects that largely benefit communities and effective strategies of engaging their respective governments through their accredited institutions. Effective engagement with the National Designated Authorities (NDAs') was a key concern as they were largely perceived as ineffective on their mandates.

The policy makers were urged to think widely on how their projects could tap into both mitigation and adaptation as there are opportunities for engaging and incorporating an integrated innovation approach towards solving some of Africa's key challenges on climate change.

2. The Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Before the establishment of the GCF, other funds had been set up to aid countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Kyoto Protocol was the first legally binding international climate agreement, adopted in 1997 in Kyoto. It committed industrialised nations to meet emission reduction targets of 5.2 per cent below the 1990's levels during the 2008-2012 commitment period.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) was developed and sought to fund low emission projects in Africa as well as enabling countries globally to access funds for climate change projects. Nevertheless, most African countries were unsuccessful in this bid as Africa only got a paltry 2 per cent while China and India accessed over 50 per cent of these funds. It has been argued that the African countries had little knowledge, skills and nuances of designing and implementing fundable projects under this fund.

Having considered the challenges posed by the CDM, the GCF was established to mobilize international climate finance to support scaled-up mitigation and adaptation actions during Conference of Parties (COP 16). It is the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC).

The GCF aims to promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways in developing countries to limit or reduce their GHG emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It was established in 2010, launched in 2012 and became operational in 2013 a lead up to the Paris Agreement (P.A) in 2015. GCF headquarters are in Songdo in the Republic of Korea. The Paris Agreement is considered the world's first universal climate agreement enacted in COP 21 in Paris which aims to strengthen the global response to climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. P.A is critical as it promotes the shared responsibility strategy where developed countries have committed to help reduce the emissions through NDCs which Kyoto Protocol did not have. Moreover, P.A has been lauded as a better mechanism for engaging on climate change as it gives attention to capacity building unlike Kyoto protocol as well as promoting a paradigm shift on technology transfer and innovation emphasis. P.A further calls on developed nations to give USD 100 billion annually to developing countries by 2020 to help these countries combat climate change and foster greener economies.

However, eight years since the establishment of the GCF, most African countries have been unable to access it as they continue to grapple with varied challenges. It has been argued that the low levels of access to the GCF is largely due to lack of technical and institutional capabilities on best practices that could enhance the writing of competitive proposals and their execution whilst lessons learnt from the CDM are not being incorporated into the GCF projects. For the GCF, the quality of a proposal is a deciding factor to guarantee funding, but other elements, such as the capacity of entities to successfully implement activities, are equally as important.

2.1 Understanding the GCF Operations

194 countries are signatories to the UNFCC and thus would benefit from the GCF. The GCF is expected to generate climate finance of USD 100 billion per year by 2020. Private investments account for most of climate finance. GCF is the largest and fastest-growing climate fund that promotes a paradigm shift which also helps developing countries transform their economies and put them on a low emission and climate-resilient pathway.

Currently the fund has received USD 10.3 billion in pledges and USD 9.9 billion in signed contributions. It has further set aside a readiness support fund for up to USD 50 million and USD 40 million for projects preparation. The funds engagement window includes a readiness opportunity for USD 1 million cap per country. Countries can access these funds though accredited organizations such as National or Regional Implementing Entities accredited by the GCF Board as per the recommendation of NDAs. The accreditation involves micro, small, medium and large scale for up to 50 million USD. The accreditation process is rigorous and Africa only has 7 accredited institutions while globally there are 13. The regional ones include: the African Development Bank (AfDB); the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

GCF is governed by a Board, Secretariat and Independent Accountability units that have equal representation of board members from developing and developed countries. The board is the top decision making organ of the fund with 24 members. Representation from developing countries include regional UN groupings and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with two Civil Society Organisations (CSOs') and 2 private sector representative acting as observers. Decisions are made by consensus, 2/3 of the members make a quorum.

The board meets thrice annually to approve funding proposals which should focus essentially on climate measures consistent with national commitment under the P.A and the NDCs. The first board meeting takes place between February and March, while the second meeting takes place between June and July and the final board meeting where the entire board meets is between September and October. Its mandate is to promote low-emission and climate-resilient development in developing countries. Its architecture allows for a balance between adaptation and mitigation where there is an equal voice for developed and developing countries.

2.2 The GCF Process

Countries are expected to consult and submit their proposals through NDAs and National Implementing Entities (NIEs). NIEs refine the proposals and submit them to NDAs which forwards them to the secretariat and consequently to the board for approval. NDA's thereafter recommend to the board proposals to be funded. NDAs also work to facilitate the communication and nomination of entities for accreditation and further ensures consistency of funding proposals from national, sub-national, regional and international intermediaries and implementing entities with national plans and strategies. NDAs should be consulted to avoid an overlap of similar projects. It was observed however, that some NDAs were not effective as there lacks systems in place for the GCF processes while in some countries only a few people are in charge which often delays the processes of proposal submission to the GCF board.

NIEs also work to ensure there's consistency of funding proposals from national, sub-national, regional and international intermediaries and implementing entities with national plans and strategies. NIEs could be global bodies and multilateral development banks such the AfDB; AFC etc. They are also referred to as Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs).Some of the NIEs include: The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFEC) in Ethiopia and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in Kenya

Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs) are also accredited institutions through which the GCF proposals can be submitted. Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs) also perform the same function and include: The African Development Bank (AfDB); The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The World Bank (WB); The World Trade Organisation (WTO). AfDB helps fund proposals worth over USD 250 million and collaborates with other financial institutions.

GCF projects seek to promote climate-resilient development pathways with a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation over time. 50% of the adaptation allocation is usually for particularly vulnerable countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developed States (SIDS) and African States.

After submission of proposals, the Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP) evaluates the concept notes based on 6 agreed investment criteria agreed on by the board. For consideration, the proposals ought to show impact potential; paradigm shift potential; sustainable development potential; Responsive to recipient's needs; promote country ownership as well as show efficiency & effectiveness.

ITAP panel comprises six members, three from developing countries and three from developed countries with gender balance and may review proposals remotely. The GCF board in consultation with NDAs or focal points makes decisions on the concept notes. The Secretariat Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) carries out necessary and appropriate second-level due diligence assessment of concept notes and ensures that the proposals are in compliance with the Funds interim environmental and social safeguards, gender policy, financial policies and any other policies promulgated by the board. The Secretariat then submits recommendations if the criteria has been met to the GCF board for consideration.

The GCF Board either approves the proposal or provides an approval that is conditional on modifications to project design or subject to availability of funding or rejects proposal. The decision and next steps are communicated to the NIE or intermediary and the NDA or focal point of the decision. Rejected proposals can be appealed or re-submitted.

2.3 The Five Investment Priorities for GCF

- Climate compatible cities
- Sustainable low-emission climate-resilient agriculture
- Scaling up finance for forests and climate change
- Enhancing resilience in small island developing States (SIDS)
- Transforming energy generation and access

2.4 Six investment criteria for the GCF

The GCF expects projects to have the following six criteria:

1. Impact potential which has 2 core indicators:

    - Mitigation: This should indicate the total tons of CO2 eq avoided or reduced
    - Adaptation: Should show the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries in addition to qualitative factors

2. Paradigm shift potential: There's no agreed definition on this. Nevertheless innovation is key while potential for scaling-up, potential for knowledge and learning; contribution for creation an enabling environment (e.g. market transformation, elimination of systemic barriers); contribution to regulatory frameworks and policies; overall contribution to climate resilient development pathways are key.

3. Sustainable development potential: expected environmental, social, health and economic co-benefits plus gender-sensitive development impact (proportion of men and women in jobs created).

4. Needs of recipient: vulnerability of the country and beneficiary groups; economic and social development level; absence of alternative sources of financing; needs for strengthening institutional and implementation capacity in relevant institutions.

5. Country ownership: coherence and alignment with national climate strategy and priorities and other existing policies; capacity of accredited entities or EEs to deliver; stakeholder engagement process and feedback received from CSOs and other relevant stakeholders

6. Efficiency and effectiveness

- ➢ Economic and financial analysis drives this criterion
- ➢ Two core mitigation criteria:
    - Estimated cost per tCO2 eq
    - Expected volume of finance to be leveraged as a result of GCF financing, disaggregated by public and private sources

2.5 Four Main areas of support under the GCF Readiness Programme

There's upto USD 1 million readiness grants per year per country. The Readiness funding seeks to support the strengthening of NDAs; support direct access entities as well as strategic frameworks including country programmes. Four main areas of support include:

- NDA strengthening: Supports ability of the NDA to perform its functions; consultations, establish No-Objection procedure, outreach and awareness raising, etc.
- Strategic Frameworks: Supports consultative mechanisms to underpin solid Country Programme and pipeline development, relevant policy review to support strategic engagement and harmonization with national development plans and resources.
- Support for direct access: Accreditation, gap assessments, building capacity of direct access entities to support country programmes.
- Adaptation Processes: NAP development, adaption planning processes etc.

An ongoing class session during the training in Kenya.

3. Other Available Funds for Engaging on Climate Change

Climate finance readiness is critical in attracting international climate related funding as there are multiple streams of international climate finance like the Private Sector Facility (PSF) Global Environmental Facility Trust Fund (GEF) which administers the Special Climate Change Fund(SCCF); Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Adaptation Fund (A.F).

3.1 Private Sector Facility (PSF)

The GCF funds also have a Private Sector Facility (PSF) which engages both local and global private sector to de-risk delivery of private capital. Various instruments offer long term funding. Examples in the East African region include Acumen (KawiSafi Fund: Kenya and Rwanda with 20 million USD in equity and 5 million USD in grant for decentralised energy access. Under the Deutsche Bank, there's the Universal Green Access Fund which caters for Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Nigeria, Benin and has 78.4 million USD in equity and 1.6 million USD in grants – access to capital for local SMEs).

The GCF proposals are required to show how the projects intend to impact their countries. The key impact areas on mitigation by the GCF are required to show how reduced emissions will ensure energy generation and access; projects on transport; buildings, cities, industries and appliances; forests and land use. On the adaptation side, the GCF looks at increased resilience of: Health, food, and water security; livelihoods of people and communities; infrastructure and built environment; ecosystems and ecosystems services.

3.2 The Adaptation Fund

The Adaptation Fund was developed at COP 7 to finance concrete projects and programmes aimed at helping developing countries adapt to the harmful effects of climate change. The AF was established in 2001 to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries, parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Its financed by proceeds from carbon credits.

3.3 Global Environment Facility (GEF)

This is the financial mechanism for three Multilateral Environment Conventions – Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); UNFCC & UN Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD. GEF started in 1991 as a $1 billion pilot programme in the World Bank to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmental sustainable development. Serves the UNFCCC and a number of other EIAs.

3.4 The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)

The LCDF was developed in 2001. It was established to support a work programme to assist Least Developed Country (LDCs) carry out the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). The LDCF finances the preparation and implementation of NAPAs in response to urgent and immediate adaptation needs in least developed countries.

3.5 The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)

The SCCF was developed in 2001 and was established under the Convention in 2001 to finance projects relating to: adaptation; technology transfer and capacity building; energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and economic diversification.

3.6 Climate Investment Funds (CIF)

This was developed in 2008 whose aim was to accelerate climate action by empowering transformations in clean technology, energy access and climate resilience. There are other funds channelled bilaterally through various embassies and diplomatic missions. Each fund has its unique funding requirements including proposal assessment criteria. Most of the mentioned funds are ending or have their scope greatly reduced and restricted (e.g. GEF). Many have also been subsumed into GCF.

4. Designing Competitive Fundable GCF Proposals

For policy makers to design competitive proposals, they need to ensure that best practice considerations that incorporate competitive methodologies are well laid out. These proposals require strong team efforts that comprise expertise from a broad range of stakeholders such as investment experts; climate change mitigation and adaptation experts as well as financial expertise.

Good proposals further require political commitment as well as availability of funding resources for the GCF project preparation. The greatest challenge lies in the lack of capacity to prepare projects. Initial documentation requires approximately 6 months to develop while it also takes approximately three months to receive a signed no-objection letter from NDAs.

While initial feedback from the board on concept notes could be somewhat superficial, the concept could be used to request and secure project preparation funds. Whence policy makers follow good practices in project formulation, this tremendously improves their chances of funding and makes the project easier to implement: Carrying out a baseline study is also critical as this is a requirement of the board. Technical, financial and economic impact assessment using a consultative approach is also critical as the GCF expects evidence of consultation.

Facilitators urged policy makers to identify local barriers, needs and opportunities whilst ensuring strategies that address barriers and needs are incorporated into proposals as these are critical areas of concern for the GCF. On Co-financing, GCF proposals should ensure that co-financing is fully confirmed in writing as GCF checks and requests for adjustments in claimed co-financing projects. Attention should be paid to service providers and procurement processes as well as an effective exit strategy as this often receives close scrutiny. For instance, the board scrutinises the plan for phasing out of subsidies and sustainability of any market created as well as the risks, especially related to labour and working conditions.

A panel discussion with the policy makers after the end of the GCF workshop.

5. Collaborative Research and Development and the GCF

Collaborative research development and demonstration (RD&D) was adopted under the UNFCCC as a possible means through which climate technology development and transfer to developing countries might be achieved in order to improve low-carbon and climate resilient development by UNFCCCs decision 7/CP.21. The COP invited the Board of the GCF to consider ways to provide support, pursuant to the modalities of the GCF, for facilitating access to environmentally sound technologies in developing countries and for undertaking collaborative research and development to enable developing countries enhance their mitigation and adaptation actions. There are prospects for GCF to support collaborative research and development in developing countries, in line with the operational modalities of the GCF for adopting an innovation systems-approach. Innovation centers and hubs, incubators, and accelerators are innovation enablers that not only facilitate the process from R&D to commercialization but also act as central nodes that connect different actors in the innovation system.

The East African policy makers were urged to be part of processes that sought to build innovation systems that would ensure that there are broader and more sustained transformational impacts on climate technology, low carbon and climate resilient development. CRIBs or a similar intermediary type organization would understand the need to build on existing national RD&D and innovation systems via new collaborations. Such organisations play a critical role in understanding context-specific climate technology needs, knowing which actors exist in any given context and linking appropriate actors up, as well as brokering international collaborations. But they can also focus efforts where innovation systems need to be built or strengthened, as RD&D will never lead to technology deployment at scale unless the appropriate parts of the national innovation system are present and strong enough. This again emphasizes that RD&D should not be considered as a stand-alone activity, unconnected from users, markets and deployment.

6. National Systems of Innovation (NSI)

Paris agreement provides new opportunities to address climate change and development. An innovations systems is therefore required to provide the systemic environment for markets and other ‘delivery’ modes to emerge and succeed.

National Systems of Innovation (NSI) are therefore key in this regard. Various innovation systems therefore suffice: sectoral; regional; technological and national. The concept of NSI emerged in the 1980’s and explains the role of technology and innovations in economic development. Economics alone may not be able to do this.

An innovation system refers to the systemic context within which technology adoption, innovation and economic development occurs. An NSI is bounded nationally and includes network of actors who through the nature of their relationships produce innovations. An NSI is also connected internationally. The actors; relations; institutions and capabilities are aspects of an NSI. It is argued that African NSI’s are in their early stages of development while others may be stronger than others such as the ones in South Africa. Nevertheless, innovation-system building is underway in many countries.

6.1 Climate Change Action Architecture

The Climate change action architecture is divided into the technology mechanism and the Finance Mechanism (The Green Climate Fund) The Technology Mechanism is further divided into two parts: Technology Executive Committee (TEC) which is the policy arm while the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is the implementation arm. The technology and finance mechanisms are however, not properly linked. The CTCN deals with National Designated Entities (NDEs) while GCF deals with National Designated Authorities (NDAs). The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) could possibly link technology and finance but are not yet detailed. NDCs require strategies and implementing plans as well as projects. They also require coordinators and Climate Relevant Innovation System-Builders (CRIBS) could fit within here. There's need for links across NDCs-CRIBS-NSIs.

7. Climate Relevant Innovation- system Builders (CRIBS) innovation for accessing the GCF -

Climate Relevant Innovation system-Builders (CRIBS) is a systems-based model that provides for a network of actors, capabilities and systems that support incubation, implementation, scalability and sustainability of the project initiatives while incorporating the theory of change in its engagements with the various actors. CRIBs further seeks to enhance collaborations and capabilities and allows professionals and policymakers within the climate change sphere to develop viable funding proposals.

The CRIBS tool has been approved by the GCF board. The CRIBs approach promotes a system that utilises and interlinks various stakeholders from financial services; suppliers; user groups; societal groups; producers; public authorities; education and research as part of an innovation system. Its approach is to build networks of technologies; capabilities; institutional arrangements for designing and implementing effective and sustainable climate actions. The innovation helps to identify relevant stakeholders and convenes them to facilitate project design and develop political credibility and support whilst ensuring that the projects are relevant to stakeholders. It further draws on resources from different perspectives and experiences by building networks of actors with evolving relations and understanding; linking projects, shared learnings, and influencing new project designs.

CRIBs utilises the Theory Of Change (TOC) approach by first looking at the bigger picture, defines policy and research context then clearly defining the problem with clear objectives. The GCF board recognises CRIBs model which is provided as a window in the Readiness Fund for the GCF. The CRIBS model is a north-south collaboration between the University of Sussex scholars; ASH and ACTS and has been embraced as the future for innovative systems approach model that could be institutionalised by the policy makers in their countries to enable them access the GCF.

7.1 CRIBS Goals for building a network of diverse stakeholders

Networks are critical in this process as they enable the flow of knowledge amongst stakeholders, and bring different resources, experiences and perspectives to problem-framing and problem-solving activities. For stronger and meaningful linkages, stakeholders need to work proactively and collaborate in projects, programmes and other interventions. This helps to build mutual trust and understanding which also helps to identify strengths and weaknesses in local technological capabilities which can be built including the development of relevant knowledge and skills.

Further, there’s need to create shared visions of what sustainable development looks like in particular contexts, and what roles different technologies play in those contexts. This is not simply a top-down effort in which sustainable energy technology solutions are chosen and then stakeholders are persuaded of their merit through dissemination and awareness-raising activities. By fostering understanding of what technologies can and cannot provide, how they work and the ways others have benefited from them, visions can be developed around informed understandings of different technological options.

7.2 Implementing NDCs using CRIBS

CRIBS has four main goals: to build networks of diverse stakeholders; foster and share learning; promote the development of shared visions and support diverse experimentation. The Paris agreement offers opportunities to build innovation systems in Africa. CRIBs can operationalise NDCs and help to translate goals into projects that begin to make innovation systems materialise. CRIBs can further enable African countries engage more effectively with the CTCN and the GCF.

CRIBS could be located nationally but linked internationally. They’ll be co-ordinating institutions that effectively understand the existing local capacities, capabilities whilst identifying the needs for countries and coordinating projects and programmes to build links and knowledge flaws.

8. Environmental Safeguards for GCF Projects

GCF Safeguards are largely derived from and mirror International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards (PS). The safeguards aim to protect people and environment from adverse impacts whilst enhancing social equity and promoting environmental sustainability that reduces, mitigates and manages risks. Interim environmental and social safeguards include: assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts; labor and working conditions; resource efficiency and pollution prevention; community health, safety and security among others.

Principles of Safeguards Policies urge the policy makers to develop projects that largely avoid negative impacts where possible otherwise they are required to anticipate, avoid; minimize; compensate or offset impacts in that order. These principles further seek to integrate policies on environmental and social issues in project identification, design and implementation.

Often projects developed rarely engage with communities which the GCF advocates for during the project cycle to ensure resource efficiency and prevention of pollution. Safeguard policies should inform the public and enable them to participate in decisions that affect them. Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts should ensure that projects identify funding proposals on environmental and social risks and impacts; adopt mitigation hierarchy; improve performance through an environmental and social management system.

GCF projects should incorporate a reduced project-related greenhouse gas emissions, aim to protect and conserve biodiversity and maintain benefits from eco-system services that promote sustainable management of living natural resources.

9. Implementing REDD+: Critical elements and options in renewable energy

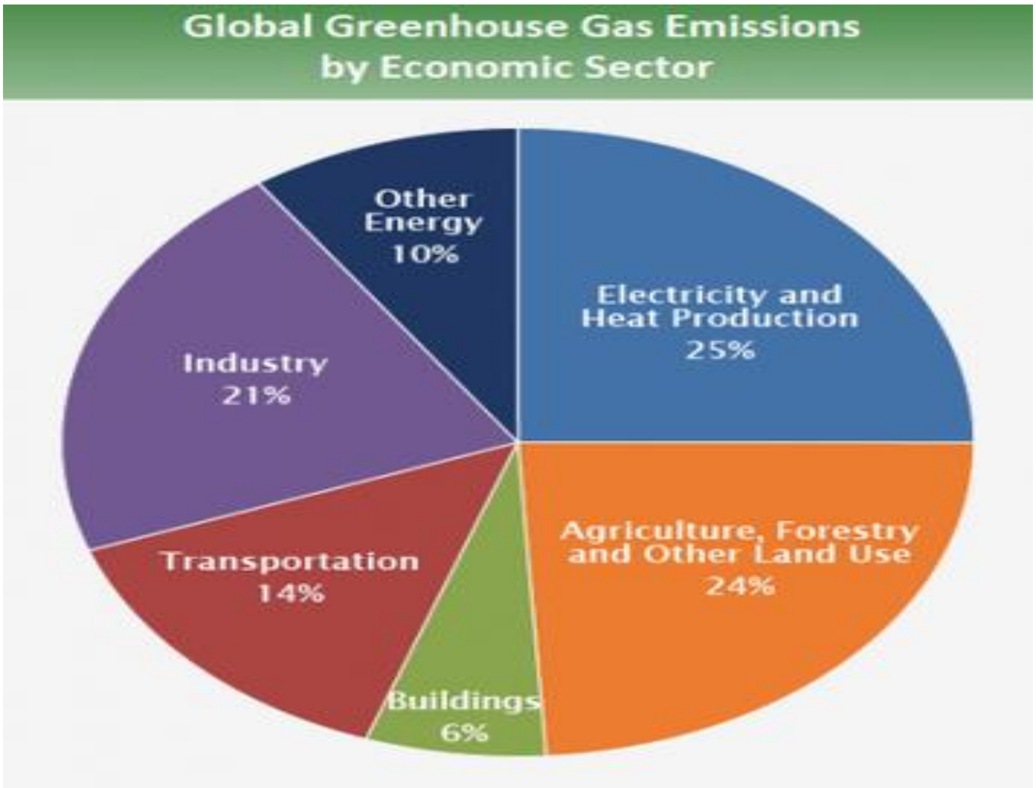
REDD+ Countries are requested to develop national strategies or action plans; national forest reference emission level (REL) and or forest reference level; robust and transparent national forest monitoring system; system for providing information safeguards.

On strategies and action plans, a detailed assessment of a country's situation with respect to deforestation and forest degradation is looked into. Relevant governance and institutional challenges and frameworks will be looked into while policies and legislations and action plans are looked into.

On reference levels, there is a baseline of emissions against which any future emission reductions would be monitored. Kenya is yet to submit her RELs. Indonesia and Peru have submitted their REL.

On monitoring, reporting and verification, a system to monitor, account for and internationally report on any changes in carbon emissions as a basis for payments is required. These are meant to ensure that REDD+ activities do not compromise the livelihood of forest dependent communities and contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Global greenhouse gas emissions



10. Conclusion and Way forward

The policy makers recorded positive feedback from the trainings as their objectives were met. The training offered a clear understanding of the GCF architecture which was not clearly understood by most of the participants and offered insights on how to access the GCF. A clear analysis of the funded proposals and the missing links were discussed to enable the policy makers easily identify critical areas for funding in their countries.

CRIBS seeks to look at the systems and sub-systems of the various issues that seek to be addressed such as food security, communication, health etc. Identifying and investigating the sub-systems critically would ensure that the issue is properly scrutinized and probable solutions arrived at earlier. CRIBS activities could be used to start building innovation systems that have actors, networks, relations with skills and knowledge.

The training was led by Dr. Rob Bryne, Anne-Marie VenBerken; Dr. Joanes Atela and facilitated by Dr. Robert Ochieng and Mr. Peter Odhengo. They were lauded for their tremendous efforts and technical capabilities to support the East African Policy makers access international climate financing.

The facilitators effectively lead and engaged on the GCF discussions that provided insights on prospects, opportunities and challenges for establishing effective innovation systems to enhance climate change technology transfer for the East African countries. They applauded the policy makers for the keenness in ensuring that their capacities on critical areas are built and assured the participants that there would be more future engagements and follow-up to ensure that their proposals are developed and funded.

Report prepared by Fiona Imbali.
ASH/ACTS