Background Note

A preparatory course for The public and private sectors on Designing and Implementing Green Climate Fund Projects

Organised by

THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY STUDIES (ACTS)

In partnership with

The National Treasury, Ministry of Finance Kenya
The Institute for Climate Change and adaptation (ICCA), University of Nairobi
and
The Africa Sustainability Hub
1. Introduction

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2015 marked a decisive turning point for a global transition towards low-carbon climate-resilient development. The Paris agreement specifically established measures to limit the global warming below $2^\circ$C’ and enhance adaptation and resilience for the vulnerable populations through technological and financial mobilization.\(^1\) Unlike the Kyoto regime, the Paris Agreement expects developing counties to actively participate in climate change actions and associated investments through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Most African countries have prepared their NDCs outlining priority mitigation and adaptation actions across specific sectors such as energy, agriculture, water, forestry among others. For instance, the countries within the East Africa region including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda, have submitted their INDCs in line with the Paris Agreement and the post-2015 SDGs targeting to cut their emissions by about 30% by 2030 relative to the business as usual scenario. These countries have specifically emphasised the need for appropriate financing and capacity building as key preconditions for effective implementation of the NDCs (Mbeva et al., 2015a; Mbeva et al., 2015b).

To attend to the financial needs of developing countries, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established as the official financial mechanism of the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The GCF will be key to mobilising and channelling the USD 100 billion per year by 2020 as pledged by developed countries and various funding institutions during the 2009 Copenhagen meeting.

The GCF provides a special opportunity for the African countries and stakeholders including the private sector, NGOs, civil society, development agencies to tap into the global climate financing and investments. Specifically the GCF financing supports a wide variety of actions ranging from small to medium mitigation and adaptation projects in developing countries. By focusing on both mitigation and adaptation in developing countries, the GCF is expected to accelerate climate change funding in Africa and other least developed countries. This is critical considering that initial funding windows such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) registered minimal success in Africa. Africa managed to implement less than 2% of CDM projects compared to other middle income economies such as China where over 80% of CDM projects were hosted. Studies attribute this poor performance to lack of adequate

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\(^1\) The Paris Agreement on Climate Change  
[https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf](https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf)
technical and institutional capacity to design, implement and monitor CDM projects in line with global standards and requirements (Silayan, 2005). As such, most African countries are categorical that technical and financial capacities are prerequisites for effective implementation of their respective NDCs (Mbeva et al., 2015).

Therefore, there is urgent need to prepare both public and private organisations including NGOs with the necessary skills on developing, implementing and monitoring GCF projects. This will help establish GCF project development and management skills within African organisations and investors something that lacked in the CDM scheme where most African institutions had very little knowledge about the operations of the fund and had to depend on external expertise to implement projects (Ballesteros et al., 2010). Further, being able to access the GCF funds, will support effective implementation of the African NDCs.

This initiative intends to offer a one week preparatory course for the public and private sectors on Designing and Implementing Green Climate Fund Projects drawing participants from the East African region. The main aim of the course to provide participants drawn from both public and private organisations with skills and understanding on the operations of the GCF and how to develop competitive and fundable GCF project proposals supportive to the implementation of NDCs in various sectors and contexts within the East Africa Community (e.g. see GoK (2015b) for Kenya’s INDC).

The course will be conducted by the African Centre for technology Studies (ACTS) in partnership with the National Treasury of the Ministry of Finance Kenya - the official National Designated authority (NDA) of the Green Climate Fund (see GoK (2015a) for Kenya’s application for GCF readiness funding) and the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation of the University of Nairobi. The organizers are leading research, policy and capacity building institutions with extensive expertise and experience in capacity building in the area of sustainable development and climate change. The institutions also have strong north-south partnerships from where they leverage expertise and lessons to deliver the course is a quality and user oriented manner.

2. Aim and Objectives of the course

The main aim of the course to provide participants drawn from both public and private organisations with skills and understanding on the operations of the GCF and how to develop competitive and fundable GCF project proposals supportive
to the implementation of NDCs in various sectors and contexts within the East Africa Community. In particular, this course seeks to:

- Enhance understanding of participants on climate finance options relevant to their work
- To provide participants with an understanding of the operational procedures of the GCF
- To support participants to understand where technological focus is located within the GCF funding procedures.
- Enhance the capacity of participants to be able to develop competitive AND bankable GCF project proposals and implementation plans.

3. Course Outline

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<td><strong>Module 1: Overview of climate change and funding opportunities</strong></td>
<td>This module will focus on the general aspects of climate change and the climate finance landscape at the global, regional and national levels. Participants will have a thorough and clear understanding of international climate finance options relevant to their respective work/sectors.</td>
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<td><strong>Module 2: The GCF in the context of the Paris Agreement</strong></td>
<td>This module will provide an overview of the Green Climate Fund and its procedures in line with the Paris Agreement. Participants will have a detailed understanding of how the GCF is set up and how it actually operates</td>
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<td><strong>Module 3: The GCF project cycle</strong></td>
<td>This module will provide a step by step analysis of the GCF project cycle and project verification, validation and certification procedures. A clear understanding of the GCF project cycle and key requirements including skills and resources at each stage.</td>
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Module 4: Identifying GCF project ideas

This module will focus on providing participants with skills on how to identify viable initiative for GCF funding. This will include an analysis of key variables and indicators for identifying possible initiative in key sectors prioritised by African governments. Participants will develop skills on conceptualising GCF project ideas and be able to scope fundable actions within their activities.

Module 5: Developing GCF project ideas into proposals and implementation plan

This section will provide a clear roadmap on the step-by-step process of developing a viable idea into project proposals including implantation and monitoring plans. The module will also involve an introduction to the log frame construction for the GCF projects.

Module 6: GCF proposal layout, presentation and style

This module will focus on general presentation of a GCF project proposal including writing styles, diagrammatic presentations, sign posting among others.

4. Expected outputs and outcomes

The key expected outcomes from this training are:

- Enhanced understanding of participants on climate finance options relevant to their work
- Enhanced capacity of organisations / institutions / companies / government agencies and other entities to understand the GCF project certification and validation process
- Enhanced understanding on where technological focus is located within the GCF funding procedures. Enhance the capacity of participants to be able to develop competitive AND bankable GCF project proposals and implementation plans.
- An inventory of potential project ideas to be developed by participants
- A manual on the GCF project preparation
5. Other logistics of the course

- **Dates:** 6th-9th December 2016
- **Venue:** University of Nairobi, Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation
- **Target region:** Participants will be drawn from the East African Community including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi.
- **Target participants:** Environmental and development NGOs, Private Sector, State departments, Research and development organisations
- **Fees:** US$ 500 per person covering conference package and training materials. Expert fees will be covered by the organisers.
- **Application deadline:** 30th Sept 2016
- **Further queries:** j.atela@acts-net.org
- Early applications are encouraged due to limited spaces

6. References


