THE CIVIL SOCIETY READINESS AND ROLE IN THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF) SENSITIZATION ROUNDTABLE MEETING

(Insert Photo)

ARCH APARTMENT HOTEL, KAMPALA, UGANDA

DATE: 19TH APRIL 2017
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>National Designated Authority</td>
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<td>NIE</td>
<td>National Implementing Entity</td>
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<td>GCF</td>
<td>Green Climate Fund</td>
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<td>LDC</td>
<td>Least developed Countries</td>
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<td>SIDS</td>
<td>Small Island Developing States</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>COP</td>
<td>Conference of the Parties</td>
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<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environmental Programme</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>IFI</td>
<td>International Financing Institutions</td>
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<td>MDB</td>
<td>Multilateral Development Banks</td>
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<td>NAP</td>
<td>National Adaptation Plan</td>
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<td>NAMAS</td>
<td>Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions</td>
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1.0 Introduction

The GCF has the ambition to become the most important multilateral instrument in climate finance. With its reaching full operationalisation and being resourced with over 6 billion USD, provision of finance for low-emission and climate-resilient development transformational projects and programmes to achieve its objective is imperative. In its allocation the GCF aims for a balance between mitigation and adaptation; half of the GCF adaptation spending should go to LDCs, SIDS and Africa. Therefore, Africa will be a focus region for the GCF moving forward.

It is unlikely that the intended paradigm shift can be achieved without broad civil society (CS) engagement, it is required to scale-up existing Civil Society capacities to advocate for ambitious proposals, bring on-ground expertise to the table, help embed GCF-funded activities in a broader societal support for transformation and increase accountability of national authorities. It is against this backdrop that this meeting was organized to provide opportunity for African CSOs to deliberate on the GCF process and chart a way forward on how to engage in the process.

2.0 Objectives of the Meeting

- To sensitize regional CSOs on the CSO GCF Readiness project
- To capacity build CSOs on GCF processes and sharing on decisions of the 16th Board Meeting
- To develop road map on engagement within climate finance and GCF process moving towards the Regional Post COP 22 consultation meeting, Bonn Intercessional

3.0 Overview of meeting sessions

3.1 State of play of the GCF and Africa

Mr. Sam Ogallah from PACJA begun by welcoming the delegates to the CSO GCF roundtable meeting where he outlined the state of play of the GCF and the status in Africa. He then gave a brief background of the GCF Fund and the main functions it was established by. He stated that the Fund was established in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention (UNFCCC) as the main and only stand-alone multilateral operating entity under the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, towards global efforts to combat climate change and its adverse effects. Mr. Ogallah further informed the house that the GCF fund was established to offer equal allocation of funds to Mitigation & Adaptation Measures in developing countries, less developed countries and the small island states as these countries are the most affected and highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
During this session, Mr. Ogallah explained about GCF’s key mandates following its establishment. They are:
• Implementation of goals set out by the UNFCCC to combat climate change
• Direct engagement with state & non-state actors
• Provide wide range of financial instruments/products for addressing climate change
• Mobilization of resources on a continuous basis

In his presentation he shared with the participants the GCF Governing Instruments such as Operational modalities that included funding windows and eligibility. Mr. Ogallah said that the GCF Readiness & preparatory support (including NAMAs, NAPs, NAPAs, in-country support) meets the principles & standards. He mentioned that the fund has private sector facilities for both mitigation and adaptation activities in less developed countries and in the small island states.

Detailed information was provided to participants concerning modalities involved in accessing and acquiring financing from the GCF. Financing from the GCF can be acquired as grant, loan or Concessional loan. He advised participants to take time and visit the GCF website and get detailed information on the modalities involved as well as access the application form. He mentioned that tangible and bankable project proposals are developed then designated authorities provide consent for their proposals by issuing a letter of no objection.

All potential applicants were advised to begin by holding stakeholder consultative processes on their proposal and also to engage with the National Designated Authority (NDA) and the accredited National Implementing Entity (NIE) to the GCF.

In his presentation, Mr. Ogallah highlighted on access modalities and accreditation in regards to Direct and International access of the GCF funds. He mentioned that direct access requires the recipient countries to nominate sub-national, national or regional IEs for accreditation to receive funding at country level. As for International Access, he mentioned that recipient countries will access the fund through international accredited agencies such as UNDP, UNEP, MDB, IFI & Regional institutions.

3.1.1 Plenary session

Participants were in this session provided the opportunity to raise concerns, questions and provide input or suggestions on the GCF State of play presentation. The following was the output from the session:

• Most projects in Africa are done without the involvement of CSOs and only few people are taking part in the GCF process GCF due to limited or lack of information by potential applicants especially those that work with local communities. As CSOs we need documents both in English and French for easier communication by all stakeholders in the recipient countries. PACJA was called upon to consider producing documents in French.
• African CSOs should begin submitting own projects which suit our national needs and interests. With information on GCF being in English, it poses huge challenges to French speaking countries especially in regard to writing bankable project proposals and reviewing them.

• The process of GCF accreditation is not friendly and takes too long to be finalized hence posing huge challenges to access funding especially through direct access. She advised that PACJA should continue to lobby for most African countries to apply for direct access.

• The 50/50 finance allocation arrangement of the GCF is clear in the system but does not translate to what is obtained in reality. The GCF has opted to fund more projects on mitigation, a move that has disadvantaged most projects on adaptation. Such a development is sad especially for LDCs and SID s and much us needed to advocate for a turn-around.

• GCF Projects will be done at national level and everyone should be part of the national processes on GCF. Everyone interested should get involved in the project design and implementation at national level.

• GCF’s recipient governments need to level their national budgets with the GCF funding as a supplement on ongoing national programs and plans. Development of action plans and strategies in conformity with national needs and priorities in achieving social economic development and building resilience to the impacts of climate change is needed. PACJA national chapters ought to get down to communities at country level to influence GCF investments.

3.1.2 Key statements and recommendations

a) PACJA and GCF at large should consider producing and providing documents and materials in French language for easy communication by all stakeholders in the French recipient countries.

b) African governments and CSOs should be advised to submit project proposals that suit their national needs, interests and priorities.

c) The GCF accreditation process should be made more convenient for applicants.

d) The selection process of the GCF project proposals was said to lack merits of fairness, transparency and equity in terms of the 50/50 allocation arrangement. The selection criteria on the contrary should be clear, transparent and fair to all applicants.

e) There is need to build the institutional and technical capacity of potential applicants at national level that will facilitate the development of bankable proposals that are competitive and robust
3.2 Climate Finance in GCF processes at national and international level

3.2.1 Green Climate Fund – PACJA Engagement

Mr. Julius Karanja of PACJA made a brief but detailed presentation on the current status and processes of the GCF both at national and international level. His presentation was insightful, educative and more elaborate about the GCF processes, the mandate, structure and funding. He began by making an introduction of what GCF is to all the participants for those that were seemingly new to information regarding the GCF.

GCF is a stand-alone multilateral financing entity; that serves the UNFCCC Convention and aims to deliver equal amounts of funding to mitigation and adaptation in the most vulnerable countries of the LDCs, less Developed Countries and the Small Island States. The fund was designed to mobilize climate financing aimed at helping reduce the negative impacts of climate change through the financing of climate change projects and programmes.

Furthermore, the fund is mandated to facilitate climate change mitigation and resilience actions to make an ambitious contribution to global response to climate change impacts, limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help the vulnerable societies adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Mr. Julius also shared in his presentation, about the board structure of the GCF. He mentioned that the GCF structure consists of (24board members/ Secretariat/ National Designated Authorities (NDAs)- Chosen by government to provide an oversight of GCF’s activities and to communicate with GCF on behalf of their governments.

**GCF Responsibility:**

He mentioned in his presentation that the responsibility of the GCF is to provide for the following:

- Accreditation –this can either be private or public, non-governmental, sub-national, national, regional or international (Long procedures).

- Mandate: funding project proposals; monitoring of projects and programmes.

- Consideration of funding proposals (Policy gaps on criteria, Low DAEs proposals).

- Readiness support- Enhance access and capacity to effectively deploy resources from the Green Climate Fund; USD 16 million available- Country Readiness Programme (96 Country programmes – Africa (45 countries), Latin America (15), Asia (22) and Pacific (14))

- Provision of funding – Grant, Loan financing, Equity, Guarantee
3.2.2 The 16th Board Meeting of the GCF

The (GCF) held its first 2017 Board meeting in Songdo from 4-6th of April. The meeting was concluded approving eight new projects and programmes worth USD 755 million to support the most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change.

The two co-chairs, Ewen McDonald (Australia) and Ayman Shasly (Saudi Arabia) deliberated with its 24 Board members (assisted by each member’s alternates). Other representatives who came to the GCF Secretariat included observers from civil society and private sector organizations, National Designated Authorities (NDAs), Accredited Entities (AEs), and the GCF Delivery Partners totaling over 250 participants.

In his presentation Mr. Julius Karanja shared with the delegates about the outcome of the recent 16th meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) that took place in Seoul, South Korea and CSO perspective on the outcome. He stated that the GCF Secretariat released provisional agendas (29 agenda items, 9 not opened), daily agenda were shared with delegates.

He highlighted about the Status of the GCF portfolio concerning the pipeline and approved projects. So far there are about 50 GCF funding proposals in the pipeline, about 37 are public sector and 13 are private sector. He gave an update that the GCF consideration process has 4 stages and that the approved Funding Proposals are 35 in total of which 65% addresses mitigation; while 35% are adaptation. He moreover shared the stages that a proposal undergoes until board level consideration pointing out that the greatest challenge with the process is its lack of being time-bound and there being no relevant policies that guide the process specifically at proposal consideration stage at board level.

Approved Projects by the GCF

The following were presented as projects that were approved in the 16th BM of the GCF:

1. GEEREF NeXt programme financing renewable energy and efficiency for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, Non-European Union Eastern Europe / Central Asia, and the Pacific. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is supporting this project

2. Renewable Energy Financing Framework programme in Egypt. This is supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

3. Scaling up Hydropower Sector Climate Resilience project in Tajikistan. This is again will be supported by

4. Simiyu Climate Resilience project in Tanzania, which will be supported by KfW development bank

5. Irrigation Development and Adaptation of Irrigated Agriculture to Climate Change in Semi-Arid Morocco project. This will be supported by Agence Francaise de Development (AfD).

6. Saïss Water Conservation project in Morocco. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will support the project.
7. Tina River Hydropower Development Project in the Solomon Islands. The World Bank will support this project.

8. Ground Water Recharge and Solar Micro Irrigation to Ensure Food Security and Enhance Resilience in Vulnerable Tribal Areas of Odisha in India. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will support the project.

3.2.3 Plenary

Participants were in this session provided the opportunity to raise concerns, questions and provide input or suggestions on PACJA engagement in the GCF process. The output of the discussion informed the following action points for Africa CSOs:

a) Africa CSOs should advocate for financing of adaptation projects especially in Africa

b) Involvement of CSOs in project development process at country level to provide CSOs input and perspective is crucial in generating bankable projects

c) Africa CSOs should enhance their work with other CSOs in the world at CSO GCF level engagement in the review of funding proposals to provide community perspectives

d) Africa CSOs should work closely with NDAs and NIEs and as well monitor their processes

e) Information on GCF should be provided more and in well synthesized manner to enable CSOs and communities understand and take necessary action.

4.0 WAY FORWARD

PACJA communicated its commitment towards continued lobbying for GCF to support adaptation projects coming from African countries, encourage country level engagement concerning GCF processes mainly proposal development and review processes and to continue providing support to national chapters so that national CSOs capacity on the GCF is built.
5.0 APPENDICES
5.1 Appendix 1: Meeting agenda

THE CIVIL SOCIETY READINESS AND ROLE IN THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF) SENSITIZATION ROUNDTABLE MEETING
ARCH APARTMENTS KAMPALA, UGANDA
DATE: 18TH -20TH APRIL 2017

DRAFT PROGRAMME

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>FACILITATOR</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DAY ONE: 18.04. 2017 Arrival of participants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00-6.30pm</td>
<td>Arrival and Registration</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
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<td><strong>DAY TWO: 19.04.2017</strong></td>
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<td>6.30-6.45pm</td>
<td>Introduction and Meeting Objectives</td>
<td>Moderator/ Speaker</td>
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<td><strong>Session 1: Opening Session</strong></td>
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<td>6.45-7.00 pm</td>
<td>Welcoming Remarks:</td>
<td>PACJA Uganda chapter/PACJA Secretariat</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2: CSO GCF Readiness project</strong></td>
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<td>7.00 – 7.30pm</td>
<td>Project matters: Goal, objectives, activities and implementation strategy</td>
<td>PACJA Secretariat</td>
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<td>7.30-7.45pm</td>
<td>Plenary focusing on the project</td>
<td>All participants</td>
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<td><strong>Session 3: Climate Finance in the GCF processes at national and international level</strong></td>
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<td>7.45-8.15pm</td>
<td>Overview of the national and international processes</td>
<td>PACJA Secretariat</td>
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<td>8.15-8.45pm</td>
<td>16th Board Meeting of the GCF: outcome and decisions</td>
<td>PACJA Secretariat/ BM16 Participants</td>
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<td><strong>Session 3: Way forward discussion</strong></td>
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<td>8.45-9.10pm</td>
<td>Plenary discussion</td>
<td>Moderator</td>
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<td>9.10-9.20pm</td>
<td>Way forward and Closure of meeting</td>
<td>PACJA Secretariat</td>
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5.2 Appendix 2: Participants List