

NEWSLETTER

READINESS AND PREPARATORY SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR RWANDA ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GCF

July - September 2022



MAIN OBJECTIVE

Strengthening Rwanda's capacity to access GCF Funds through the assessment of readiness needs, updating country programme, capacitating national stakeholders and renewal of DAE accreditation

CONTENT

TOPIC 1

Inception workshop of private sector mobilization strategy development

TOPIC 2

First Meeting of National Coordination Team for National engagement with the GCF

TOPIC 3

Second meeting of the National Coordination Team for national engagement with the GCF





Foreword

DEAR READER & STAKEHOLDER

This newsletter is for the fifth quarter of Readiness and preparatory Support Project/programme in Rwanda. The National Designated Authority (NDA) which is Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) implement this readiness programme for increasing its capacity and for stakeholders. In this quarter, NDA was engaging and capacitating the private sector to participate in climate finance mobilization.

Considerably, we highlight some important achievements in this newsletter of the fifth quarter for the project implementation to show up the activities done including developing a private sector mobilization strategy and conducting NCT Meeting for assessing the project which are seeking the no-objection process.

I hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter and invite you to check REMA website (<https://www.rema.gov.rw>) and Rwanda Climate change portal (<https://climatechange.gov.rw>) to have further information on previous conducted activities. For getting updated information, follow us on social media or contact us directly for more information.

Enjoy Reading!!!



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Photo: Dr Eliab Muhawenimana introducing the participants on the agenda of the workshop on Private sector mobilization strategy development

Climate change is a clear threat to societies around the world, with short, medium and long-term impacts on their livelihoods. Climate change mitigation is paramount if we are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a safe level, preferably no more than 1.5o C above pre-industrial levels and climate change adaptation is important if we are to improve the livelihood of communities.

While many development partners and donor organizations around the world support countries and communities to better adapt to climate impacts, the private sector must do more. Many put the onus on Governments to deliver on lofty climate goals. But Government commitments can and should be bolstered by the engagement and tangible actions of the private sector.

In May 2020, Rwanda was the first African country to submit its revised National Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The updated NDC sets out Rwanda's bold commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 38 percent and includes adaptation measures in priority sectors, including water, agriculture, land, forestry, human settlement, transport, health, and mining.

To deliver on these goals, the government has pledged to raise USD11 billion, more than the country's annual GDP. The NDC estimates the total cost for Rwanda's identified NDC mitigation measures through 2030 at USD 5.7 billion, and the cost of adaptation measures at over USD 5.3 billion. This represents a combined funding requirement of which 40% accounts for unconditional measures and 60% for conditional measures.

Implementation of prioritized policies and actions assumes the continued use of existing

and planned national and international financial sources. While the government continues to commit significant resources to climate change-relevant strategies, full implementation of strategic mitigation actions is conditional on the support of international stakeholders.

Rwanda intends to meet its conditional contribution through the use of climate finance, international market mechanisms, and potential involvement in international cooperative approaches and a strong support from private sector investing in sustainability. Sustainability is smart business, but implementing strategies to reduce and measure carbon emissions, meet global environmental and social standards and ecosystem restoration targets, and access financing can be challenging.

It is in this regard, REMA was organizing an inception workshop aiming to consult stakeholders to discuss about how to better engage the private sector in climate actions, assess the readiness of the private sector to contribute to climate actions and preliminary consultation in regards to the development of the private sector mobilization strategy including mapping of private sector players in climate change actions and an investor guide for climate change as well as a special private sector outreach programme.





Photo: The participants in group discussion during inception workshop

The unique expertise of the private sector, its capacity to innovate and produce new technologies for adaptation, and its financial leverage can form an important part of the multi-sectoral partnership that is required between governmental, private and non-governmental actors.

Thus, the inception workshop was held on 15th July 2022 at Kigali Serena Hotel. It was a platform gathered the NDA, public institutions, NGOs, CSOs and private sector with businesses involved in climate change, environment and biodiversity conservation.

The opening remarks was given by NDA representative to welcome all participants and hand over the flow to consultants for the pre-text and presentation.

Though group discussions guided by the consultant with different topics to be discussed per group formed according to their working classes, this methodology including filling in questionnaire provided the best of their knowledge. more so, they raised their concerns about which need from REMA to increase awareness amongst the private sector regarding climate action and how best they can be involved not only financially as well raising awareness on priority climate actions and where possible costing the strategy.

Thereafter, NDA secretary gave closing remarks thanking the private sector for their attendance and insightful input as they would be incorporated by the consultant. She also said that the recommendations given to REMA would be put into consideration. She thanked everyone who attended and asked them to keep striving for a better and green environment.



Photo: Stakeholders during discussion in plenary session of the workshop

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the financial mechanism created from parties initiative within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which mandated to support developing countries including Rwanda to respond to the challenge of climate change, and seeks to promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and , climate-resilient development, considering the needs of nations that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Since 2014, Rwanda has been engaging with the Green Climate Fund and Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) was nominated as the National Designated Authority (NDA) for Green Climate Fund (GCF) and it plays a big role with the support of the National Coordination Team (NCT), in facilitating the process of engaging with stakeholders to identify practical steps that will enable the implementation of priorities that can be supported by the GCF through accredited entities.

The National Coordination Team (NCT) is in charge of ensuring the systematization of stakeholder engagement and the decision-making process. It supports the NDA in the effective implementation of its tasks, especially the identification of country priorities for GCF funding and the preparation of the Country Programme and Strategic Framework for engagement with the GCF, the implementation of the No-objection procedure, the nomination of Direct Access Entities and its other roles.

Respectively, REMA was organizing two days of National

Coordination Team (NCT) Meeting for the following purpose:

1. Review the project proposal submitted by the Africa Finance Cooperation (AFC) entitled “Infrastructure Climate Resilient Fund” seeking the No-Objection Letter (NOL)
2. Address GCF comments on the revised Country Programme and Strategic Framework
3. Prioritize the planned projects in pipeline and new projects that are in the updated Country Programme and Strategic Framework.

On 2nd August 2022 at Kigali Serena Hotel, the NCT members conducted two sessions of meeting. For the first session, the chair of NCT gave the opening remarks and welcoming the AFC team members. The AFC’s representative made a brief presentation about AFC, and explained the proposed project entitled “Infrastructure Climate Resilient Fund”. Afterward, the NCT members querying some concerns about the project.

Accordingly, NCT members assessed the project proposal and allowed the project to be issued a No-Objection Letter, and recommended AFC to continue making consultations of highlighted stakeholder’s all along the project development and implementation. Yet, NCT members suggesting another session of virtual meeting with AFC for further clarifications about the concerns raised before issuing of NOL.

After evaluating the project proposal, the Technical Advisor of the NDA made a brief presentation on comments given by





Photo: NCT Members assessing project proposal submitted by AFC

the GCF on the updated Country Programme and Strategic Framework, thereafter, participants joined different groups in sections and started addressing the GCF comments related to the Country Programme and Strategic Framework.

Then, the chair of the NCT closing the first day of meeting with thanking all the NCT members participated at the first session and invited them to the second session at the next day.

On 3rd August 2022 at Kigali Serena Hotel, the second session of the NCT meeting started by the Chairperson with a welcoming message and recap of the first day done and thereafter participants returned in their groups to continue addressing the GCF comments.

Along the day, the second session was about responding to the GCF comments related to the Country Programme and Strategic Framework. The second session ended with all participants sharing with the NDA their group works.

The Chair closed the meeting by appreciating the presence of all the NCT members and their commitment to make the meeting successful, and reminded everyone to plan to attend another session planned for the 2nd review of the Infrastructure climate Resilient Fund.

On 4th August 2022, the virtual NCT meeting session was conducted. The Chair of NCT welcomed the participants and gave the flow to the AFC's representative to clarify for the comments raised by NCT members, and the AFC had well addressed comments raised in comprehend manner.

During closing, the chairperson appreciated the invitees for their presence and requested to continue with that spirit in order to make sure that projects sent from Rwanda are good written projects and aligned with Rwanda's priorities. He also emphasized on close coordination among relevant stakeholders to ensure that information shared in NCT meetings are well used by relevant sectors. Then, he thanked the NDA for organizing such a productive meeting, and all participants for their valuable contributions.



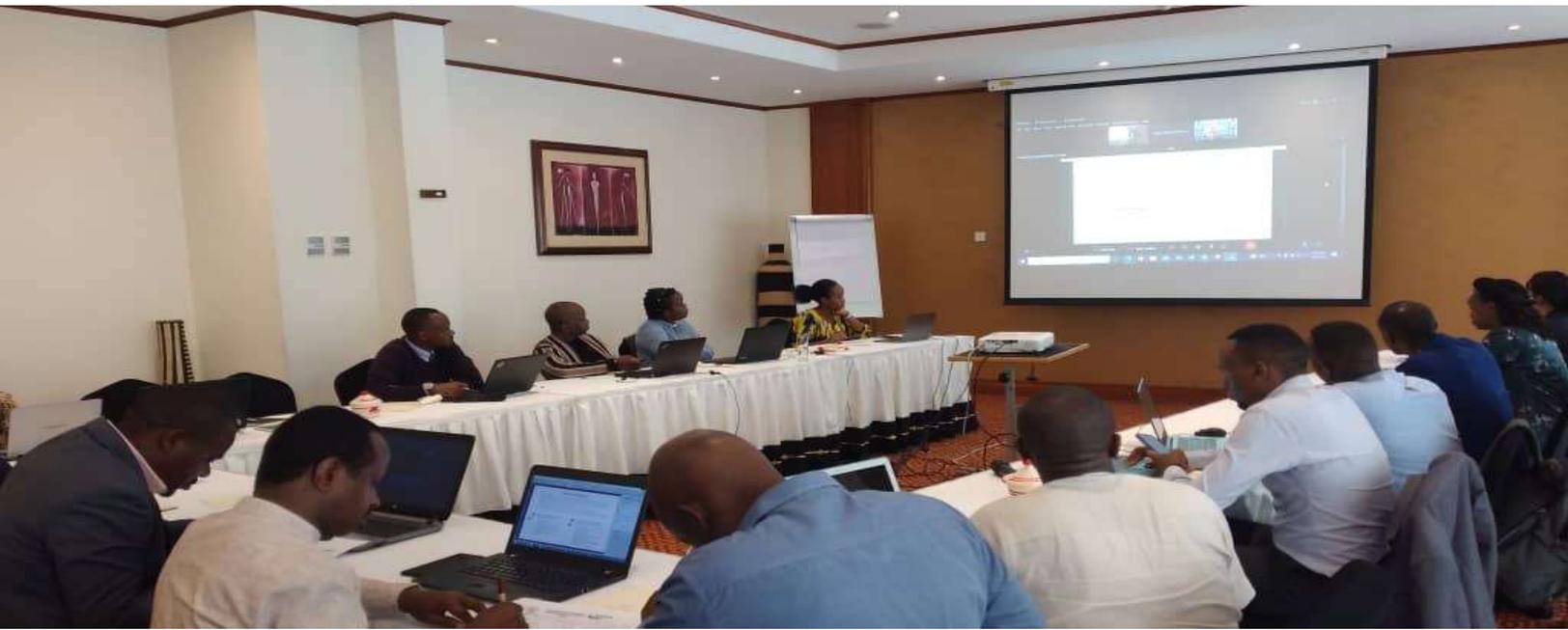


Photo: The presentation of IFAD's representative for the proposed project

On 1st September 2022, at Kigali Serena Hotel, the NCT meeting was conducted for reviewing the project proposal submitted by IFAD entitled “Africa Rural Climate Change Adaptation Finance Mechanism (ARCAFIM) for East Africa and Southern Africa regions” seeking the No-Objection Letter, as well as RPSP implementation Progress Report as per 31st July, 2022

The meeting started with a welcoming message and presentation of the participants, then the opening remarks given by Chairperson of the NCT. He officially started the meeting and called upon representative of IFAD to make a presentation on the “Africa Rural Climate Change Adaptation Finance Mechanism (ARCAFIM)” project/programme.

After the presentation, the NCT members raised some questions about the presentation for more clarifications whereas IFAD’s team responded for clarity.

Then, review of the project proposal submitted by IFAD entitled “Africa Rural Climate Change Adaptation Finance Mechanism (ARCAFIM) for East Africa and Southern Africa regions” made by NCT members ranked the marks which automatically allow the project to be issued a No-Objection Letter.

Yet, NCT had mentioned some unclear answers where it requires further clarifications and detailed data to Rwanda before recommending a NOL to IFAD’s submitted project.

Afterward, the Technical Advisor of the RPSP Project made a brief presentation and update on implementation progress of the RPSP Project which emphasizing the achieved, partially achieved and on-going activities and budget execution as per 31st July, 2022. He clearly explained about the termination of project contract and the need of extension to the reason of failure of consultant which caused the delaying of some activities achievement.

The NCT meeting highlighted some points of recommendations which are crucial specifically:

- NCT members recommended to issue a NOL, however IFAD need to make sure that all comments and data questioned have to be considered.
- NDA need to review the way of doing follow up to projects given NOL in their implementations to evaluate about the impacts and give recommendation to GCF (Need Assessment of issued Letter of No-Objection)



Photo: Stakeholders from various government institutions, NGOs, Private sectors during the workshop

- The capacity building for NCT to deliver excellent work
- To specify private sectors which operating in climate change and engaging them in climate actions and activities beyond PSF for GCF opportunities
- To work closely with PSF for private sectors' mindset about REMA which barring them to access the climate funds.
- Follow up for consultant to which is developing Private Sector Mobilization Strategy in his research as shown that he has not consulted all Key Informant (KI)
- To well focus on next activities for the use of budget to avoid returning of fund

Thereafter, the Chairperson closed the meeting by acknowledging the presence of all the NCT members and their commitment to achieve the objectives.

He also requested participants to continue with that spirit for serving splendidly. The Chairperson emphasized on close working with PSF representative in NCT to ensure that relevant sectors are well informed for the engagement. Then, officially closing by thanking the NDA for organizing the meeting and all participants for their participation.

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