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## GCF CSOs READINESS PROJECT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018  
Crossroads - Nyasa Room

Civil Society Network on Climate Change  
P O Box 1036  
Lilongwe  
Website: [www.cisonecc.org](http://www.cisonecc.org)

## **Introduction**

Climate change and its impacts have had serious worldwide implications on economic development, food security and poverty eradication for developing countries, especially for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) like Malawi. All Malawi's socio-economic sectors had been, and would continue to be impacted by climate change thereby negatively affecting the livelihood of its population and its social economic development. Recognizing the threats caused by climate change, especially the adverse impacts of droughts and floods on the economy, Malawi had prioritized climate change in its development agenda. Adaptation is a key priority for Malawi essentially to increase resilience and provide food security, assist vulnerable communities with livelihoods. The vision and mandate for climate change adaptation in Malawi had been developed within the realm of national development agenda and international frameworks which Malawi is a member.

On 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 Malawihosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Community Based Adaptation (CBA 12) Conference at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe. The conference was a series of International events organized by the IIED, Climate Justice Resilience Fund, GIZ, Global Resilience Partnership, International Development Research Centre, Irish Aid and Practical Action that enabled practitioners, governments and donors to share the latest development and best practice on climate change adaptation around the world.

In cognizant of the Civil Society Readiness to Green Climate Fund project - Focus on Africa being implemented by Civil Society Network on Climate Change in collaboration with Care Malawi, CISON ECC hosted a knowledge exchange session on the sidelines of the CBA 12, on the evening of the second day of the conference, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The CSOs readiness to Green Climate Fund aimed at increasing CSOs involvement and engagement with GCF. The project sought to strengthen the engagement of civil society actors and organizations in the GCF processes at national, regional and international level and scale-up existing CSOs' capacities as well as to ensure accountability of GCF-funded activities by national authorities through a broader societal mobilization for transformation and better impacts. Therefore, the CBA 12 side event intended to leverage on the expertise of the delegates and the CSOs in Malawi available for the conference to share knowledge and experience on the opportunities and best practices related to access to GCF resources. (refer to annex 2-participants list).

## **Objectives:**

The objective of the GCF CSO Readiness Project side event was to create a platform for interaction between CBA participants, government officials and other participating stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences on GCF country specific processes.

## **Expected Outcomes**

The following were the expected outcomes of the meeting:

- Enhanced awareness and understanding on the GCF CSO readiness processes among the participants

## Approach

The meeting took the following approach:

- Presentation
- Plenary

## Proceedings

The meeting was facilitated by Mr Obed Koringo from Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, PACJA. He ensured that each participant introduced himself, his organisation and the country they were representing.

## Welcoming Remarks

The meeting started with remarks from CISONNECC National Coordinator Mr. Julius Ng'oma who welcomed everyone and further explained that CISONNECC is partnering with CARE, aiming at increasing CSOs involvement and engagement with the GCF in Malawi, thereby facilitating access to the GCF. He pointed out that the meeting was one of several other meetings that had been done to capacitate CSOs on the GCF. The purpose was to engage CSOs that were likeminded in a discussion. He urged the participants to get to learn from the experiences of other countries on the GCF processes. He ended his remark by inviting everyone to the cocktail after the discussions.

This was followed by opening remarks from Environmental Affairs Department, EAD, Mr. Evans Njewa who continued to also make a presentation on the overview of GCF and the role of the National Delegated Authority (NDA). He hoped by the end of the meeting, CSOs would benefit from the GC fund.

## Presentation - Overview and Status of Green Climate Fund in Malawi and Role of NDA

The presentation was made by Mr Evans Njewa, principal environmental officer, EAD and also a board member of Green Climate Fund. Evans expressed why he was the right presenter for this meeting as he had been negotiator of Climate finance for over 10 years and had been a board member of the Green Climate Fund for 2 years as at June 2018.

In his introduction, he stated that he would not be able to exhaust all the information on the GCF and anymore information could be found on the GCF website; [www.gcfund.org](http://www.gcfund.org)

In his presentation, Evans explained that GCF is a 24 board member (decision makers) climate finance body seeking to invest in low emission and climate resilient development to reduce emission GHG and to help vulnerable communities to adapt to the unavoidable impacts. It was established to advance the goal of keeping the global temperature increase below 2°C. He continued to say that the template for the GCF is available online on the GCF website.

In the overview, he explained that the GCF mobilises funds through contributions, pledges and announcements made voluntarily by developed countries. The GCF was in its initial resource mobilizing phase since 2014 since the next cycle was to be triggered once 60% of the resources in the fund had been allocated and disbursed. Mr. Evans stated that, the fund then had 7.3 billion US dollars from the 10.3 billion US dollars since the USA had withdrawn their voluntary pledge of 3 billion.

Mr. Njewa indicated that the CSOs should consider the following elements; essentials to know, review criteria, project eligibility criteria, GCFs interest in a project cycle, GCFs investment criteria, and result management framework criteria. In processing the proposals, CSOs must also consider environmental social safeguard as well as gender requirements. He explained with emphasis that GCF investment criteria was focused on shifting to low emission and increasing climate resilience.

In addition, he said, the GCF had four project categories based on the amount; up to 10million dollars was a micro project. He mentioned that the project whose proposed budget was below the 10million could be fast tracked and some processes could be skipped. He also included that a Project Preparatory Facility (PPF) could be set up to help some institutions and up to 1.5million US dollars could be allocated to this in each nation.

MrNjewa explained that the NDA was to function as an interface between the country and the fund; i.e. serve as point of communication with fund for stakeholders. The NDA would also ensure ownership and ensure that investments are aligned with the main goal for the GCF.

He concluded with a pitiful note since there had been no proposals with interest to access the GCF resources from Malawi and was looking forward to the proposals that would be developed from CSOs and other institution to access the resources from the GCF. In closing, he mentioned that EAD, as a NDA for the GCF in Malawi was both willing and capacitated to help with the development of proposals in partnership with CSOs as stated that EAD had one of the Board members of the GCF. Further details are in the presentation document on the link: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1k8QV14Jjz2X8Da\\_5dOgL\\_Oo4aRND2ZUe](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1k8QV14Jjz2X8Da_5dOgL_Oo4aRND2ZUe)

### **Presentation – Overview and progress of GCF CSO readiness report**

Julius Ng'oma National coordinator for CISONNECC gave a presentation on the overview and progress of GCF and CSO readiness project. He admitted that previously CSOs were not aware of the GCF process. There was therefore a need to work and get CSOs aware of the GCF process. GCF CSO readiness project was aimed at capacitating the CSOs and many other institutions as well. CISONNECC had been conducting awareness and capacity building sessions on GCF and a number of stakeholder sessions to get information on getting either funding or accreditation. He said CISONNECC as an umbrella is helping other NGOs in developing the proposals for the GCF as well as capacitating the NGOs . He therefore urged the participants to gladly share information and knowledge from their countries on GCF

He explained the reason why CSOs had not been acting on the GCF process and said there had been lack of awareness and that the information had not gone to the CSOs.

## **Plenary/Open Discussion – GCF Country Readiness programme; experience sharing from different countries And Linkages of GCF to Community Based Adaptation Activities**

The participants showed interest in the GCF, several had not heard of it, some others had heard of it but never managed to complete the process since there was inadequate capacity and understanding on the GCF process. The participants also mentioned that the GCF template was too tiresome since it was long and required too much from them

One participant from Namibia, though, shared that they had been sending proposals in teams of CSOs-working together, and they had then started receiving resources from the GCF. He also explained that the banks were contacted for partnership in the processes. In the same lines, Youths had a GCF workshop so that they would be able to include innovations from each of them, coming up with proposals that were successful.

A representative from UNFCCC also mentioned that even though the process was tiresome, after some effort, the funds would be released and none of the CSOs should give up since they eventually would get the resources and in the process, improve on their access to the GCF resources that had been made available. He further added to say that the resources have been made available by developed countries willingly but they would want to understand the implementation of the projects proposed as well as the way their resources would be managed, hence the long and taxing process in accessing GCF funds.

Some participants, from Uganda, expressed that they had not been aware of the GCF and did not know of a focal point in their country. This was cleared by the EAD representative expressing that Uganda had people that have worked closely with the GCF and they would easily help any CSOs.

It was stated that LEAD SEA was in the process of getting accreditation, since each nation was advised to be working on accrediting as many institutions as possible. With the accreditation, the institutions were advised to get involved in GCF process for other organizations in the nation as well as internationally; an example of this scenario was in Senegal. The UNFCCC representative emphasized on this to ensure that there was no limitation on nations as some nations could get help from other institutions that have been accredited from other nations.

Several African countries have had access to the GCF funds; Zambia got up to 12.3million dollars and has been implementing since 2017 by UNDP. Rwanda and Mozambique had also benefitted from the GCF.

It was noted that the main reason why the CSOs from the countries present at the meeting had not been acting was due to lack on awareness and CISONNECC had been working with CARE to capacitate CSOs in the Malawi ensuring that stakeholders get either the accreditation or the resources.

## Closing Remarks

The CISONECC partners, CARE international Malawi representative, Mr. Geoffrey Kumwenda concluded the evening by thanking the delegates for availing themselves for the meeting. He highlighted that the vision is to ensure climate resilient communities, a food secure Malawi, poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development. He also thanked CISONECC for the GCF knowledge and awareness that the CSOs in Malawi and internationally were getting access to.

The moderator of function, Regional facilitator for PACJA, ObedKoringo, partners with CISONECC closed the evening by inviting the participants to the cocktail.

**Annex 1 Programme and Agenda**

<b>12<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b> <b>Facilitator: ObedKoringo</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>
18:00 -18:15	Opening remarks	CISONECC PACJA Government of Malawi, EAD
18:15 -18:25	Overview of Green Climate Fund Status of Green Climate Fund Processes in Malawi	Evans Njewa-Environmental Affairs Department
18:25 -18:35	Role of NDA	Evans Njewa-Environmental Affairs Department
18:35 -18:45	Plenary discussion	Moderator, PACJA
18:45 -19:00	Overview and Progress - GCF CSO Readiness Project	Civil Society Network on Climate Change
19:00 – 19:10	Plenary discussion	Moderator, PACJA
19:10 -19:30	Open Discussion – GCF Country Readiness programme; experience sharing from different countries	Moderator, PACJA
19:30 -19:50	Open Discussion - Linkages of GCF to Community Based Adaptation Activities	Moderator, PACJA
19:50-20:00	Closing remarks	Care International, Malawi Pan African Climate Justice Alliance – PACJA Government of Malawi, EAD
20:00 – 20:30	Logistics, Dinner interactions and Departure	

**Annex 2 Participants list**

No	Name	Organisation	Contact	Email
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**Annex 3 Photos of Key Moments during the Event**



*Julius Ng'oma-CISO NECC National Coordinator presenting the overview of GCF CSO Readiness Project during the event*



*Part of the audience listening to the presentations during the event*



*Evans Njewa from Department of Environmental Affairs making his presentation on overview of GCF*



*Paul Densanker-UNFCCC NAPs Manager making his contribution*



*Obed Koringo from PACJA-  
facilitating the discussions*



*Women inclusion in the GCF CSO  
readiness project*