



## **Getting Stakeholders Ready to Engage in GCF Process and to Access Resources for Enhanced Climate Action**

Civil Society Network on Climate Change in collaboration with Care International in Malawi and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance hosted a GCF knowledge exchange dialogue on the night of 12th June, 2018 on the sidelines of the 12th Community Based Adaptation Conference. The event took place in the context of a multi-country project on GCF CSO readiness. The gathering brought together stakeholders from different backgrounds and from different countries, most of which were CBA 12 participants. Key participants to the event included Malawi government officials especially from the Environmental Affairs Department; Civil Society leaders, UNFCCC representative, PACJA representatives and representative of the media.

The workshop contributed to the enhanced understanding of the participants on the GCF processes as only about 10% of the participants indicated to have knowledge of GCF and its processes before the event. In this regard, the event ensured that participants had an understanding of the origins, structure and operations of the GCF; the role of National Designated Authorities (NDA) and the role of other stakeholders including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on GCF. Participants were made aware that Malawi has accessed GCF funds, through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for the project called Saving Lives and Protecting Agriculture-based Livelihoods in Malawi: Scaling Up the Use of Modernized Climate Information and Early Warning Systems (M-CLIMES). This project is targeting modernization of early warning systems and climate information across 21 of the country's 28 districts in Malawi. Implementation of this project started at the beginning of 2018 although it was approved in 2015 by GCF Board, a situation which came to being due to the lengthy process of putting in place Master Agreements between GCF and Accredited Entity, in this case, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said Evans Njewa, from the office of NDA in the Department of Environmental Affairs. Evans was also responding to the query by some participants on why the GCF Project that Government of Malawi is managing took two years to start implementation.

Another critical discussion during the event focused on the lengthy processes of accreditation and project preparation and approval. This discussion was in the context of the experience presented by some participants that some of the institutions such as Leadership for Environment and Development in Southern and East Africa (LEAD) SEA have gone through in processing their accreditation with the GCF that started in 2016 but not yet concluded. This experience, as indicated by some participants during the course of the discussion, made other institutions such as Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust to decide not to proceed undergoing through the GCF accreditation process citing that the

process is demanding. At this point, the NDA representative informed the participants of a new way of fast tracking accreditation for institutions that would like to do only one project falling under the micro category with GCF which is termed “Simplified Approval Process - SAP”. The participants were further informed during the event that this process was introduced in 2017 by GCF and is currently being piloted. Only Namibia managed to get a project under the SAP in 2018 so far.

CISONECC and Care International in Malawi and other partners will continue engaging with government and various stakeholders to raise more awareness on the GCF processes through similar events. It plans to host further knowledge exchange workshops with the CSOs on GCF program in Malawi and the government and share emerging developments. The network also plan to contribute to the development of the GCF Country protocols that the Malawi Government is developing to facilitate good communication and engagement between the NDA and all other stakeholders.



*Julius Ng'oma-CISONECC 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*