# EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA







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# FROM WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISM TO CLIMATE ACTIVISM: MY INTEREST IN CLIMATE FINANCE

After almost 19 years of activism in the field of women's rights and gender equality, I decided to start working the issue of environment and climate change **because:** 

- 1. there are very few francophone women groups working in this field in order to increase their engagements on those issues.
- 2. There is currently lot of redirection of funding to this sector and many programs being drafted and implemented in our countries and we have to bring in gender lens to ensure that they are being gender sensitive and gender responsive. And this can't be done without the active participation and contributions from gender advocates!

#### THE ROLE OF GENDER ADVOCATES

Even where sometimes there is political engagement and an openness from the project initiators towards gender sensitivity, oftentimes, they lack capacity on how to appropriately mainstream gender into the various components of the project; and they usually end up simply adding the number of women beneficiaries or as participants to the workshops.

I am fully convinced that we need to invest in this field and make sure that climate finance equally benefits women and girls as well as men and boys in our communities.

# Why should we (women's organizations) be interested in climate finance monitoring?

- 1. Women's rights organizations and activists have to be interested in GCF and climate finance monitoring in general, because this is a very important sustainable development agenda issue that affects our lives and well-being and that of our communities and the entire planet.
- 2. Because of the increased consciousness on the urgency of the need to take action to initiate climate mitigation and adaptation solutions, women's groups have to ensure that these solutions are gender-sensitive and gender-responsive and do take into account the experiences and concerns of women as well as men throughout the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all related policies and programs; this is key to ensure that these policies and programs do not perpetuate inequality and that both men and women equally benefit from their outcomes.

# Why should we (women's organizations) be interested in climate finance monitoring?

As women's rights activists and gender advocates, we have develop over the years lot of skills and capacity on how to mainstream gender into projects. But unfortunately most development actors and planners are lacking this capacity even if there is currently the political will to be more gender sensitive. We need to be proactive and seek ways to engage and contribute to these processes in our countries and regions and start developing mutually beneficial working partnerships with the institutions that are initiating and implementing climate related solutions.

They oftentimes ignore that we have the expertise and usually look for consultants outside our field to provide these services and we are generally not satisfied with the results. We should STOP limiting our interventions to lobby and advocacy and start requesting to be partners on these projects/programs.

### What we are currently doing in the GCF Africa Gender Group: Some Achievements

In the African region, we have decided:

- 1. to set up a regional group: we hold monthly meetings (in English) where we discuss how to better organize ourselves to monitor the GCF work on our continent
- 2. Starting on September 5<sup>th</sup>, to set up a Francophone group and hold parallel monthly meetings realizing the linguistic challenges French speaking members of the group face to contribute to discussions; but also to increase their engagements with the GCF processes in their countries
- 3. to have Country Monitors in all African countries and promote country-level engagement because projects drafting and implementation take place at country level. Below is the names of our current Country Lead Monitors:

**South Africa**: Bertha CHIRORO

Mali: Kassoum COULIBALY

Togo: Noufoh DARE

*Nigeria*: Titilope Ngosi AKOSA

**Tanzania**: Eymuna Maria MATUI

Burkina Faso: Zenabou SEGDA

**Ghana**: Faustina BOAKYE

Uganda: Miriam TALWISA

### What we are currently doing in the GCF Africa Gender Group: Some Achievements

**4. Mapping of GCF Processes:** This shared file identifies GCF African Board members, key details of all African projects implemented or publically known to be in the pipeline, information on country-specific readiness program, any known women's group engagement, etc.

COUNTRIES	Board member			Name of National	Name & Title of Focal point or	Status of	Country has		Accredited entitles		Access modality		Projects					C8Oslwomen groups	C8Os/women groups	New C 80s/women groups to	
	Full Board member	Alternate Board member	Group represented	Designated Authority (NDA)	National Designated Authority (NDA)	Readiness Programme	Environment policy	Climate change policy	Name	Group represented (C 8Os, Private Sector, etc.)	Direct	International	Name of Applicant	Project Title	Project Budget	GCF Amount	Status	Approved Budget	engaged in GCF process	Interested to engage with GCF process	reach out to
Algeria				MINISTRY OF WATER REBOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT	Mr Messaoud Tebani								African Development Bank (AfDB)	Renewable energy for agricultural entrepreneurs in Southern Algeria	UB\$ 9.104 million	USD 8.15 million	Concept note 06/29/2018				
Angola		88		MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	Ms. Arlette Messele			- 23							78			100			
Bentin :				ENVIRONMENT AND	Ains Martin Pepin Mr Domingo Theodore Cossi									PROJECT FP027 - Universal Green Energy Access Programme	\$301.6m Total project Investment	UBD 80m	Approved October 2016	\$301.6m Total project Investment			
													Benin, Cambodis, Bhilopia, India, Kenya, Lao PDR, Medegascar, Malawi, Nepel, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Tanzania, Topo, and Upanda   United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	Sanitation and Hygiene for Communities Vulnerable to Climate Change	UBD\$ 83,150,000	\$50,000,00	Concept 0 note 02/24/2017				
													Benin   Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Quémé climate-resilience Intrative (QCRI)	UBD 50 Millors	UBD 38 Millions	Concept note 12/21/2017				
													(UNEP)	Enhanced climate resilience of rural communities in central and north Berin through the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation (BbA) in forest and agricultural	UBD 10 M	U80 9 M	Concept note 11/23/2017				

#### THE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING

There are many challenges but the most important is the availability of resources to support our work.

It is very difficult to monitor GCF and climate finance processes without having the minimum resources to support the plans that we design to efficiently do so.

This work takes staff time to:

- read through available documentation and keep up-to-date on the process/processes we decide to monitor,
- write/input to advocacy pieces and reports,
- share information with the wider women's groups to seek their support and endorsements,
- travel to attend sessions,
- engage in different ways with the various stakeholders, etc.

#### THE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING

Another challenge is the openness of the stakeholders we have to engage with, to listen to us and allow us to share out inputs with them.

In Africa, it mostly depends on their good willingness and also on our perseverance and the efficient strategies we are able to put in place.

But overall, our actions are more efficient if they are designed to continue and include several components and activities and do not stop after one single action.

And this is why it is so important that they are resourced and well coordinated.

#### MY VISION/HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS WORK

When we started this collaborative work with WEDO and Both ENDS in January,

- my insight was to increase African women's engagement with the GCF process and
- my ambition was to create a regional group which will have members in all African countries since they are all receiving or eligible to receive GCF and other climate funds grants.

Even though we are far away from our target (we currently only have 8 Lead Country Monitors and members in 23 countries), I believe we are on the good way and have put in place the appropriate mechanisms to be able to do so: our group decision to have Lead Country Monitors who commissioned to mobilize women's groups engagements in their country around GCF processes.

#### MY VISION/HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS WORK

- We need to remain engaged and find ways to do so.
- We also need to find innovative ways to fundraise and get the necessary financial support that we need to keep carrying out this work.
- More importantly, we need to strengthen our regional network so that we could effectively <u>lobby GCF African Board members and other</u> <u>stakeholders</u> and contribute to regional processes
- because "we are stronger together"!