



CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE AFRICA REGIONAL FCPF CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP 26TH JANUARY 2018 SUNLAND HOTEL, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

PACJA is currently implementing a two-year project supported by the Forest Carbon Partnership facility (FCPF) which is aimed at building the capacity of African Civil Society and Local Communities on REDD+. The beneficiaries of the project are Southern CSO networks and organisations from the 18 FCPF eligible countries in Africa. PACJA, the CSOs Intermediary and implementing agency, is focusing national level activities on four (5) Countries namely: Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Togo and Mozambique and Madagascar.

The project is consistent with the UNFCCC COP16 recognition of the need to engage a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels, including governments, private business and civil society, for effective action on all aspects of climate change. This COP held in Mexico, further invited parties to foster the participation of women, youth, indigenous peoples, civil society groups and relevant stakeholders in decision-making on climate change at the national level and their attendance at relevant intergovernmental meetings.

In response to civil society representatives' calls for knowledge sharing and dissemination, and in order to strengthen regional CSO collaboration, the project aims at designing and implementing a robust regional platform for information exchange and knowledge sharing between CSO networks of the FCPF member countries in Africa as well as other national and regional REDD+ processes and climate change fora.

It is with this background that PACJA seeks to convene the Africa Regional workshop on FCPF to be held back-to-back with the African Union Summit, taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 22nd January – 1st February 2018. This workshop will raise awareness and share lessons learned, good practices, challenges and recommendations from the Pan African civil society Capacity building Programme supported by FCPF.

Scheduled to take place on **26th January 2018 at Sunland Hotel, Addis Ababa**, the workshop will facilitate regional exchanges to encourage first-hand learning and sharing of experiences from civil society engagement in REDD+ Readiness processes, being implemented by PACJA.

The workshop will target various stakeholders and CSO networks from the 18 FCPF eligible countries in Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

JUSTIFICATION

In the process of implementation of their projects, sub-grantees have called upon PACJA to facilitate knowledge-sharing and dissemination convergences as a way of strengthening cross-country collaborations and effort-sharing. Their request is in line with overall objective of the Project, which aims at designing and implementing a robust regional platform for information exchange and knowledge sharing between CSO networks of the FCPF member countries in Africa as well as other national and regional REDD+ processes and climate change fora.

While the negotiations thus far in the lead up to COP24 in 2018 have focused on the technical details of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, there is a need to revisit the whole architecture of the agreement and to open the negotiations on the political questions regarding the Agreement. African civil society has a key role to inform these processes and influence decisions taken by parties and member States. For this reason, it is crucial that their involvement contribute to a common African agenda especially on REDD+ is also crucial and should also inform decisions that touch on the livelihoods of the people.

This unique convergence with policy makers, among other stakeholders during the AU Summit will accord an opportunity to the array of actors drawn from diverse backgrounds – women, youth, and indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers – to interrogate the extent to which the agreement is capable of delivering a stabilized climate system in such a time frame as to avoid irreversible global warming and the implications of the Paris Agreement for Africa.

Debates on such mechanisms like REDD have not yet found adequate space in high-level policy processes in African countries, and this is one of the rare opportunities to create awareness to the policy makers and other stakeholders from across Africa. The meeting will be a platform for sharing experiences on REDD+ readiness processes with diverse Actors, including community representatives, Governments and selected development partners with a view of exploring areas of convergence and collaborations. Some, and/or all these stakeholders will already be Addis Ababa as part of the 30th AU Summit.

The FCPF regional meeting will, therefore, in addition to knowledge exchange, be a platform to expand conversations and broaden partnerships around REDD+ readiness processes while at the same time contributing towards the Africa Union Summit agenda.

2.0 Objectives of the Meeting

- i. To broaden conversation around the FCPF Capacity Building Program and broader REDD+ Readiness Programme
- ii. To share lessons learned, good practices and recommendations from respective capacity building and awareness activities among sub-grantees, non-grantee and other participants from REDD+ countries



- iii. To facilitate regional exchanges to encourage first-hand learning and sharing of experiences from civil society engagement in REDD+ Readiness processes and mainstreaming gender in REDD+
- iv. To chart a way forward on Effective CSO engagement on REDD+ Readiness activities
- v. To contribute to the discourse on the AU Summit agenda, especially on REDD+

3.0 Expected Results

- Broader awareness, and hence support for the FCPF Capacity Building Program, REDD+ Readiness and its knowledge products
- A robust regional platform for information exchange between Africa CSO networks established and recommendations on the way forward for future exchanges.
- Stakeholders, both within sectors and regions, especially women, informed and have the capacity to participate meaningfully in national and regional REDD+ readiness processes and dialogues
- Conversations on potential collaborations, and/or opportunities to compliment the FCPF REDD+ process launched
- Recommendations on the REDD+ developed for the Africa Union Summit