



THE PAN-AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON REDD+ PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

The World Bank through the Forest Carbon Partnership facility (FCPF) is supporting PACJA in a two year project aimed at building the capacity of African Civil Society and Local Communities on REDD+ while enhancing regional information-sharing and knowledge exchange across Africa and the Global South.

The Project has three components which are:

- (i) Component 1: National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising** – This component aims at supporting capacity building and awareness raising activities for Southern CSO networks, CSOs and LC representatives from eleven FCPF countries, namely Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan, Togo and Uganda, with specific focus on women and youth.
- (ii) Component 2: Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned** - This component focuses on the design and implementation of a robust regional platform for information exchange and knowledge sharing between CSO networks of all 18 FCPF member countries, 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, as well as other national and regional REDD+ processes and climate change forums. This is in response to civil society representatives' calls for knowledge sharing and dissemination, and in order to strengthen regional CSO collaboration.
- (iii) Component 3: Management, M&E and Reporting** - This component aims at financing the overhead costs of the Project Management team. Project management activities include: procurement, financial management, environmental and social safeguard monitoring, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and reporting, and preparation of work plans and budgets acceptable to the World Bank. This component also finances annual audits of the project account by an external auditor and any costs related to the execution of a grievance redress mechanism.

The beneficiaries of the project are Southern 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, who are eligible to participate in regional learning and exchange activities (activities funded under Component 2). Of the 18 countries, Southern CSOs and Local communities from eleven countries are eligible to participate in national-level capacity building, awareness raising and networking activities (under Component 1), namely Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan, Togo and Uganda.

Under this project, PACJA, the implementing agency, is focusing on national level activities in five (5) Countries namely: Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Togo, Mozambique and Madagascar.

The project is being implemented according to a grant agreement signed by the World Bank and PACJA, the selected Recipient Organization for this project. Capacity building activities at the national level under this project are being implemented by PACJA's national chapters and other selected CSO networks (in countries where PACJA does not have national chapters) through contracts or sub-grants. Regional activities are directly coordinated by PACJA.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen: (i) the knowledge of targeted southern civil society organizations and local communities of REDD+ Readiness at the national level and (ii) knowledge exchange at the regional level.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

PACJA has so far contracted five organizations to implement Capacity building sub-projects on CSOs and local communities in the five countries. To date, a total of US\$30,000 has been disbursed to each sub-grantee accounting for 85% of the total disbursement.

The following is a summary of the sub-projects;

Cote d'Ivoire

In Cote d'Ivoire, Actions en Faveur de l'Homme et de la Nature is currently implementing a project entitled 'Technical capacity development of civil society organizations, communities and local authorities in the process of REDD+'.

The sub-project aims to improve the technical capacity of civil society organizations, communities and local authorities in the REDD + process and to contribute to the effective implementation of the REDD + process at the national level.

Key activities under this sub-project include:

- Capacity building sessions for local community leaders, elected officials (mayors, regional councils), the administrative authorities, community leaders (ethnic / non-indigenous communities and non-indigenous, etc.) and associations involved in the REDD + process in the South West area of Cote d'Ivoire

- Supporting groups and cooperatives that will create a platform for exchange to facilitate the implementation of the project.
- Production of awareness materials such as skits, music albums and documentaries
- Local awareness campaigns on local radios in french and local languages

AFHON has already conducted two national trainings on REDD+ actors , four radio broadcasts with key REDD+ and climate change messages reaching approximately 394,500 people and printed 6000 visual sensitization tools (posters and flyers) as well as 2000 t-shirts with key-messages on REDD+ and climate change. In addition, AFHON organized a caravan of sensitization with a 17 people (10 female and 7 male), which crisscrossed strategic point with messages about importance of the forest for the ecosystem balance.

The sub-project will come to an end on December 2017.

Madagascar:

Gasy Youth- UP from Madagascar is currently implementing a project entitled *Miara-MikajynyTontolo (Protecting and conserving the environment together)* through a consultancy assignment. The consultancy contract was signed on 27th June 2017. The Sub- project is expected to be finalized by March 30th 2018. The sub-project is currently in its second quarter of implementation and has been given a clean bill of health by the Madagascar National REDD+ secretariat which has offered to support the sub-project project technically.

The goal of the sub project is building a youth national coalition across Madagascar on climate change mitigation and promoting REDD+ actions.

Key activities under the sub-project;

- Capacity building training for youth within four main regions of Madagascar on REDD+ and climate change
- Success stories, sharing skills sessions and exchange with environmentalists, activists, scientific researchers from various platform (National REDD+ platforms, NGOs)
- Production of video in Malagasy to highlight youth roles in environment protection, climate mitigation, REDD+ initiatives to be used as an advocacy tool, to be broadcast on national channels, projected in schools, in local communities
- National sensitization campaigns and advocacy on REDD+ and climate change within the 4 project locations.

- National workshop with main stakeholders to evaluate progress toward national REDD+ implementation

Two sessions of training to 125 young leaders on the REDD+ mechanism, climate change and environment protection (building in 2 different locations) technically supported by the REDD+ national coordination team have been held followed by a panel of exchange and a youth corner that allowed the organization to promote REDD+ and other related themes to 700 youth leaders and an audience of 1500 persons (900 female and 600 male) was held on the International Youth Day. Youth Up has also been part of several youth public and radio talks on youth development, environment and youth, REDD+, climate change reaching approximately 1,000 listeners. Gasy Youth has also held a number of meetings and consultations with the National REDD+ secretariat, key ministries (ministry of youth and ministry of environment) and international organizations representatives (UNICEF and UNDP).

Mozambique:

ORAM-Mozambique is currently implementing a sub-project entitled “Strengthening the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and local communities in Zambezia Province on REDD+, climate change and community forest concession practices” on a consultancy basis. The contract was signed on 30th June 2017 and will be expected to end on 30th March 2018. The sub-project is currently in its second quarter of implementation.

The goal of the sub-project is to strengthen the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and local communities in Zambezia Province on REDD+, climate change and sustainable community forest concession practices.

Key activities under this sub-project include;

- Training workshops/sensitization forums (awareness-raising meetings for community members on REDD+, climate change process and forest concession practices).
- Local administrative meetings (meetings/workshops with CSOs on REDD + and climate change process)
- Focus/dialogue meetings with the REDD+ focal point and other policy makers
- Joint workshops with government and private sector on key REDD+ themes
- Multi-stakeholder meetings/workshops for information exchange/sharing on REDD+ and climate change.

ORAM has so far organized training sessions for its staff on REDD + matters, forestry legislation and environmental management, facilitated the establishment and operation of a forest concession managed by local communities, has distributed awareness-raising materials on climate change and forest exploitation practices and held multiparty meetings / workshops to exchange / share information on REDD + and climate change

Togo:

The Togo Sub- Project entitled “*Strengthening the participation of civil society and local communities in forest protection in Togo*” is implemented by Groupement E-D/ADCF under a consultancy basis. The nine-month contract was signed on 30th June 2017 and will be closing on 30th March 2018. The project is currently in its second quarter of implementation.

The goal of the sub-project is to strengthen the capacity of the Togolese Republic in forest management through adaptation to climate change and reducing carbon emissions.

Key activities under this sub-project include;

- Mass awareness on REDD+ in five districts of the central region and seven districts in the Kara region in Togo
- Radio broadcasts on REDD+ and climate change
- Production and distribution of commercial spots in French and local languages on the importance of the forest protection
- Official launch ceremony

Groupement E-D/ADCF has been able to organize a workshop in partnership with the National REDD+ Coordination in Lomé targeting 184 participants drawn from CSOs, Women REDD+, CN-REDD+, Young National Coordination, ONGS ED-ADCF, Consultant, medias and capacity building workshops in the Central region (Sokodé) and in Kara region (Kara) focusing on REDD+ process and its actors in Togo, agriculture and development, deforestation and climate change, where a national pilot committee was established to supervise the sub-project implementation.

Two capacity building workshops have also been held in Sokode and Kara regions targeting a total number of 90 actors from NGO/Association, Decentralized State services, Community-based organizations and women organizations. The goal of these workshops was to increase

knowledge of different actors on protection and sustainable management of forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Institute for Sustainable Development is currently implementing a project titled “Institutional and Community capacity development on the design and implementation of REDD+ actions in Ethiopia”, targeting 5 members of CCC-E (Climate Change Consortium of Ethiopia) acting as expert trainers to work with around 250 beneficiaries (youth, women, and men) from local communities heavily dependent on forests and forest resources in the technical, financial, institutional and policy dimensions of REDD+ .

Key activities under this sub-project include;

- Prepare and facilitate a 3-day workshop for 40 TOT and CSO member representatives on understanding the national CRGE strategy that gives forest conservation and sustainable use as a primary development goal through coherence with the national REDD+ program.
- Prepare and facilitate a 5-day workshop for 40 CSOs member representatives on understanding the drivers of deforestation and forest/land degradation (D&Ds) along with technologies to mitigate the effects by adopting/adapting activities that reduce emissions, sequester carbon and decrease removals to stabilize carbon stocks and integrate REDD+ within the national Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) plan.
- Train and equip 40 TOTs in a 3-day workshop to use the most recent MRV tools, based on IPCC guidelines, to estimate and monitor forest-related greenhouse gas emissions through changes in forest cover and associated agricultural and cooking practices.
- Using the World Bank and FAO guidelines plus identifying the potential Ethiopian policy opportunities, gaps and needs for legal reforms, prepare and facilitate a 3-day training for 40 TOTs in social and environmental safe guards, technologies, instruments and applications.
- Develop and manage a data base and communications system for sharing information on good practices and lessons learned among CCC-E members, including their local community members, and make these available for scaling up.
- Monitor announcements for national and international climate change/REDD+ focused events, and lobby for representatives from CCC-E members to participate and share their experiences

- Organize and implement a 10-day exposure visit for representatives from 5 project partners and 5 community members to Humbo, Keffa Natural Forest Reserve and Bale mountains for experience exchange and learning from local civil society actors and local community members.

ISD has so far conducted a first set of three TOT trainings focusing on the national CRGE plan; tools for identification and analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and MRV tools to estimate and monitor forest-related greenhouse gas emissions through changes in forest cover targeting the five members of the Climate Change Consortium of Ethiopia.

ISD is currently planning to undertake a second set of trainings that will be finalized in December 2017.

The sub-project is set to come to an end on December 2017.

Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned

To promote regional exchange and sharing of lessons learned, PACJA has so far conducted two regional meetings in Ghana and Uganda respectively. MPIDO and PACJA are currently planning a joint south-to-south exchange to be held in Ethiopia in November 2017.

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED

- Limited Scope of Project activities as a result of limited funding. The project could make a huge impact through engaging more countries as well as more regional engagements with the relevant stakeholders.
- Language barrier especially in countries speaking French and Portuguese. This has however been addressed by hiring a bi-lingual communication officer
- Limited/ varied technical capacities and engagement of CSOs on national REDD+ processes
- REDD+ is still a complex topic that needs to be demystified and communicated in a simple language

OPPORTUNITIES/STRENGTHS

- Under this project, it is encouraging to note that National REDD+ secretariats have committed to play a complementary role by supporting the implementing organizations technically and involving them in the ongoing REDD+ readiness processes
- The existing PACJA chapters in the five countries have also played a complementary role to the project by providing technical support as well as creating platforms for CSO engagement

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There's need to increase the amount of financial support to the capacity building programs so as to increase the scope of operation and achieve greater results
- More emphasis and focus needs to be put on supporting more regional and south to south experience sharing forums to promote cross learning on REDD+ readiness processes
- With the capacity building program almost coming to an end, there's need for FCPF to create another stream of funds that will support CSOs to implement actual pilot projects on the ground

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