



WORKSHOP 1: ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE IN AFRICA

Climate Chance Summit 2019 – Africa

- Last year in Abidjan, there was a growing awareness of what needed to be done. In this workshop, the aim was to be more operational.
- **Objective:** to find ideas on how we can move forward collectively, to bring forward good practices that we could implement collectively.

1. Meghan from ICLEI Africa

One way to benefit from funding is to launch programmes on the TAP platform, which allows cities to submit their calls for projects online. It represents an opportunity here to place themselves on the African market for companies.

On the African continent, it's essential to find ways to get financing that is adapted to local realities. It is not enough to wait for external funding but find self-financing solution and find ways for actors to manage their own funds.

We must go beyond donators. For example, in South Africa, a city has received funding in order to implement management fruit tree crops training, which will insure financial resources to population.

To find financing, it's necessary to understand the specific context of each city/country, hence the importance of involving local authorities: "We can succeed in finding funding if we understand what the specific priorities for each city/country are".

2. Angela Y. Kwashie from l'UNCDF

We need to implement funding mechanisms at local level. More than 100 local authorities are already involved. But climate change is not understood by everyone and we have to explain it to the local, regional and national level.

3. M. Akobhi for Groupement intercommunal des Collines (GIC - Benin)

The GIC brings together 6 rural Beninese communes in the centre of the country representing 800,000 habitants.

Difficulties to access to international finance for secondary or semi-rural cities: "*It is the countryside that feeds the city and it is the city that receives funding for development*". However, the GIC would need funding since it involves several climate zones, these communes are enduring the effects of climate change head on.



4. Private Actors - SEED

SEED is an international initiative which works with companies that focus on environment. The goal is to support these companies, which are most of the time small and medium size enterprise (SME): « We believe that SME are in the centre of the economy», by helping them to find funding.

SME have difficulties accessing financing, especially for carrying out their projects. Over the past few years, SEED has tried to unify financial institutions in order to allow access to finance to SME.

Moderator's question: Is there any appetite/ desire on the part of private banks to finance this type of action? Few enterprises and SME working in sustainable development area have innovation which never done their proof. But banks are looking for solutions that have already proven themselves. The latter are not really inclined to invest in this field, due to the lack of the profitability.

5. Faustina Boakye from WGC / WECF

This NGO helps women in rural areas to obtain financing: "We advocate with funder/ investor which will allow women to access the funding they need for their projects."

"Womens' projects are always considered than something negligible and its important to give them the place they deserve". Women are limited because they can't implement their projects due to a lack of financing.

It is important that budgets are allocated to women for their projects and especially in the field of sustainable development because in this area, "This is not a women's issue. It is an issue that affects women, men and young people."

"We are not asking for 1.000.000\$, 1.000\$ is enough to finance our projects" : even small amount are important and make a difference once in the field.

6. Titilope Aleosa - GCF Africa Gender monitors

Creation of the (*Green climate fund gender*) in order to allow women to access funding for green projects. In concrete terms, the networks work with local women's groups in their respective regions to monitor the processes, projects and activities of the global cooperation framework on behalf of women and gender equality. The objective is guarantee accountability, gender equality and women's empowerment.

7. Questions from participants

A lot of time is spent on the requirements and conditions for accessing funding and ultimately less time on the implementation itself. In addition, funding is not everything, there is a need to raise awareness and teach them how to use the new equipment.

1st person: In Benin, it would be useful for local elected officials to have institutionalized partnerships with civil society associations. In addition, funding exists but local authorities do not necessarily have access to it.

2nd person: it would be interesting to find some shape of funding in the form of an alliance or coalition in Africa. By having this type of alliance, it will allow everyone to play a role (including women). Importance of society's awareness of climate change. Need to share good practices and adopt them in your country to see if it can work.

8. Conclusions

1. NGOs must work with local authorities (advocacy+++) to ensure that their respective projects coincide.



2. Need for administrative / logistical assistance to help local authorities develop financially viable projects.
 3. Finalize the mapping of financing actors in order to know more simply where/who to go to get money. Mapping started / in progress?
 4. We are talking about very different levels of funding: from the women's community to relatively large city projects. There may already be an issue to create two or more groups, one that gives more power to local actors, and the other that is interested in larger projects.
 5. There is still a need for information sharing. Need for participants to have a clear vision of the different sources of funding, which is not always the case today. The coalition could allow information to be "pre-checked" or summarize so that actors can use it.
1. There is also a need to advocate on financing tools according to the needs of the actors: actors do not necessarily want large sums, but today, the trend of investors is more towards large sums.

