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REPORT

2nd Technical Workshop on Green Climate Fund Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Projects in the Mediterranean: Special Focus on Gender Held Online 11 of January 2021



Organized by:

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

&

Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

*with technical inputs by the Global Water Partnership and the
Global Water Partnership - Coordination Unit for Africa*

*With the support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)*

*GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme – Gender (WACDEP-G)
African Water Investment Programme (AIP)*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 2 |
| I- BACKGROUND | 4 |
| 1. Climate change in the Mediterranean | |
| 2. Project Preparation to Access GCF Resources | |
| 3. The Union for the Mediterranean Agenda | |
| 4. The Global Water Partnership | |
| 5. The UfM/GWP Regional Initiative for Water Climate Finance and Investments | |
| 6. Workshop Objectives | |
| 7. Expected Outcomes | |
| 8. Target Audience | |
| 9. Resource Partners | |
| 10. Organisers | |
| II- INTRODUCTORY SESSION | 10 |
| III- SESSION 1: Preparing GCF Proposals : Investment Projects & Country Readiness | 12 |
| IV- SESSION 2: Addressing Gender-related Objectives in GCF proposals | 16 |
| Discussion:..... | 19 |
| V- CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS | 20 |
| Closing:..... | 21 |
| VI- ANEXES | 22 |
| A- Basic Definitions and Acronyms..... | 22 |
| B- Workshop agenda..... | 27 |
| C- Shared Links..... | 29 |
| D- Workshop Group photos..... | 29 |
| E- List of participants..... | 30 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2nd Technical Workshop on GCF Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Projects in the Mediterranean, with emphasis on Gender objectives and requirements, was organised online on Thursday, 11 of January 2021. The Workshop shared updates on the UfM's Regional Water Policy Framework processes specifically related to water financing, taking stock of the experience gained, while it had a special focus on Gender mainstreaming as a central element to GCF's objectives and guiding principles, including through engaging women and men of all ages as stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of strategies and activities to be financed. GCF is focused on ensuring that a gender-responsive approach is fully integrated into the design and implementation of all projects and programmes. Among others, the GCF governing Instrument states that: "The Fund will strive to maximise the impact of its funding for adaptation and mitigation promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and taking a gender-sensitive approach."

In this regard, the 2nd Training Workshop aimed at supporting in-country partners to enhance their capacity to address gender concerns in the climate change space, not only to achieve greater and more sustainable climate change results, but also to contribute to gender equality globally. The event was co-hosted by the UfM and GWP with technical inputs by the Global Water Partnership and the Global Water Partnership - Coordination Unit for Africa with support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The online event was attended by more than 50 persons, including representatives from National Designated Authorities (NDAs) for the GCF, Water and Environment Ministries from 12 Mediterranean countries, and over 8 Regional Organizations.

The workshop featured speeches, technical presentations, case study presentations and discussions. A major motivation for the workshop was the need to Build on the first workshop and briefly present the GCF, its mandate, investment criteria, and its operational modalities and procedures for delivering climate finance to water initiatives through different windows. Discuss GCF financing instruments, along with fit-for-purpose examples of climate rationale, paradigm shift, project design, and financing instrument selection in the Mediterranean context, tackling priorities of MENA and SEE countries. Introduce the GCF Gender guidelines and discuss methodologies for articulating Gender objectives and meeting requirements of climate-proofing water projects. And finally, identify opportunities and follow-up activities for GCF Project Concept Note preparation.

Participants reiterated the urgency for the water sector in the Mediterranean region to adapt to impacts of climate change as they are being felt right across the countries and are having a weakening effect on water security, and expressed disappointment that the water sector lags behind other sectors such as energy in responding to these impacts.

Several presentations during the workshop helped to clarify better the GCF and its financing windows to the participants. Key topics covered included GCF's 101 such as the mandate, results areas, project and country stakeholders, project cycle, and the GCF funding windows such as the Readiness and the Project preparation Facility Grants. A country example of NAP Readiness, in this case "Zambia" was presented. On the other hand, Gender related objectives in GCF proposals were discussed in the second session. Definitions and terms, mainstreaming gender in green climate finance investment and readiness projects were explained and a rich discussion took place in which participants either questioned the speakers or added value to the debates.

As takeaways, participants agreed that one main objective of the workshop was achieved which is to reconnect around the various steps taken after the WEG 10 although the difficult times countries in the region are facing within the COVID19 pandemic. Indeed, the workshop highlighted the various important but difficult pre-requisites to reach some lines of the GCF finances. During the next steps the UfM and GWP-Med will be working deeper at the regional level to integrate the gender aspects and working in more particular on proposals that are ready to be put forward either from within the Med Region and from some African countries. So, gender will continue to be in the focus for the next steps. At the same time, Organizers expressed the good will to continue utilizing their capacities and understanding of the GCF funding context within the Med Region to cover emerging future themes that member states might suggest. At the end, participants agreed to continue exchanging, via the UfM Secretariat and GWP-Med, ideas and share knowledge to strengthen the GCF project pipeline in the Mediterranean.

I- BACKGROUND

1. Climate change in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean is a climate change hotspot. The region is expected to see an increase in magnitude and severity of climate change impacts such as droughts and floods, soil erosion, desertification, and sea level rise, among others, resulting in negative economic, social and environmental impacts. Vulnerabilities to climate change are exacerbated in the region by, *inter alia*, natural conditions including water scarcity, demographic change including concentration of economic activities and population in coastal areas, changing consumption patterns including growing energy needs, reliance on climate-sensitive agriculture, etc. Recent forecasts point to water availability becoming more strenuous due to precipitation decrease, temperature rise and population growth.

According to IPCC (2018), due to climate change alone, water availability in the region may decrease between 2 and 15% in a +2 degrees Celsius warming scenario. This is among the largest predicted decreases in the world. The gloomy forecasts and the anticipated heavy impact of climate change in the region have been confirmed and supported by scientific evidence in the 2020 First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)¹.

In response to these, the Mediterranean countries, both from Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and South-eastern Europe (SEE), have requested strengthening capacity of responsible national authorities and entities to access international climate financing instruments and to be assisted in preparing climate resilience water projects, including to address challenges in the mainland and the coastal areas. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a major such target climate financing instrument.

2. Project Preparation to Access GCF Resources

The Green Climate Fund was established in 2012 as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dedicated to addressing the climate crisis. The GCF is mandated to promote country-driven, climate-resilient, and low-carbon development. It is expected to serve as a primary channel through which international public climate finance will flow over time.

To access GCF support for climate resilience water projects, countries need to present projects designed for impact, reflected through prioritised project ideas, clear climate rationale, compelling concept notes, and comprehensive funding proposals. Gender objectives and related requirements are an integral part of GCF projects. However, capacity limitations, concerning both availability of personnel and technical skills, as well as the complex procedures for accessing the funding, constrain countries in identifying and preparing catalytic water-related adaptation interventions. Limited understanding of the GCF's funding

¹ MedECC (2020) Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report [Cramer, W., Guiot, J., Marini, K. (eds.)]; UfM, Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP; Marseille

modalities and proposal requirements poses further barriers for countries wishing to access GCF resources for adaptation planning and projects.

Hence, countries are seeking clarification on the structured, yet evolving, GCF funding modalities, especially around enhanced direct access, its range of financing instruments, and project proposal requirements, including on gender. Technical assistance and south-south / north-south exchange can enable developing countries to prepare well-prioritised climate resilience water projects that can secure funding from the GCF.

3. The Union for the Mediterranean Agenda

Since 2008, the [Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\)](#) has provided a framework for enhancing regional cooperation, dialogue, and the implementation of projects and initiatives with tangible impact on the citizens of its member states, in order to address three strategic objectives of the region: stability, human development, and integration. Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and ensuring access to water resources and affordable water services has been a key element of the UfM agenda since its inception along with tackling climate change impacts and promoting action on adaptation policies and practices. The [UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water \(April 2017, Malta\)](#) called for a UfM Water Agenda to enhance regional cooperation towards sustainable and integrated water management in the UfM region. Under the leadership of the UfM Co-Presidencies, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the European Commission, and with the support of the UfM Secretariat, UfM Member States and UfM partners have worked together to deliver on the Ministerial mandate.

The [UfM Water Agenda](#) has been structured in four Thematic areas: Water and Climate Change Adaptation (W-CCA); Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) Nexus; Water-Employment-Migration (WEM); and Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene. (WASH), while a Financial Strategy for Water was elaborated

[UfM Water Agenda, Financial Strategy](#)

Objective 10: Use resources from international financial partners strategically to leverage other sources of finance

In order to achieve this objective, UfM member states will:

- Develop regional and national objectives and strategies for the use of resources from international financial partners, based on an analysis of past successes and failures, likely evolution of future financial flows, and how international financial resources can add most value. This could include arrangements for blending finance, which adequately allocate risks and returns across financiers, building on good international practices.
 - Strengthen the dialogue with traditional and new international financial partners (both at national and regional levels) to improve alignment of their support with national objectives.
 - Identify the role that climate finance can play in financing the water sector, and integrate water based solutions in Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
 - Develop good quality proposals for water-related projects to mobilize climate finance for the implementation of NDCs and NAPs.
 - Develop capacities for project preparation and for blending finance.
-

to support its implementation. The UfM Senior Officials' endorsed the Water Agenda and the Financial Strategy for Water in December 2018.

Objective 10 of the Financial Strategy of the UfM Water Agenda focuses on 'Use resources from international financial partners strategically to leverage other sources of finance' and suggests ways to mobilise these. Furthermore, responding to Thematic priorities, UfM countries have encouraged the development of W-CCA projects presenting mitigation-adaptation co-benefits, including through the implementation of WEFE Nexus approaches and as a contribution of addressing WEM challenges.

4. The Global Water Partnership

The [Global Water Partnership \(GWP\)](#) is a global action network with over 3,000 Partner organisations in 183 countries. GWP supports countries and institutions to integrate water security and climate resilience in development frameworks, helping them to deliver on their National Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plan (NAPs), and to prepare bankable projects for climate finance including the GCF. Being an accredited GCF Readiness programme delivery partner, GWP is committed to working with governments and partners to unlock funding for climate resilient water investments that promote gender transformative approaches around the globe.

Related objectives are also promoted through the [African Water Investment Programme \(AIP\)](#), developed through a partnership between the African Union, the African Development Bank, Africa Water Facility and other institutional and development partners, technically facilitated by GWP. AIP aims to transform and improve the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful and equitable society. It aims to leverage \$30 billion climate resilient water investments by 2030, towards SDG 6 implementation and enhance job creation through gender sensitive investments in water and industrialisation. AIP was adopted by the Governance Council of the African Ministers Council on Water in February 2019, who endorsed AIP as a catalyst to the achievement of both the African Union Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

The 'Water, Climate, Development and Gender Investments (WACDEP-G) is one of the three of AIP support programmes aiming at promoting a gender-transformative approach towards accelerating water and climate investments as means of addressing gender inequalities across the continent. WACDEP-G is primarily supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

[GWP-Med](#), the Mediterranean Regional Water Partnership of GWP, technically assists the UfM Secretariat in the development and implementation of the UfM Water Agenda, including its Thematic areas and the Financial Strategy. It has also contributed to the elaboration of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan 'Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas' (adopted at Ministerial level, at the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona

Convention, January 2016, Athens). GWP-Med serves a multi-faceted agenda, including on climate resilience and gender, while it manages the WACDEP-G Programme for North Africa.

5. The UfM/GWP Regional Initiative for Water Climate Finance and Investments

Responding to demand expressed by Mediterranean countries to accelerate access to GCF opportunities for adaptation projects, the '[Technical Workshop on Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Projects in the Mediterranean Region for the Green Climate Fund](#)', was organised on 10-12 June 2019, Brussels. More than 40 representatives of GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs), GCF Direct Access Entities (DAEs), and Water Ministries from 10 Mediterranean countries engaged in hands-on learning on the GCF setting, investment criteria, operational modalities and procedures for delivering climate finance through available GCF funding-windows. They considered fit-for-purpose examples of project design matching GCF financing instruments and discussed how to enhance national coordination for GCF project preparation. Furthermore, they worked on 22 country-prioritised water-related project ideas to sharpen their climate rationale and paradigm shift potential. The event was attended by representatives of Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Representatives of competent authorities from MENA and SEE countries expressed demand for further support to strengthen the capacity of NDAs, DAEs and Water Ministries and agencies to prepare climate resilient water projects that meet GCF investment criteria, to address challenges in the mainland and the coastal areas. For these, the relevance of utilising WEF Nexus approaches, including as a contribution to addressing WEM challenges, was highlighted. Further, participants shared their commitment to utilise the knowledge acquired and to develop available opportunities, including through the GCF Readiness window, to boost countries engagement with GCF.

Participants also expressed their strong desire to continue collaborating in the Regional Workshop's follow-ups, across countries and with regional partners, to enhance accessibility to international climate finance in the region through experiences sharing, capacity building, concept notes' development support, etc. They called-upon UfM and GWP to facilitate a regional platform that can service this purpose through partnership and inclusiveness. Regional policy frameworks, including the UfM Water Agenda 2030 and its Financial Strategy for Water as well as the UN Environment/MAP Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, provide the background for its development.

Based on these, the 10th Meeting of the UfM Water Expert Group decided to establish a UfM Regional Initiative for Water Climate Finance and Investments in partnership with GWP, including capacity building of the member countries on how to access international climate financing for water-related/adaptation action lines.

It was decided to follow up the June 2019 Technical Workshop with a series of related training activities, attracting further interest on national work lines for GCF Readiness and towards GCF Investment proposals, while boosting at least four such processes already underway in the Mediterranean.

The 2nd Training Workshop will share updates on these four processes, taking stock of the experience gained, while it will have a special focus on Gender mainstreaming as a central element to GCF's objectives and guiding principles, including through engaging women and men of all ages as stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of strategies and activities to be financed. GCF is focused on ensuring that a gender-responsive approach is fully integrated into the design and implementation of all projects and programmes. Among others, the GCF Governing Instrument states that: "The Fund will strive to maximise the impact of its funding for adaptation and mitigation... promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and taking a gender-sensitive approach." The 2nd Training Workshop would support in-country partners to enhance their capacity to address gender concerns in the climate change space – not only to achieve greater and more sustainable climate change results, but also to contribute to gender equality globally.

6. Workshop Objectives

In that context, the 2nd Technical Workshop on GCF Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Projects in the Mediterranean, with emphasis on Gender objectives and requirements, was organised on Thursday, 11 February 2021, 09:30-12:30 CET, online.

The Workshop aimed at:

- Build on the first workshop and briefly present the GCF, its mandate, investment criteria, and its operational modalities and procedures for delivering climate finance to water initiatives through different windows.
- Discuss GCF financing instruments, along with fit-for-purpose examples of climate rationale, paradigm shift, project design, and financing instrument selection in the Mediterranean context, tackling priorities of MENA and SEE countries.
- Introduce the GCF Gender guidelines and discuss methodologies for articulating Gender objectives and meeting requirements of climate-proofing water projects.
- Identify opportunities and follow-up activities for GCF Project Concept Note preparation.

7. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the Workshop were:

- Enhanced understanding of the GCF investment criteria, operational modalities and procedures, particularly those related to Gender aspects, and financing instruments.

- Improved understanding of concrete steps needed to prepare strong water-related and gender-transformative adaptation project proposals.
- Better understanding of methodologies for articulating gender-related climate rationale.
- Enhanced understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved throughout the project cycle.
- Identification of potential GCF project concepts.

8. Target Audience

The Workshop targeted the following participants to support water project preparation and delivery in MENA and SEE:

- Water Directors and/or assigned officials from Water Ministries/Agencies
- GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs)
- Gender focal points (as relevant) from Water and Environment Ministries/Agencies (tbc)
- Project preparation and co-finance partners (tbc)

The countries participating to the workshop were: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Tunisia.

9. Resource Partners

The Workshop drew from the following resource partners:

- GWP, GWP Coordination Unit for Africa and GWP-Mediterranean, to share experiences and lessons.
- UfM Secretariat, to provide content within the UfM Water Agenda and Financial Strategy for Water.
- GCF Accredited Entities and NDAs, to share experiences and lessons.
- Development partners, including multilateral and bilateral development and donor institutions and agencies.

10. Organisers

The Workshop was organised by UfM, GWP-Med and GWP, with financial support by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the GWP Water, Climate, Development and Gender investment (WACDEP-G) support programme that is supported by the Austrian Development Assistance (ADA). The activity was also part of the GEF UN Environment/MAP Project on 'Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas'.

II- INTRODUCTORY SESSION: Facilitator Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator GWP-Med

- Almotaz Abadi, Water Managing Director, UfM Secretariat

The Union for the Mediterranean is a platform that put a framework to tackle challenges that the region is facing. Cooperation is bringing all member states and organizations to work together. We develop policy frameworks to access existing funding. The water policy framework of action was endorsed by



SOM. A lot of good projects are on the table but unfortunately, they have not yet found their way to funding channels. The meeting today aims first at capacitate our self in order to enhance issues related to sustainable development, as well as to enhance to socio-economic reality in the region based on the virtue of the SDGs and the UfM policy framework of action and its financial strategy related to the water sector as was requested by the member states Senior official Meeting.

- Alex Simalabwi, GWPSA Executive Secretary, Global Head-Climate Resilience, Head-GWP Africa Coordination Unit

Alex said that all work done at GWPSA is driven by country demand regarding issues of Gender and Climate Change. It is part of GWP Global Strategy in terms of climate resilience and we worked to mobilize and/or influence in 2020 about 1 Billion USD in climate finance and support a least 30 countries around the world. So, we are in a very strong position to try as much as we can to support devel-



oping countries, especially by capitalizing on the track record of climate finance in the Mediterranean. Alex also stressed that Gender is in GWP's Strategy not by accident. Indeed, Gender is very central and water, climate and gender are very key. So we are happy this work shop will help us learn from the gender specialists present.

- Erwin Künzi, Head of Unit Themes and Quality, Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

Our Agency support various facets of Climate change, adaptation, mitigation and of course gender that is at this time at the top of the Austrian co-operation agenda. Indeed, it was a decision of the Ministry of Foreign affairs to put women empowerment and gender equality at the top of the agenda. They are extremely important actors in development projects. On the other hand, women are particularly the most vulnerable in terms of impact of



climate change. So this is why we are supporting the large program of the Global Water Partnership in which gender is central. We think all adaptation activities should include gender issues. But! we need to keep in mind that some adaptation actions can increase vulnerability of women and girls. In fact, a recent study showed that adaptation interventions can increase maladaptation specially if this population for example do not have equal access to natural resources and this is something we should consider. So, comprehension analysis and studies should be done up front.

- Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary GWP-Med

Vangelis expressed that for the sake of time and since most of the precedent speakers have already set the scene, he will keep his comment during the sessions and gave the floor directly to the next moderator of session 1.



III- SESSION 1: Preparing GCF Proposals: Investment Projects & Country Readiness: Facilitator Anjali Lohani, Water & Climate Resilience Specialist, GWP

- Alastair Morrison, Former GCF Senior Water Specialist

Alastair made a presentation entitled “GCF 101 – mandate, results areas, project & country stakeholders, project cycle, funding windows”. He gave a brief history of GCF, and how it functions. Alastair was working in the Adaptation & Mitigation division before leaving the GCF where he stands as an independent consultant now. He explained briefly the main



principles driving GCF’s vision. So, proposals should be country driven; Climate impact focused; induce paradigm shifts; may involve either private and public sectors; and have a risk appetite to unlock ideas. Basically, every proposal should promote low-emission and climate resilient development in developing countries. NDA’s are asked to lead and coordinate country submission in this respect. The GCF architecture was explained, based on accredited entities working with executing entities that may have specialists to help draft the projects. No objection letters need then to be submitted by the National designated authority NDA. It is generally either the Environmental Ministry, the water Ministry or the Finance Ministry, but project bearer needs to have excellent relationships with these NDA’s. Strategic results areas for GCF were presented, they cover mitigation strategic impacts and adaptation strategic impacts. The fundamental aspects GCF rely on are the focus on Impacts, Paradigm shift potential, Crosscutting adaptation mitigation benefits, and Sustainable development co-benefits. So, water security is one of the topics GCF would encourage submitting provided it considers energy use and energy efficiency during deployment of project. It is then important that all projects contribute to climate adaptation and climate mitigation and not simply development projects. GCF investment criteria do consider among others vulnerability and financing needs of beneficiary in targeted groups such as women and children. GCF considers also Country ownership and capacity to implement policies, climate strategies and institutions. Alastair switched very quickly to an adaptation example from Egypt related to enhancing climate change adaptation in the North coast and Nile Delta Regions. The project that was approved in 2017, is partly financed by the GCF and partly by the government of Egypt. Indeed, the Delta regions are in a natural equilibrium experiencing sediment flow that are easily disturbed by both climate change and other human activities. So GCF accepted to finance the ‘climate additionality’ as the uses of nature-based solutions was insured. The climate rationale of the proposal was based on Climate adaptation (GCF funded) such as changing storm paths, frequency, magnitude, rising sea levels, Higher temperatures & evapotranspiration, and Climate changed induced migration, along with other impacts (co finance) such as population growth, higher per capita water use, Aswan dam traps sediments and higher agricultural production.

- René Schieritz, Programme Development Specialist – Water and Climate Change, GWP SAF

René made a presentation on the GCF Readiness and preparatory support programme. Indeed, the Readiness is a funding window under the GCF directed at providing resources to enable countries to access the Fund. It was launched in 2014, and was initially focused on NDA strengthening, country programming and Direct Access Entity (DAE) accreditation. At COP22 in Marrakech in 2016, it



was decided to add support to the NAP planning. GCF's strategy was then revised in 2019 to cover broader set of priorities. The number of Readiness requests approved until now are 433, for 138 countries covered, with 283.0 million USD. Entities that have ability for direct access to the funds will need capacities and a strategic framework to be able to coordinate and implement suitable adaptation projects on the ground. The guiding principles of the new Readiness Strategy 2019- 2021, is based on:

- Building readiness support based on identified needs
- Increase flexibility for NDAs to address particular gaps
- Move from basic (NDA strengthening) to more advanced support (strategic frameworks, pipeline strengthening)
- Tap economies of scale (regional/multiple year requests)

The Readiness programme have 5 targeted objectives to meet.

Objective 1: Capacity building for climate finance coordination (10%)

Objective 2: Developing strategic frameworks for low emission investment (20%)

Objective 3: Strengthening adaptation planning (50%)

Objective 4: Support paradigm shift pipeline development (15%)

Objective 5: Knowledge sharing and learning (5%)

Objective 3 is an interesting one as is it for National Adaptation Planning. Readiness projects could include either Objectives 1,2, 4 and 5 or only objective 3. The shown objective percentages are the % of request GCF is expecting by the end of this strategy. The funding that is available to meet these objectives is:

- USD 1 million /year per country, up to USD 3 million/3 years For Objectives 1,2,4 and 5. Cap can be split across multiple projects
- USD 3 million for NAP per country (one off), For objective 3 that can be split against multiple projects.

The main stakeholders for readiness programme are:

- 1- National Designated Authority or Focal Points who will serve as the interface between the country and the fund. They will submit the Readiness proposal.
- 2- Delivery Partner, selected by NDA to implement activities approved under Readiness. They Meet the financial management capacity requirements of GCF
- 3- Other stakeholders: E.g., government departments, Direct Access Entities, etc.

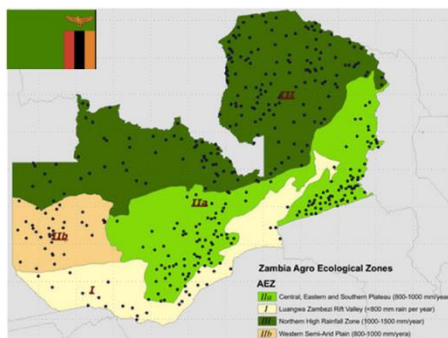
The submission process for readiness funding is generally NDA driven with proposals need to go through a multistage process. The review criteria include the gender consideration. Finally, any activity undergone under the Readiness programme should be in accordance with the outcomes listed in the GCF’s theory of change. An outcome statement will need to describe longer term and specific changes in conditions, policies, or organizational structure and be measured a year or several years after project completion. These outcomes are predetermined by GCF and MUST be retained as it is.

René, finished his presentation by showing two examples of proposal submitted by GWP, the 1st one was a readiness to contribute toward achieving a climate resilient and low-emission economy in eSwatini by strengthening the country’s capacity to mobilize and programme climate finance using a gender-transformative and inclusive approach. And the 2^d one related to implementation of NAP support in Zambia, under GCF’s Objective 3.

- Joseph Mbinji, Manager, Zambia GCF NAP Project, GWP SAF

Joseph presented a case study of National adaptation planning from Zambia. It was a multi stakeholder process

Zambia National Adaptation Planning



that was mainly based on the review of relevant policies, strategies, plans, programs, and review of Climate Change institutional arrangements along with stakeholder analysis and understanding their respective roles. Consultations included the NAP process launching workshop in 2014, followed by an orientation meeting on the NAP process for planners in government ministries & agencies, and finally a National

stakeholders’ consultation workshop in 2017. The vision and objectives of Zambia’s NAP were “Prosperous, Climate Resilient, and Green Economy (Vision 2030)”, with the objective of reducing Climate change vulnerabilities, building adaptive capacities, and improve resilience in Zambia's economic systems, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Phase 1 of the NAP process was based on a framework that will enable long term strategic planning and coordination of adaptation in line with National Development Planning processes and foster coherence and synergies with sectoral NAP planning processes, and phase 2 was based on the recognition of ‘water as a connector’, essential to all

sectors, a Water NAP will serve as an important pathway for building resilience and strengthen synergies with the water sensitive sectoral plans in Zambia such as health and agriculture.

Joseph concluded his presentation with some lessons learned from this experience that can be summarized as follow: the importance of ownership of the NAP process by the government. It being translated in the National Development Planning (Development Plans-SDGs, Budgets). The UNFCCC focal point in Zambia is the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. The Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection advocating for Water as central in sustainable development and climate resilience of the country. Anchoring

the NAP process with a higher-level national process was an added value, and Zambia's 7th National Development Plan was key in this process. The multi-stakeholder participatory process was very important and finally, the collaboration between the Zambian Government and the GWP in mobilizing resources for the NAP process was extremely important.

DISCUSSION:

Facilitator Anjali Lohani, managing some **comments and** questions from the audience:



- **Rachid Tahiri**, GCF Focal Point at the Moroccan Ministry of Environment informed participants that Morocco has already 9 approved projects from GCF with an envelope of 227.7 m USD. Morocco is the first African country to have 3 GCF accredited agencies and 10 other entities are on their way for accreditation. 4 Readiness projects are already approved from GCF. Morocco has institutionalized the National Climate Commission, a national MRV system, a NAP aligned with the NDC and SDGs, with 40 B USD for the Adaptation Component. Morocco's Experience with the Readiness was for implementation of the NAP at the sub-national level especially in pilot regions so they can prepare bankable projects. NAP process is a time-consuming process. Do you consider it useful to follow the guidelines of the IPCC and the Group of Experts of the Least Developed Countries which stipulate the development of a roadmap (which is a process that requires a lot of time and excessive mobilization of effort)? While the final deliverable should be instead an operational plan with visibility on monitoring indicators and the needed costs. Mr. Rachid finished saying that countries of the south shore, given their limited capacities, are faced with difficulties in preparing Readiness requests in a single year, and same for the implementation of the Readiness Program, not to mention the slowness and somewhat excessive rigor of the procedures for review, review and approval at GCF level. For this, we favor the multi-year Readiness program (three years, three million dollars) to take into account the time required to develop the ToRs and the selection process and the establishment of governance bodies for a Readiness program.
- **Ornel Cuci** NDA from Albania took the floor and said that she is happy many NDA around the Mediterranean are present in this virtual meeting and she said that readiness projects are a big challenge as they raise a real complexity at the regional level. For Gender issue she said we can do more if we manage to integrate women's and girls' in projects cycles so they can run their own businesses in the water sector for example to achieve their economic independence. Women in rural areas have indeed problems to do so. Ornella informed the audience that she will meet with the NDAs from the 5 countries of the Balkans in order to accelerate their preparedness toward dealing with climate finance either from the GCF or the GEF. And a second meeting will be with the prime Ministers for questions related to Climate Change in this sub-Region. Finally, Mme Cuci expressed her support as being member of the board representing the East European Med Countries.

- **Hadeel Feidi** from Water Authority of Palestine, addressed the issue Palestine is facing in terms of gender and climate change. Identified gaps in various sectors and territories under Israeli occupation influence negatively the mitigation and adaptation effort of the country and increase vulnerability of certain groups. Water, waste water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructures are also a big challenge in Palestine. Regarding the readiness proposal that was submitted on behalf of Palestine, it was principally for strengthening the capacity of the NDA to deal with GCF funding, and enhancing the country ownership and stakeholders' capacities. Water banking in Gaza is an example that was funded by GCF and the accredited entity was the AFD. In this particular project a gender action plan was developed. The project will explore means for women to get access to the land, to the water services etc. A good example of community involvement where the gender issue is taken into consideration. Hadeel, finished by requesting advise on how to proceed further so the gender approach can be upscaled in the upfront project implementation. A last comment by René, was about the question related to the meaning of the percentages associated with each of the 5 targeted objectives of the GCF Readiness programme, and René said that they are the percentages of proposals GCF is expecting to be dealing with during the 2019-2021 strategy periode, with a preference for Objective 2 and 4.

VI- SESSION 2: Addressing Gender-related Objectives in GCF proposals, Facilitator Litumelo Severs, Gender Specialist, GWPSAF/ Africa Coordination Unit



- **Fiorela Shalsi**, Senior Gender Advisor, GWP-Med. Fiorela presentation was entitled 'Gender Equality for Sustainable development', she shared some initial thoughts on the topic such as What is Gender, Differences in rights and access, Gender Equality and why it matters, and Gender and SDGs. A quick top key point was defined: So, Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviors and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. Fiorela said that as a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.



Experience show that gender interacts with but is different from sex, which refers to the different biological and physiological characteristics of females, males and intersex persons, such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs. Gender is hierarchical and produces inequalities that intersect with other social and economic inequalities. Differences in access, rights and Knowledge. Due to gender roles, women and men have disparities in economic opportunities, access to productive resources and knowledge; engage differently in household care and public life and decision-making processes. Women don't enjoy the same rights as men to land and other key resources that are crucial for poverty reduction, food security and economic development. The different roles women and men have leads to different bodies of knowledge about different issues so women have their unique understanding and talents.

Because of all these considerations, Fiorela said that gender equality plays a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development and agenda 2030. From faster economic growth and poverty reduction to food security and environmental sustainability, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction, and peaceful and inclusive societies. Improving gender equality, both in terms of balanced participation in decision making and substantive influence on decisions, has a profound intrinsic value to people centered sustainable development.

- Dr. Liza Debevec, Senior Gender & Social Inclusion Specialist, GWP

Liza's presentation was entitled 'Why is climate change a gender issue?'

Liza started by saying that climate change will affect different people in different ways. Indeed, women and men do not experience climate change equally. Most often, those living through its most adverse effects



will have contributed least to the problem and have fewer resources to adapt to its impacts. In many developing countries economic constraints and cultural norms that restrict women's access to paid jobs mean that their livelihoods are particularly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors. Yet gender inequalities in the distribution of assets and opportunities mean their choices are severely constrained in the face of climate change. For example, limited land ownership among rural women means they may not have access to productive land to farm, and lack of financial capital means they cannot easily diversify their livelihoods.

The fact that women and girls are often responsible for most of the unpaid care tasks around the household also means their lives are directly affected by the changes brought about by climate change. They often walk further to find increasingly scarce food, fuel and water, as well as caring for family members who are susceptible to the health risks linked to climate change. As a result, women and girls find themselves with less time for education, income-generating activities or participation in community decision-making processes, further cementing unequal gender relations. So, what are the things that works? Liza said that with its 2017 Policy on Gender Equality, the Global Climate Fund (GCF) has committed to gender-responsive financing, accountability

for gender, and equitable allocation of resources. The GCF places climate investment in the context of sustainable development and seeks a 50/50 allocation between mitigation and adaptation, with a focus on the most vulnerable countries and people. The guidelines on gender mainstreaming indicate the need for a detailed gender analysis, action plan, and monitoring and evaluation framework for all projects in full consultation with and participation of local women and men.

At the end, Liza reminded that a link to a [handout](#) was posted in which participants can further advance their knowledge on the Gender action plan led by GWP. <https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/about-gwp/publications/gender/gender-action-piece.pdf>

See also a recent discussion series on how to make sure the leadership embraces Gender as a core business goal <https://gwp.org/en/About/more/news/2020/embracing-gender-equality-and-inclusion--it-starts-from-the-top/>

- Seble Negussie, Gender and Social Specialist, GCF. Her presentation was entitled: ‘Implementing the GCF’s Gender Policy’. The points discussed were related to GCF’s Commitment to Gender Equality, Policy objectives and rational, Policy requirements, Considerations to be noted – within the Readiness programme, and Implementation challenges and opportunities.



GCF has updated gender policy 2019 and Gender Action plan 2020-2023, along with a Gender Assessment and action plan.

The new GCF’s updated gender policy objectives are:



- To support climate change interventions and innovations through a comprehensive gender approach
- To promote climate investments that:
 - (i) Advance gender equality through mitigation and adaptation actions; and
 - (ii) Minimize social, gender-related and climate-related risk
- To contribute to reducing the gender gap through climate investments that

mainstream gender equality. The Rationale of GCF’s policy is based on the following:

- Impacts of climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities
- Gender relations, roles, responsibilities influence F/M access to and control over decisions, assets and resources, information and knowledge.
- Sustainability and equitability can be achieved if and when gender equality and women’s empowerment are considered
- Women and vulnerable communities are part of the solution

The GCF Gender action plan contains a set of activities to address challenges identified, and a set of activities to build on the identified opportunities. These are developed based on the findings of the gender analysis, and

when implemented contributes to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. They must be flexible to adjust to current and changing needs and priorities and aligned to project/program objectives.

Finally, Seble presented some key messages of takeaways. They are summarized as follow:

- Addressing gender issues is a rights issue and is a smart thing to do
- It supports countries in fulfillment their gender related policy commitments
- Think of ways to address gender issues at every level (national, regional, local/community)
- Do not settle for gender sensitive go for transformative actions
- Ensure gender related results/outcomes are clear
- Ensure to engage gender experts/gender offices/women's organizations throughout the program/project lifecycle
- Use PPF/Readiness financing if you see the need
- All operations will have to address gender equality and women's empowerment issues

(NAPs/SAPs/FPs/CNs/readiness)

DISCUSSION

Mr. Slimani Moulay Mohamed from Ziz Ghriss Bassin Agency in Morocco, and **Mme Siham Laraichi**, from the Moroccan Ministry of Water, Shared the Moroccan experience on Gender policy and water. Their common statement was as follow: The Moroccan Governmental Plan for Equality was elaborated through the institutionalization of equality mechanisms, capacity building of stakeholders to integrate the gender approach in budgets, provision of drinking water in rural areas, and strengthening of representativeness of women in positions of responsibility, participation of women in decision-making, protection of women's rights, dissemination of the culture of equality and the fight against discrimination and stereotypes based on gender, and " integration of gender in the policy, programs and projects of the water department by means of the organic law related to the finance law in application of the Chief of government executive order N°4/15. As a result, the gender approach can no longer be a simple option, but an approach taken into account in the integrated water resources policy in Morocco. This is quite necessary in a context marked by climate change, that strongly impacts water resources and affect the most disadvantaged layers. These impacts, which are felt by the population especially in rural areas or their negative effects make their experience more and more difficult, especially for women and girls. In this context, the Moroccan Department of Water has developed and started the implementation of its own roadmap to tackle the issue of adaptation to climate change with consideration of the gender approach. Seven priorities dominate the Ministry's actions in integrating this approach into the water policy.

Finally, Slimani informed that the new water law (Law 36-15) in Morocco, underlines "the taking into account of the right to water and the gender approach in the management of water resources, in particular, through the representation of women's associations in institutions provided for by the water law. "He also said that" this law is based on fundamental principles among which the public domain of water, the right of all citizens to

access water and a healthy environment, water management according to good governance practices which include consultation and participation of the various parties concerned, integrated management of water resources by ensuring spatial solidarity, protection of the natural environment and promotion of sustainable development and the gender approach in terms of development and management of water resources. ". Gender has been clearly taken into account in 3 articles of Law 36-15 (76, 88 and 89), especially in the sections related to the Superior Council for Water and Climate; the Water Basin Council; and the Prefectural Commissions and Provincial where it is stipulated to reserve 1/4 of the representatives of associations working in the field of water, climate and environment for women.

To conclude, Mr Slimani said that His Bassin Agency was the only Regional Water Management Institution in Morocco to have submitted a request to the GCF to become accredited. Unfortunately, the process was not successful, because the annual budget of the agency being around 15 m USD, do not fit within GCF's criteria.

Question from Sabina Cenameri: How to convince institutions in the water sector to engage in gender activities? **Seble** answer was to approach Ministry of water for example and look at the existing policies and strategies and try to come up with ways to integrate gender in activities where women can be more efficient and bring added values, build up momentum where decision makers can realize the importance of gender integration.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Recap by Anthi Bruma:

It was very important to hear from Alastair about GCF's System, mandate, criteria, modalities, procedures and



the important theory of change, for delivering bankable climate adaptation initiatives especially within the Fund's Readiness and Project Preparation Facility programmes. This is a critical moment when most UfM member States are in the process of revising their NDCs and preparing for submitting their NAP's.

On the Gender segment, we had a very instructive and constructive discussion where among other, GCFs Gender Action plan guidelines were presented. The importance to reach out to national existing structures and advocate, when needed, for an equitable integration of gender aspects in all political and operational decision levels including budgeting. Participants reiterate that Water Adaptation Projects need to mainstream women and girls and that the world cannot work with only half of its capacities!

key takeaway messages:

- Build embedded in-country capacity, knowledge.

- Make the economic case, communicate, addressing real-world problems with practical solutions. Cost of inaction potentially tremendous, can derail development ambitions.
- Balance top-down (climate models) and bottom-up (vulnerability assessment). Take a risk-based approach.
- Learn by doing. Water management is context-specific and so are interventions to improve climate resilience through better water management.
- Success depends on stakeholder ownership, gender equality, ensure inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- Regional and transboundary dimensions of shared waters call for an integrated approach transcending national boundaries.
- Balance political, technical and financial feasibility.
- Funding shortage for water-related projects – less an availability-problem, more an access issue – understand requirements, improve institutional coordination.
- Projects are more successful when the organism that is submitting is bringing other institutions on board including gender involvement. Affordability and viability of projects are the most important things at the end of the day.
- A mitigation project may have some adaptation co-benefits but the main objective for GCF is Carbon dioxide reduction.

CLOSING

Participants agreed that one main objective of the workshop was achieved which is to re-connect around the various steps taken after the WEG 10 although the difficult times countries in the region are facing within the COVID19 pandemic. Indeed, the workshop highlighted the various important but difficult pre-requisites to reach some lines of the GCF finances. Critical mass was around 50 participants connected, which shows the interest of this meeting. During the next steps the UfM and GWP-Med will be working deeper at the regional level to integrate the gender aspects and working in more particular on proposals that are ready to be put forward either from within the Med Region and from some African countries. So, gender will continue to be in the focus for the next steps. At the same time, Organizers expressed the good will to continue utilizing their capacities and understanding of the GCF funding context within the Med Region to cover emerging future themes that member states might suggest. On the other hand, UfM and GWP-Med will continue looking at opportunities for support to multi country proposals where transboundary water and climate issues arise. Indeed, transboundary waters represent 90% in the Balkans and over 65% in the MENA Region. So close attention will be paid to follow-up on proposals of this type.

At the end, participants agreed to continue exchanging, via the UfM Secretariat and GWP-Med, ideas and share knowledge to strengthen the GCF project pipeline in the Mediterranean.

(All material of this meeting is posted online at: <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/PART-NER/events/qcf-training-110221/>).

ANNEXES

A- BASIC DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

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| Accredited entity (AE) | An entity that is accredited by the GCF Board in accordance with the Governing Instrument and relevant Board Decisions. Funds from the GCF flow directly to the AE to support project implementation, i.e. project management, supervision, and monitoring. An AE may also be referred as an ‘implementing entity’. In addition to providing overall supervision, an AE may also execute parts of or all of a project; most often, however, AEs maintain a supervisory role while local Executing Entities undertake funded activities on the ground. AEs can be sub-national, national, regional, or international entities that are public, private, or non-governmental. |
| Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) | An agreement signed between an accredited entity and the GCF that is a prerequisite for the disbursement of funds for a GCF-approved project. It contains the general terms and conditions applicable to all GCF-funded activities of the AE including conditions precedent to disbursement, fiduciary standards, and privileges and immunities. |
| Climate resilience | The capacity for a socio-ecological system to: (1) absorb stresses and maintain function in the face of external stresses imposed upon it by climate change and (2) adapt, reorganize, and evolve into more desirable configurations that improve the sustainability of the system, leaving it better prepared for future climate change impacts. |
| Concept note (CN) | A document which provides essential information about a proposal to seek feedback on whether the concept is aligned with the objectives, policies and investment criteria of the GCF. |
| Direct Access | A mechanism in which national accredited entities of developing countries gain direct access to GCF funds, i.e. without an international intermediary, to implement projects and/or programmes. |
| Direct Access Entity (DAE) | A sub-national, national or regional entity that is accredited with the GCF to access finance through the direct access modality to implement projects and programmes. These entities can be private, public, or non-governmental. DAEs entities carry out a range of activities that usually include the development of concept notes, full funding proposals, and the subsequent management and monitoring of projects and programmes. |

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| Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) | A systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster. It aims to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disaster as well as deal with the environmental and other hazards that trigger them. |
| Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) | A comprehensive document of a project's potential environmental and social risks and impacts, developed based on key process elements generally consisting of i) initial screening of the project and scoping of the assessment process; ii) examination of alternatives; iii) stakeholder identification (focusing on those directly affected and other stakeholders) and gathering of environmental and social baseline data; iv) impact identification, prediction and analysis; v) generation of mitigation or management measures and actions; vi) significance of impacts and evaluation of residual impacts; vii) consultation with and disclosure to project affected people, including setting up a grievance mechanism; viii) documenting the assessment process in the form of an ESIA report. |
| Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) | A document prepared either as part of an ESIA, or as a separate document directly following the ESIA, describing the process of management of the mitigation measures and actions identified in the ESIA study, including the associated responsibility, timeline, costs and monitoring of key environmental and social indicators described in the ESIA. |
| Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) | A set of procedures that institutions have in place to make sure they adequately identify, assess, manage, mitigate and monitor environmental and social risks and respond to problems that arise. All institutions seeking accreditation to the GCF must have an ESMS. |
| Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) | A reference point for identifying, measuring and managing environmental and social risks. The purpose of the ESS is to determine the key environmental and social risks the accredited entity intends to address in the conceptualization, preparation and implementation of funding proposals, and to provide guidance on how these risks are to be managed. |
| Entity Work Programme (EWP) | A document developed by accredited entities with support from the Country Programming Division of the GCF that provides an overview of the AE's areas of work, priority sectors and experience in implementing projects and programmes across the GCF's eight Strategic Impact Areas. It also summarizes their indicative projects as well as programmes and outlines an action plan for engagement with the GCF. |
| Executing entity (EE) | An entity through which GCF proceeds are channelled for the purposes of a funded activity or part thereof; and/or any entity that executes, carries out or implements a funded activity, or any part thereof. An accredited entity may |

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| | carry out the functions of an executing entity, though it is preferable if local and national actors execute projects/programmes. |
| Financial instruments | A total of six financial instruments in the GCF that can be utilized through different modalities and at various stages of the financing cycle: grants, reimbursable grants, senior loans, subordinated loans, guarantees, and equity investments. A project/programme may include one or multiple financial instruments. |
| Focal point | An individual or authority designated by a developing country party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to fulfil all functions of a National Designated Authority (NDA) on a temporary basis, until it has designated an NDA. |
| Funding proposal (FP) | A document that is submitted by entities who want to get access to GCF resources for climate change projects and programmes. Funding Proposals can be submitted to the GCF at any time or as a response to a Request for Proposals (RFP). Funding Proposals that are submitted to GCF are subject to a review process, culminating in a decision by the GCF Board as to whether to support the project. |
| Investment criteria | Six investment criteria adopted by the GCF Board, namely impact potential; paradigm shift potential; sustainable development potential; needs of the recipient; country ownership; and efficiency and effectiveness. |
| Independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP) | A panel responsible for conducting technical assessments of funding proposals after the internal review of the GCF Secretariat and before submission to the GCF Board. |
| Log frame | One of the most used methods to articulate and clarify how a set of activities will achieve the desired outcomes and objective of a project (or its 'theory of change'). The log frame represents a results map or results framework which is part of the Results Management Framework (RMF). The log frame also captures basic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The project/programme's log frame is critical to determining the costs at the activity level required in the proposal template, the overall budget, and the timeline and key milestones. |
| Low carbon development strategy | Is the term used to describe forward-looking national economic development plans or strategies that encompass low-emission and/or climate-resilient economic growth |
| National Designated Authority (NDA) | A core interface and the main point of communication between a country and the GCF. The NDA seeks to ensure that activities supported by the GCF align |

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| | with strategic national objectives and priorities, and help advance ambitious action on adaptation and mitigation in line with national needs. A key role of NDAs is to provide letters of nomination to direct access entities. |
| Paradigm shift | A fundamental shift of all countries towards low-carbon and climate-resilient sustainable development, in accordance with the GCF results areas and consistent with a country's development and climate resilience priorities. It should be noted that this is not an official definition from the GCF and that the terms 'paradigm shift' and 'transformational change' are often used interchangeably. The paradigm shift of a project corresponds to the degree to which the proposed activity can catalyse impact beyond a one-off project/programme investment. This can be emphasised by providing further details on four related factors – (i) potential for scaling up and replication, (ii) potential for knowledge and learning, (iii) contribution to the creation of an enabling environment, and (iv) contribution to regulatory framework and policies. |
| Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) | A set of indicators established by the GCF to measure progress towards intended results based on the paradigm-shift objective, impacts and project/programme outcomes as outlined in the GCF's mitigation and adaptation logic models. |
| Project Preparation Facility (PPF) | A funding window that supports AEs in project and programme preparation. It covers pre-feasibility and feasibility studies; project design; environmental, social and gender studies; risk assessments; and other project preparation activities, where necessary, provided that sufficient justification is available. The PPF is designed in particular to support Direct Access Entities for projects in the micro-to-small size category. |
| Project proponent | An individual, group or organisation that submits or proposes a project or programme for review and acceptance by the GCF. A project proponent is often regarded as one of the key roles that determine the concept and content of a project or programme and create a detailed project description in the relevant GCF template forms at the concept note and/or full funding proposal stages. It is also responsible for mobilising all relevant stakeholders, including the country's NDA/Focal Point, the beneficiaries and other local stakeholders. It can be from the private or public sector. It can also be an existing AE of the GCF. If the project/programme is successfully approved by the GCF, the project proponent will in many cases become the EE of that project/programme. An AE can also perform the EE's functions. 'Project |

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| | proponent' is often used interchangeably with the terms 'project sponsor' and 'project initiator'. |
| Programme | A set of interlinked individual sub-projects or phases, unified by an overarching vision, common objectives and contribution to strategic goals, which will deliver sustained climate results and impact in the GCF result areas efficiently, effectively and at scale. |
| Request for Proposals (RFP) | On occasion, the GCF Board may call for Requests for Proposals to guide the development of the GCF portfolio in specific areas in accordance with the initial strategic plan. RFPs have specific eligibility standards. Entities that are not yet accredited by the GCF can submit proposals to the Fund as a response to RFPs. |
| Result areas | Eight result/impact areas which will deliver major mitigation and adaptation benefits in the developing world to promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development. Mitigation includes four result areas, namely low-emission energy access and power generation; low-emission transport; energy efficient building, cities and industries; and sustainable land use and forest management. Adaptation covers the other four, namely enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions; increased health and well-being, and food and water security; resilient infrastructure and built environment to climate change threats; and resilient ecosystems. All proposals must reflect one or more of the result/impact areas. |
| Simplified Approval Process (SAP) | A process for small-scale low risk proposals which allots less time and effort from both the entity and GCF to go from project conception to implementation. The documentation to be provided is reduced while the review and approval processes are streamlined. The SAP has three main eligibility criteria including a GCF contribution of up to USD 10 million; an ESS category of minimal to none; and a potential for scaling-up, transformation and promotion of a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development. |
| Theory of change | A methodology for planning, participation and evaluation that is used to promote long-term change. The theory of change defines long-term goals and then maps backward to identify necessary preconditions. The innovation of theory of change lies in making the distinction between desired and actual outcomes, as well as in requiring stakeholders to model their desired outcomes before they decide on forms of intervention to achieve those outcomes. The theory of change is an inclusive process involving stakeholders |

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| | with diverse perspectives in achieving solutions. The ultimate success of any theory of change lies in its ability to demonstrate progress on the achievement of outcomes. Evidence of success confirms the theory and indicates that the initiative is effective. Therefore the outcomes in a theory of change must be coupled with indicators that guide and facilitate measurement. The added value of a theory of change lies in outlining a conceptual model that demonstrates the causal connections between conditions that need to change in order to meet the ultimate desired goals. |
| United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | A framework for international cooperation to combat climate change. It aims to stabilize the greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. It focuses on both mitigation and adaptation measures. There are now 197 parties to the Convention that was adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992. |

B- WORKSHOP AGENDA

| Time (CET) | Topic | Presenter/Facilitator |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Introductory Session | | |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almotaz Abadi, Water Managing Director, UfM Secretariat Alex Simalabwi, GWPSA Executive Secretary, Global Head-Climate Resilience, Head-GWP Africa Coordination Unit Erwin Künzi, Head of Unit Themes and Quality, Austrian Development Agency (ADA) Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med | Anthi Brouma Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med |
| Preparing GCF Proposals: Investment Projects & Country Readiness | | |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCF 101 – mandate, results areas, project & country stakeholders, project cycle, funding windows | Alastair Morrison Former GCF Senior Water Specialist |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal overview: Investment Project Funding, Project Preparation Facility Grants Country example TBD | |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal overview: GCF Readiness Multi-country, multi-year Readiness proposals Country example, general Readiness TBD | René Schieritz, Programme Development Specialist – Water and Climate Change, GWP SAF |
| 10:20 – 10:35 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country example, NAP Readiness: Zambia WACDEP-G Zambia & synergies with Zambia NAP | Joseph Mbinji, Manager, Zambia GCF NAP Project, GWP SAF |
| 10:35 – 10:55 | Discussion | Anjali Lohani Water & Climate Resilience Specialist, GWP |
| 10:55 – 11:00 | Break | |

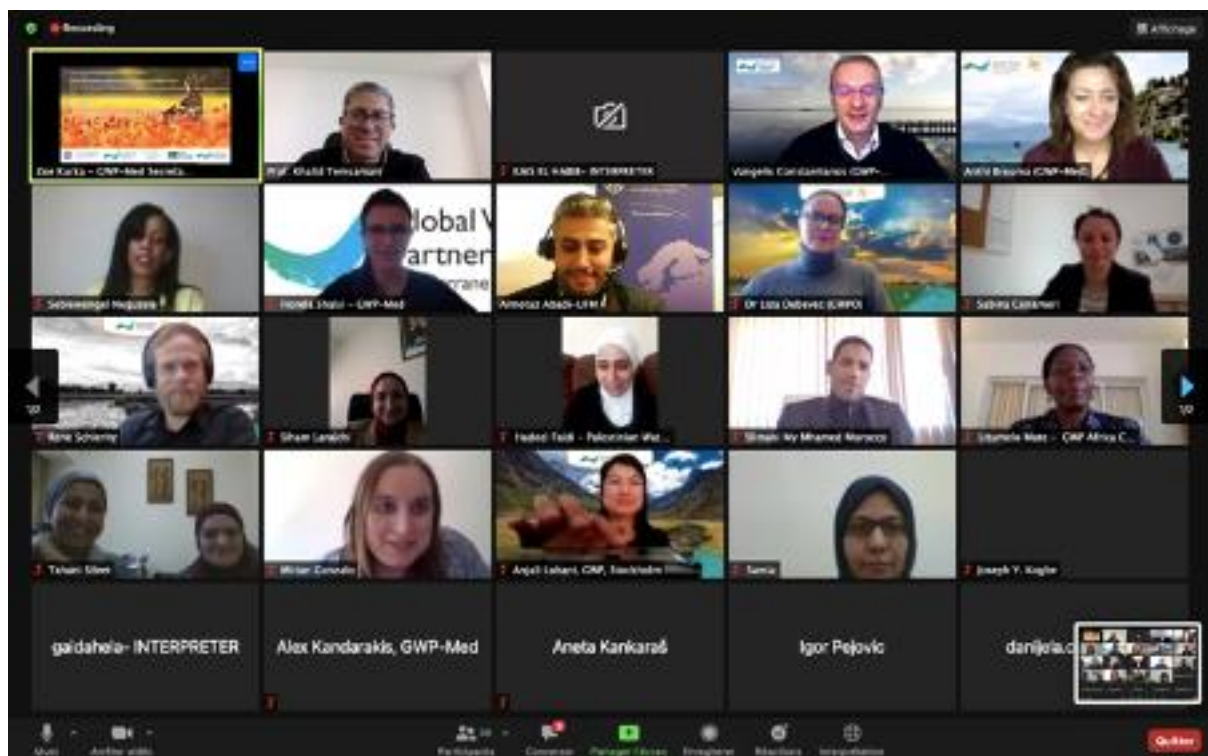
| Addressing Gender-related Objectives in GCF proposals | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00 – 11:15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender 101: Definition of terms• Discussion | Fiorela Shalsi Senior Gender Advisor, GWP-Med |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is climate change a gender issue?• Discussion | Liza Debevec Senior Gender & Social Inclusion Specialist, GWP |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Investment & Readiness Projects | Seble Negussie Gender and Social Specialist, GCF |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | Discussion | Litumelo Severs Senior Gender Specialist, GWP Africa Coordination Unit |
| Conclusions & Next Steps | | |
| 12:15 – 12:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almotaz Abadi, Water Managing Director, UfM Secretariat• Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med | Anthi Brouma Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med |



C- SHARED LINKS

- presentations and all material on the event's webpage :
- <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/PARTNER/events/gcf-training-110221/>
- https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/gwp-med-files/news-and-activities/11feb2021_ufm-training/handout-on-gender-and-climate-tools-and-documents-for-gcf-workshop_first-draft.pdf
- https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/gwp-med-files/news-and-activities/11feb2021_ufm-training/handout_data--analytical-methods-and-tools-climate-change-and-water---mediterranean.pdf
- <https://gwp.org/en/we-act/themesprogrammes/Gender/>
- <https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/about-gwp/publications/gender/gender-action-piece.pdf>
- <https://gwp.org/en/About/more/news/2020/embracing-gender-equality-and-inclusion--it-starts-from-the-top/>

D- WORKSHOP GROUP PHOTO





E- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| 2ND GCF MED TRAINING - 11 FEBRUARY 2021 | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COUNTRY | SURNAME | NAME | POSITION | ORGANISATION |
| ALBANIA | Cuci | Ornela | Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment | Ministry of Tourism and Environment |
| | Marku | Morgana | Specialist | Water Resources Management Agency |
| | Metoja | Rovena | Head of unit | Water Resources Management Agency |
| | Zhori | Alba | Head of sector | Water Resources Management Agency |
| BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA | Laganin | Ozren | Senior Associate, climate change and ozone protection | Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology of Republic of Srpska, BiH |
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