



The Southern Africa  
Climate Finance Partnership

SSN TOWARDS  
CLIMATE  
RESILIENCE

[View this email in your browser](#)

---

## SACFP Newsletter #5

June 2019

---

Dear \*IFNAMEI\*

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the [Southern Africa Climate Finance Partnership](#), a climate finance programme of SouthSouthNorth! The newsletter provides you with updates on the progress of the programme, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), climate finance activities in Southern Africa and relevant events and resources. You can expect to receive this newsletter every quarter. If you have received this newsletter via your network and would like to receive regular updates from SACFP, [please subscribe](#).

If you would like to get in touch with the team, please contact us on [sacfp@southsouthnorth.org](mailto:sacfp@southsouthnorth.org).

---

## SACFP project highlights



### **SACFP hosts its second Regional Learning Forum**

The SACFP hosted its [second Regional Learning Forum \(RLF2\)](#), together with Botswana's Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, on 2-3 April 2019 in Maun, Botswana. The Learning Forum brought together 44 delegates from: Nationally Designated Authorities (NDAs) / Focal Points (FPs), Accredited Entities (AEs), and nominated AEs to the GCF; as well as the conveners and their development parties. RLF2 focused on a range of issues that countries had been grappling with, including: GCF information updates; gender; country programming; accreditation; private sector; and GCF Readiness. Delegates left the forum reporting an improved understanding on the content of SACFP's three workstreams, and expectations well met – particularly in terms of the opportunity for peer-to-peer learning offered, and the opportunity to interact with GCF representatives. Delegates also indicated strong demand for ongoing SACFP activities going forward – particularly bilateral engagements and in-country technical assistance. Please see [here for a summary](#) of the outcomes of RLF2, and [here for a full report](#).

The Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) also [featured SACFP's video \*Journey through the GCF – insights from Zaheer Fakir\*](#), which features interviews with former GCF Board Co-Chair Zaheer Fakir, from the first SACFP Regional Learning Forum which was hosted in Swakopmund, Namibia during October 2018.

### **SACFP private sector workshop with Lesotho Meteorological Services**



On 29 May, A workshop was hosted by SACFP in collaboration with the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) – which serves a Lesotho’s GCF Focal Point – and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The workshop convened private sector stakeholders to present the DBSA's recently approved [Climate Finance Facility](#), as well as to the GCF Private Sector Facility, with the purpose of raising awareness of the operational modalities of the PSF, and potential opportunities for private sector institutions. The workshop provided one of the first opportunities for Basotho stakeholders to engage with the DBSA team on the specifics of how the Climate Finance Facility will operate, and how it can afford financial sector institutions operating in the Kingdom to programme concessional GCF finance to projects. In consultation with LMS, the SACFP will be scoping opportunities to provide further technical support in engaging the private sector in Lesotho.

---

## GCF News

The GCF’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting will convene from 6-8 July 2019 preceded by Constituency meetings (starting on 4 July). The [provisional agenda](#) has a number of important items that will be followed closely by those impacted by the outcomes of the decisions of the Board. Key points for discussion include the updated Gender Policy and Action Plan, updated Accreditation framework, as well as review of the initial modalities of the Private Sector Facility (PSF).

Meanwhile, the GCF's [First Formal Replenishment \(FFR\)](#) is well underway. Some countries made early commitments – for example, [Norway](#) and [Germany](#), promising to double their existing contributions – while others have less forthcoming, like [Australia](#) making an early announcement that it would not contribute to the FFR. The [first FFR meeting](#) took place in Oslo, Norway from 4-5 April 2019: the meeting reviewed the implementation of the GCF's initial strategic plan, an update on the initial findings of the Performance Review, and strategic programming directions during the FFR; as well as discussing updates to policies for contributions and reference exchange rates for the FFR. This will be followed by a second consultation meeting from 29-30 August 2019, and a pledging conference provisionally planned for October 2019. Since being [named as GCF Executive Director](#) in February 2019, Yannick Glemarec has commenced his tenure [asserting the GCF's place](#) in the climate finance ecosystem during this important replenishment year.

---

## Other climate finance news



### Cyclone Idai and its aftermath

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) released its [Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2018](#) in March 2019; according to this report, almost 62 million people were impacted by extreme weather in 2018, and [global impacts of climate change are accelerating](#). The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has released its 2019 [Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction \(GAR\)](#), highlighting the growing risk of extreme events, along with the high cost of vulnerability and interrelated cycles of disasters and poverty. Probably the most significant natural disaster of the past year was Cyclone Idai, which struck Southern Africa in March 2019, and was followed shortly afterwards by Cyclone Kenneth.

[Cyclone Idai](#) struck Mozambique on 14 March 2019, reportedly [destroying 90% of the city](#).

[of Beira](#), and causing [devastation across parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi](#). With [18.5 million people requiring humanitarian assistance](#), and expected [cholera outbreaks](#), Mozambique declared [three days of national mourning](#). Cyclone Idai [killed at least 678 people across the region](#). Many people went hungry, as [over 700,000 hectares of farmland](#) were flooded in Mozambique alone. Ironically, while the east of Zimbabwe faced the [costs brought on by the excess rainfall of Cyclone Idai](#), much of the country [suffered ongoing drought](#), leading to [greatly reduced harvests](#). [Cyclone Kenneth](#) struck Mozambique on 25 April, bringing more destruction and raising fears that Mozambique's need to raise loans to recover would force the country into a "[climate debt trap](#)".

Climate change is driving sea level rises and more extreme rainfall, which [make high-intensity storms like Cyclone Idai more severe](#). Tropical cyclones have become slightly less frequent overall, but high-intensity storms have become much more frequent. Climate change increases the intensity of rainfall, and flooding through sea-level rise. However, the precise [role of climate change in Cyclone Idai](#) is uncertain, in part because the scientists with the necessary expertise lack the resources for the large amount of computer modelling required. Considering the merits of rebuilding or relocating infrastructure in Beira in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai, [Leonie Joubert wrote a blog for Future Climate For Africa \(FCFA\)](#). While attending the UNDRR's Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May, Mozambique's Vice-Minister for State Administration Albano Macie stated that the country had learned from Cyclone Idai and Cyclone Kenneth, saying the country would [build back with new and resilient infrastructure](#).

### **Namibia's Environmental Investment Fund awards recipients of GCF-funded project**

The USD10 million GCF project [Empower to adapt: creating climate resilient livelihoods through community-based natural resource management in Namibia](#) was approved in October 2016, with Namibia's Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) acting as accredited entity. The project is an Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Pilot, built on the strong foundation of the Namibian Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) network, and it consists of two complementary components: Capacity Building And Community Support; and a Resilient Grant Facility. On 11 June 2019, the [EIF awarded USD5.9 million from the Resilient Grant Facility to 19 projects](#).

### **World Food Programme submits an Adaptation Fund project to work in Lesotho**

The World Food Programme (acting as Implementing Entity) have submitted a full proposal for the Adaptation Fund (AF) Board's consideration titled [Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations in Lesotho](#). Once approved, the project will be executed by Ministry of Energy and Meteorology in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation. The project seeks to strengthen the resilience of poor and vulnerable rural, food insecure communities and households in the low-lying areas of Lesotho (specifically the three southern districts of Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek and

Quthing) over the period of 2019-2023. This will be the Kingdom of Lesotho's first AF project.

### **First Community of Practice Meeting of Direct Access Entities to Climate Finance convened**

The AF, GCF, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) – with additional funding from the African Development Bank's Africa Climate Change Fund – [convened the first Community of Practice Meeting of Direct Access Entities to Climate Finance](#) in Durban, South Africa from 5-7 June 2019. The meeting was aimed at furthering a common Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities (CPDAE), through the adoption of a governance framework, and development of a roadmap of activities to build additional capacity of the community's members to efficiently access, receive, and utilise Direct Access project funding from the AF and GCF.

### **Developments relating to other climate funds**

- The World Bank Group (WBG) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) held their Spring Meetings from 12-14 April in Washington DC, USA. David Malpass was announced as the new President of the WBG in April 2019. Following tradition, the leader was nominated by the USA. Malpass has [confirming his commitment to the environment](#), and also to [keep the Bank's climate goals to evolve its relationship with China](#). This is reassuring, following the WBG's targets announced in 2018, to [deliver USD200 billion over five years for climate action](#), under previous President Jim Yong Kim. Since 2008, the [WBG has issued over USD13 billion in green bonds](#).
- The [Africa Pledge](#) was announced at the One Planet Summit in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2019; the pledge involves a series of commitments to develop renewable energies and protect biodiversity in Africa.
- Over 30 developing countries [called on the international community](#) to recapitalise the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), with a [Joint Ministerial Statement](#) in April 2019.
- According to the IIED report [Money where it matters: designing funds for the frontier](#), only 10% of funding committed from climate funds goes to local level action.

### **Global political and financial developments related to climate change**

- National and regional governments have continued taking steps to transition finance away from fossil fuels. Norway's Government has proposed [divesting USD7.5 billion worth of shares in oil production](#), from the USD1 trillion portfolio of the country's sovereign wealth fund. In February 2019, French experts [published a draft treaty](#) trillion-dollar EU climate finance pact, backed by over 600 political figures, and French President Emmanuel Macron [backed a proposed European climate bank](#) as a subsidiary to the European Investment Bank during March 2019. China's new green bond standards are expected to [exclude polluting fossil fuel projects](#) from corporate financing channels designed to lift environmental standards. Even in the

USA, top pension funds are gently [urging electric utilities to accelerate decarbonisation](#).

- According to a [report](#) released by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis in February 2019, [100 global financial institutions have introduced policies restricting coal funding](#), including 40% of the top 40 global banks, and at least 20 significant insurers, with over USD6 trillion in assets under management. However, according to the [Banking On Climate Change 2019](#) report published by Rainforest Action Network, despite progress that has been made, some [USD1.9 trillion has been invested in fossil fuels since the Paris Agreement](#).
- The IEA released its [Global Energy & CO2 Status Report 2018](#) in March 2019; according to the report, [global energy demand rose by 2.3% in 2018](#) – it is the fastest pace in the last decade. The IEA's [World Energy Outlook 2018](#) – while released back in November 2018 – has recently [sparked debate](#), as around 60 signatories – representing investment funds, scientific institutions, and think tanks – wrote to the IEA, highlighting that scenarios forecast by the IEA shape energy demand and climate change attitudes and behaviours, meaning the IEA has a responsibility to highlight a Sustainable Development scenario as the central case to drive forecasts.
- Countries around Africa, and the world, are developing local green bond markets. After issuing its first green bond in 2017, [Nigeria now plans to issue a new green bond of up to USD49 million](#). Kenya has launched a [Green Bonds Programme](#) to develop its local green bonds market.
- [South Africa's Carbon Tax](#) has been signed into law, coming into effect from June 2019.
- The Climate Action Summit will be held in New York City, USA in September 2019; UN Secretary General [Antonio Guterres has called on leaders](#) to “come with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their NDCs by 2020”.

---

## Upcoming events

### July 2019

- [23rd Meeting of the GCF Board](#): 6-8 July, Songdo, South Korea

### September 2019

- [Consortium of African Funds for the Environment \(CAFÉ\) 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly](#): 2-6 September, Ouidah, Benin
- [UN Climate Action Summit](#): 23 September, New York City, USA

### October 2019

- [African Climate Risks Conference \(ACRC\) 2019](#): 7-9 October, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## December 2019

- [UNFCCC COP25](#): 2-13 December, Santiago, Chile



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



*Copyright © 2019 SouthSouthNorth, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

