GREEN CLIMATE FUND

THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND GENDER POLICY AND GENDER ACTION PLAN: 2020 - 2023"

A TOOLKIT FOR CIVIL SOCEITY ENGAGEMENTS

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With support from

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
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through the International Climate Initiative (ICI)

Purpose and Acknowledgments

The purpose of this toolkit is to contribute to more awareness and accessibility of key GCF information among civil society, for advocacy and community / public education on GCF operations. This is part of capacity strengthening under the project "**Civil Society Organizations Readiness for the Green Climate Fund– focus Africa'** being implement in Ghana by CARE and Kasa, in collaboration with others stakeholders. This CSO Readiness Project is being implemented in 10 African countries and coordinated by Germany Watch and CARE International, with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (ICI).

The content of the documents does not necessarily represent the corporate views of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU), nor that of Germany watch, CARE International and Kasa Ghana.

Information in this document is from the Green Climate Fund website and can be accessed at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/publications.

An overview of the GCF Gender Policy and Action Plan

Introduction:

The Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan of the GCF (hereinafter "Gender Action Plan") were prepared by taking into consideration the policies and best practices of other multilateral development banks and international organizations, including the Global Environment Facility Policy on Gender Equality and the Global Environment Facility Gender Equality Action Plan.

The updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan drew lessons from the implementation of the gender policy up to 2019 and from stakeholder's inputs and reviews.

Taking into consideration the inputs and recommendations received from the Board and stakeholders, updates to the Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan focus on the following improvements:

- The policy strives to mainstream gender issues in all its interventions. It implies systemic gender mainstreaming throughout the GCF policies, plans and programmes;
- In addition to requiring gender assessments, the policy suggests a mandatory requirement to submit project-level gender action plans;
- The policy outlines clear requirements across the project life cycle and with respect to the roles and responsibilities for GCF and AEs;
- The policy aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which make explicit commitments to gender equality both as a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment in SDG5 and as a cross-cutting theme across all the SDGs; and
- The Gender Action Plan (annex IV) provides indicative portfolio-level gender-related indicators to operationalize the updated Gender Policy, together with budget provisions related to knowledge management, capacity development, monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The Gender Policy Rationale:

.In the context of sustainable development, it is imperative that GCF makes explicit commitment to consistently mainstream gender issues in its work. Gender relations, roles and responsibilities exercise important influences on women's and men's access to and control over decisions, assets and resources, information, and knowledge. The GCF Gender Policy acknowledges that climate change initiatives are more sustainable, equitable and more likely to achieve their objectives when gender equality and women's empowerment considerations are integrated into the design and implementation of projects. Further, this Gender Policy recognizes that women and vulnerable communities are also

part of the solution to climate change and should, therefore, be effectively engaged in discussions and decisions that affect them.

Objectives of the GCF Gender Policy

The Gender Policy has the following main objectives as outline below:

- To support climate change interventions and innovations through a comprehensive gender approach, applied both within the institution and by its network of partners, including accredited entities (AEs), national designated authorities (NDAs) and focal points, and delivery partners for activities under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme;
- To promote climate investments that Advance gender equality through climate change mitigation and adaptation actions;
- To promote climate investments that Minimize social, gender-related and climate-related risks while also endeavoring to promote respect for and observance of the human rights of all people, including women and men from vulnerable or marginalized communities in all climate change actions;
- To contribute to reducing the gender gap of climate change-exacerbated social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities and exclusions through GCF climate investments that mainstream gender equality issues.

Scope of application of the Policy

GCF will apply its Gender Policy throughout its activities, including all funding activities for mitigation and adaptation undertaken by both the public and private sector. The Gender Policy's objectives apply across: the GCF Institutional level; the Project/portfolio level; the National level; and the Sector level. In this way, GCF supports an institutional culture and enabling environment that integrates gender equality, vertically and horizontally, across diverse stakeholders and climate change-relevant policy processes and frameworks through the course of the project life cycle and climate investments"

GCF Gender policy Principles

Guiding principles underpin the core values and premises of the Gender Policy and are aligned with the objectives and guiding principles of the Governing Instrument.4 These principles are Human Rights: Country Ownerships; Stakeholder engagement and consultation, and Disclosure of information.

The GCF Gender Policy requirements

The Gender Policy requirements are categorized in the document under (a) GCF responsibilities; (b) AE commitments; and (c) Project-level requirements.

Key Areas for Operationalising the Gender Policy & Action Plan

The implementation of the Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan focus on the following five priority areas, as described in detail in main document: (a) Governance; (b) Competencies and capacity development; (c) Resource allocation, accessibility and budgeting; (d) Operational procedures; and (e) Knowledge generation and communications.

The duration of the Gender Action Plan of the GCF 2020–2023 (hereinafter "Gender Action Plan") is three years. The operationalization of the Gender Policy of the GCF (hereinafter "Gender Policy") rests among Secretariat roles, commitments and responsibilities and the compliance required by accredited entities (AEs) on project preparation, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

The main GCF Updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan-2020-2023 are presented below for easy reference.

CSO and other interested stakeholder may visit the GCF website for other importance information. https://www.greenclimate.fund/publications

SOME KEY CONCPETS / TERMS AS DEFINED BY GCF:

 "**Gender**" refers to the social, behavioural and cultural attributes, expectations, responsibilities and norms associated with being male or female. They are context/time-specific and changeable, and therefore gender identity should also be considered;

 "**Gender analysis**" refers to the critical examination of how differences in gender norms, roles, power structures, activities, needs, opportunities and rights affect men, women, girls and boys in a certain situation or context. It includes collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and gender information to understand gender differences and gaps, determine gender differentiated impacts and risks, to identify measures to avoid adverse gender impacts, and to uncover and act on opportunities to address gender gaps and inequalities relevant to the activity;

 "**Gender equality**", as enshrined in international conventions and national constitutions and other human rights agreements, refers to equal rights, power, access, decision-making, responsibilities and opportunities for women and men, as well as equal consideration of the interests, needs and priorities of women and men, recognizing the diversity of different groups and of gender identities. (refer also to the social inclusion definition);

"**Gender equity**" refers to the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure equity, measures often need to be taken to compensate (or reduce) disparity for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on an equitable basis. The process of gender equity leads to gender equality as a legal right and obligation;

"**Gender equality and social inclusion analysis**" is a methodology for examining the causes and consequences of inequality in terms of gender, caste, faith, ethnicity and other intersectionalities. Drawing on gender analysis frameworks, it takes into account differences in roles, responsibilities, rights, decision-making, and access to resources to better understand disparities;

 "**Gender mainstreaming**" refers to a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality. Mainstreaming involves the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the experiences and concerns of women as well as men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated, if necessary, through targeted actions to ensure that women's voices as important actors are heard;

 "**Gender-responsive**" refers to the consideration of gender norms, roles and relations and to addressing inequality generated by unequal norms, roles and relations through remedial action beyond creating gender awareness;

 "**Gender-sensitive**" refers to raising awareness and consideration of gender norms, roles and relations but does not necessarily address inequality generated by unequal norms, roles or relations through remedial action beyond creating gender awareness;

"**Human rights-based approach**", or HRB approach, refers to an approach where every human being is recognized both as a person and as a rights holder. A human rights-based approach strives

to secure the freedom, well-being and dignity of all people everywhere, within the framework of essential standards and principles, duties and obligations. The approach supports mechanisms to ensure that entitlements are attained and safeguarded. Rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and the approach focuses on those who are most vulnerable, excluded or discriminated against;

"**Resilience**" to climate change can be understood as (1) the capacity to absorb shocks and maintain function in the face of stresses caused by climate change; and (2) adapt, and evolve into more sustainable socioeconomic behaviours, leading people to be better prepared for the adverse effects of climate change;

"**Social inclusion**" refers to the process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society, and the process of improving the ability, opportunities, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to target 10.2, aims to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, relation or economic or other status.4 Gender equality and social inclusion is a concept that addresses unequal power relations experienced on the grounds of gender, wealth, ability, location, caste, ethnicity, language and agency or a combination of these dimensions. It focuses on the need for action to re-balance these power relations, reduce disparity and ensure equal rights, opportunities and respect for all individuals regardless of their social identity.