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| **Name of Donor** | **Name of Project** |
| European Union | **Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance+ COMESA climate change programme** |
| **Grant start date**:  | 27 November, 2017 |
| **Grant End date:** | 26 November ,2021 |
| **Grant Amount:** | USD 8,012,300 (Euro 7,153,839) |
| **Disbursed before current year:** (2019) | USD 2,846,413 (Euro 2,541,440) |
| **Balance:** | USD 5,156,887 (Euro 4,612,399) |
| **Disbursed in 2019**:  | USD 2,941851 (Euro 2,626,653) |
| **Balance yet to be disbursed:** | USD2,224,036 (Euro 1,985,746) |

1. **Brief about the programme**

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa “COMESA” signed a Pillar Assessed Grant and Delegation Agreement (PAGODA) with the European Union represented by the European Commission on 27 November 2017 for the implementation of the Intra-African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Global Climate Change Alliance plus COMESA Climate Change Project at a total cost of Euro 7,153,838.89 for a period of forty-eight months (Four years), ending 26 December 2021. COMESA received the initial disbursement amount of Euro 2,451,441 from the European Commission for the implementation of approved 2018 workplan. An amount of Euro Euro 2,626,653 was received in June 2019.

**Overall Objective**

The overall objective of the project is to increase the resilience of the COMESA region to climate change.

Its specific objective is to improve regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges faced by COMESA countries at operational, institutional and financial levels. Indirectly, the project contributes to the conservation of biodiversity by applying ecosystem-based solutions to climate change adaption and disaster risk reduction

**Specific objectives per result area and intended results**

In line with the Project’s 6 expected results, the action will contribute to the realization of the specific objective as follows:

Result Area 1: COMESA has dedicated operational and institutional capacity to support the needs of its Member States in relevant Intra-ACP GCCA plus priority areas, climate change negotiations and implementation of the Paris Agreement; in particular, the capacity of the COMESA Climate Change Unit is enhanced to ensure achievement of Project results and, beyond the duration and scope of the Project, to sustain capacity to provide climate-related support to Member States.

Result Area 2: Regional and national climate change strategies and priorities that contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement (including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)) have been strengthened and supported in their implementation.

Result Area 3: The implementation of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) projects including landscape- and ecosystem-based solutions is scaled up in 5 Member states.

Result Area 4: Strategic dialogue between COMESA countries is strengthened, and negotiation capacity built, to share information and knowledge about climate action with the aim of promoting cooperation between COMESA countries.

Result Area 5: The capacity of technical institutions, universities and regional centres that provide capacity building support and research and innovation services to undertake adaption and mitigation actions in the COMESA region and its Member States is strengthened.

Result Area 6: Innovative approaches that assist COMESA countries to access and mobilise climate finance for adaption, mitigation, technology development and transfer and capacity building, from both the public and private sectors, are supported.

1. **Overview of 2019 (Jan – June,2019) programme and expenditure implementation**

***Result 1: Capacity building at RO Level***

***Activity 1.2.*** *Design and implement a COMESA-focused capacity building programme meeting the identified needs, involving CCU and relevant staff from other divisions;*

The development of a COMESA-focused capacity building programme commenced. This focuses on the establishment of climate change strategy and policy, an environmental policy, revision of the COMESA green procurement manual, the development of the Blue economy strategy; draft implementation procedure for approval by senior management to mainstream climate change and environmental sustainability issues into all COMESA programmes and projects.

## ***Result 2: Regional and National Climate Change Strategies Supported***

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***Activity 2.2.2:*** *Develop a draft Regional Resilience Framework and Strategy*

Two key activities were undertaken to inform the development of the Framework.

*a) Technical Consultative Meeting of RECs on the COMESA Regional Resilience Framework.*

b) Resilience Framework sensitization workshop for COMESA staff

***Activity 2.3.4*** *Organise one regional training workshop dedicated to NDC target and indicator tracking*

This activity is planned to take place in July 2019. By the end of the reporting period, preparations had been completed and invitations for the training had been sent out to all the 17 Member states.

***Result 3: Pilot Adaptation project scaled Up***

***Activity 3.1.3:*** *Implementation of pilot projects*

By the end of the first half of 2019, the CSA pilot projects were at different levels of implementation and had made substantial progress in achieving their planned outputs as summarized below.

**Eswatini CSA Project**

Eswatini is implementing its project titled *“Management of water resources, irrigation, value chains and market linkages, field-based cold storage facilities”*. The project which is worth Euro 636,363.64, is being implemented by the National Agriculture Marketing Board (NAMBoard) of Eswatini Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) while the UNDP country office plays a financial management and oversight role. The project aims upscale market-led small-scale commercial agriculture targeting households in two (2) community-based schemes *viz:* Mavulandlela and Intamakuphila areas.

**Madagascar CSA Project (MANITATRA 2)**

Madagascar is implementing a project titled *“Ecosystem-based adaptation in farming systems to mitigate climate change and to improve food security”,* implemented by GSDM, Professionnels de l’Agro-écologie. The project is worth Euro 727,272.73 and is focusing on up-scaling CSA through ecosystem-based adaptation in farming to mitigate climate change and improve food security in two ecosystems of the Vakinankaratra region in Madagascar

### **Seychelles CSA Project**

The Seychelles project is focusing on “Water Smart Farms” to promote water efficiency on farms, whilst reducing energy consumption. The project which is implemented by a group of Val D’Andor Farmers Association is worth Euro 409,090.91. It supports the construction of 5 large concrete tanks providing communal water storage with centralized control systems to regulate the flow of water into individual farms. The project also provides irrigation equipment and rehabilitation of water catchments.

### **Uganda CSA Project**

Uganda is implementing a project titled “*Enhancing Resilience of Agricultural Landscapes and Value chains and market linkages in Eastern Uganda – Scaling up CSA Practices”.* The project is implemented by Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) with UNDP undertaking financial management and oversight roles. The project is worth Euro 1,000,000 and is being implemented in 7 districts in the Eastern part of Uganda.

**Zimbabwe CSA Project**

The Zimbabwe project focuses on up-scaling capacity building in Conservation Agriculture and Agroforestry into the curricula of 10 Agricultural Colleges and surrounding communities. It is being implemented by Foundations for Farming and has a budget of Euro 363,636.36. The trainings cover 3 basic areas i.e. Conservation Agriculture, Agroforestry and Entrepreneurial Skills development for selected students, lecturers and principals from the 10 Colleges. The list of the 10 colleges that are being supported by the project is highlighted below.

***Result 4: Strategic dialogue strengthened, Information and knowledge shared***

***Activity 4.1.1****: Organise policy dialogue events between COMESA MS on selected topics associated with the response to Climate Change*

COMESA convened a policy dialogue side event under the theme: Agriculture and Climate Change in the COMESA Region: Strengthening resilience and building synergies between adaptation and mitigation on the 20th of March during the Africa Climate Week (ACW) which took place from the 18th-20th of March 2019 in Accra, Ghana. The ACW was convened by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government of Ghana, World Bank Group, African Development Bank, West African Development Bank, CTCN, UNEP, UNEP DTU Partnership, UNDP, IETA, Marrakech Partnership and UN Climate Change.

***Activity 4.2.1*** *Conduct a regional training session for negotiators based on needs assessment; during the sessions, inform negotiators about available climate services and sources of information on climate change, and train them in making the best possible use of such services and sources to inform negotiating positions*

A regional negotiators’ training was held on 27-28 May 2019 at the Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe attended by 46 participants (of whom 11 were female) from 15 Member States.

***Activity 4.2.2:*** *Organise technical meetings before COPs and Bonn intersessional climate conferences to identify the most strategic issues for COMESA Member States, work out regional priorities and positions*

Part of this output was achieved through activity 4.2.1 above. The training had a specific panel discussion on issues for the Bonn Conference which was planned to take place in June 2019. The issues that were identified for Bonn and COP 25 are highlighted in Box 6 below. Another technical meeting is planned for the last quarter of the year to prepare for COP 25 and identify additional issues and agree on the priorities and positions to be presented there.

***Activity 4.2.3:*** *Ensure COMESA priorities and positions are communicated to, integrated and conveyed by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)*

Through an on-going process, the positions are being consolidated to be presented as a unified position of the AGN and AMCEN at the various negotiations.

***Activity 4.2.4:*** *Organise post-COP technical meetings to debrief about achievements (and/or lack of progress) in relation to the most strategic issues for COMESA Member States, and support Member States in integrating emerging issues and COP outcomes into their national strategies and action plans*

This was implemented alongside activity 4.2.1 above (Training for Negotiators). This activity had an agenda item to review the outcomes of COP 24. From a presentation on the ***‘The outcomes of the COP24 and implications for COMESA Region and Africa in general’,*** the negotiators were given a brief review and debrief of the proceedings from the COP 24 for noting.

***Result 6: Innovation and access to Climate Finance Facilitated***

***Activity 6.1:*** *Engage with the Green Climate Fund to get COMESA accredited as a regional entity, which will enable it to access and leverage funding on behalf of Member States for regional and national projects*

Substantial progress has been achieved in completion of the questionnaire and collection of the necessary data in preparation for submission. The accreditation file will be submitted during the last half of the year. Other activities under this sub result are planned for the last half of 2019.

Table 1, below presents expenditure incurred in the period in implementing the above activities

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Budget Line Description [as in grant contract]** | **2018** | **2019** |  |
| **Actual** | **Original Budget** | **Actual: Six months** | **Forecast: Six months** | **Revised Forecast** | **% Budget Utilisation achieved** | **% Forecast Budget Utilisation** | **Proposed budget revision** |
| **12 months** | **12 months** | **Jan - June** | **July-Dec** | **Jan - Dec: 12 months** | **Jan - June** | **Jan - Dec: 12 months** |  |
| Col 1 | Col 2 | **Col 3** | **Col 4** | **Col 5** | **Col 6** |  **Col 7=5+6** | **Col 8=5/4** | **Col 9=7/4** |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1** | Result 1: Capacity building at RO Level |  47,414  |  25,404  |  5,160  |  20,243  |  25,404  | 20% | 100% |  |
| **2** | Result 2: Regional and National Climate Change Strategies Supported |  3,240  |  419,389  |  7,785  |  411,604  |  419,389  | 2% | 100% |  |
| **3** | Result 3: Pilot Adaptation project scaled Up |  369,569  |  1,271,919  |  |  1,271,919  |  1,271,919  | 0% | 100% |  |
| **4** | Result 4: Strategic dialogue strengthened, Information and knowledge shared |  65,137  |  240,902  |  111,626  |  129,275  |  240,902  | 46% | 100% |  |
| **5** | Result 5: Capacity Building for Technical Institutions and regional centres |  |  245,857  |  |  245,857  |  245,857  | 0% | 100% |  |
| **6** | Result 6: Innovation and access to Climate Finance Facilitated |  41,025  |  179,658  |  |  179,658  |  179,658  | 0% | 100% |  |
| **7** | PMU Costs |  574,923  |  418,656  |  278,418  |  140,238  |  418,656  | 67% | 100% |  |
| **8** | Audits |  440  |  5,307  |  5,307  |  0  |  5,307  | 100% | 100% |  |
| **9** | Remuneration 5% (Overhead Cost) |  95,775  |  134,782  |  1,137  |  133,645  |  134,782  | 1% | 100% |  |
|  | **Total** |  1,197,522  |  2,941,874  |  409,433  |  2,532,441  |  2,941,874  | 14% | 100% |  |

Further the project’s budget outturn is expected to be 82% due to the expected non disbursement of funds by the African Union.

1. **Risk Management**

No Major reportable risks materialised during the implementation period.

1. **Recommendation**

During the remaining part of FY 2019, the project will complete those activities that are already on-going and commence implementation of those that are planned to start during the last half of the year.