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ADA continues to support communities in building their understanding of climate change and strengthening participatory climate action at the local level. To ensure the sustainability of locally led efforts, ADA and her partners developed a Ward Climate Change Planning Committees' (WCCPC) Trainers' Guide. Developed under the 'Enhancing Participatory Decision Making for Locally-led Climate Solutions' project, supported by World Wide Fund for Nature Kenya (WWF-K) as part of the global Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) program, the Guide was co-created with input from national and county climate change stakeholders as well as civil society actors. This guide contains standardized content and is designed to support trainers and facilitators, in strengthening community capacities to effectively plan and implement Locally Led Climate Action.

The Guide was officially launched by H.E Dr. Wilbur Ottichilo, Governor of Vihiga County and Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee at the Council of Governors. Speaking during the launch event, H.E. Dr. Wilbur Ottichilo highlighted the challenges faced by Counties, key among them being, the inconsistency of community-level training programs led by various actors. He lauded the Consortium for its efforts in standardizing training approaches and ensuring high quality delivery of capacity building initiatives, terming it as a great milestone in strengthening local governance and community development through coordinated efforts.



H.E. Dr. Wilbur Ottichilo with CECMs after the launch of the Trainers' Guide

Following the launch of the Guide, it was disseminated to the county governments through a number of awareness creation sessions. Different sessions were held for County Officers including: County Executive Committee Members (CECM) responsible for climate change; County Chief Officers responsible for Climate Change and County Climate Change Directors. In total, 45 counties participated and were taken through a detailed discussion on the content and discussions were held on how to utilize the manual to train WCCPC and communities.

The officers termed the guide as a timely intervention that would greatly support their work and advance their efforts and those of communities to understand their mandate by using participatory approaches to climate resilience planning. The officers also took the opportunity to make contributions to be considered for inclusion during the review of the Guide.

The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya make up to 89% of the country, covering 29 counties and a population of about 16 million people and are susceptible to droughts and flooding and with increasing impacts from climate change. These environmental challenges often fuel tension and conflict over scarce resources like water and pasture.

However, climate finance provides an opportunity to address these challenges while also fostering peace through the County Climate Change Fund (CCCCF) mechanism. The CCCC has proven the potential to address climate induced conflict by enabling communities to integrate conflict sensitivity in climate action planning and investment in projects, such as water pans and boreholes, helping them manage climate impacts while reducing disputes over resources.

Research conducted by CGIAR's Alliance of Biodiversity International and International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in collaboration with ADA Consortium, revealed how the participatory approach of community planning promotes trust and strengthens inclusion in decision making processes.

The findings indicated the need for deliberate efforts in embedding conflict-sensitivity and redress mechanisms in the design of climate interventions at the community level; improving cross-community collaboration at the landscape level and using climate adaptation projects as entry points for peace building. *The CCCC mechanism provides a promising example of how climate finance can build resilience while promoting peaceful coexistence among communities.*

In the face of accelerating climate impacts affecting the most vulnerable communities, ADA Consortium in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature Germany (WWF-G), pioneered an initiative on “Building Support for Greater Investment in Agricultural Adaptation” by identifying new ways to unlock climate finance for frontline communities, ensuring that adaptation efforts in Agriculture are not only locally relevant, but also sustainably funded.

The pilot project employed a multi-layered approach, entailing rigorous desk reviews, grassroots dialogues and strategic engagement in international policy forums, while underscoring the role of indigenous/traditional knowledge systems (ITK) and nature-based solutions (NbS) as critical foundations to locally led climate action.

The core pillars at the heart of the project included: Developing nature-positive investment concepts aligned with the Nature-Positive Production (NPP) framework; Integrating biodiversity considerations into Kenya’s climate finance instruments, particularly the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) program and Showcasing community perspectives and successes at national and global platforms to amplify their voice and influence.

Sessions brought together over 70 community leaders and county officials from 16 counties, generating critical community insights, highlighting local innovations and identified persistent barriers to accessing finance such as limited technical capacity for proposal development, insufficient access to climate data and donor priorities not aligning with community realities.

The project’s findings reinforce the urgent need to simplify funding pathways and strengthen local capacities including exploring blended finance models such as public-private partnerships and concessional grants that can help unlock larger investments and scale up grassroots-led solutions. Deliberations indicated that Kenya has the potential to become a model for equitable, community-driven climate adaptation, by bridging the climate finance gap for agricultural adaptation, where climate finance does not stop at policy, but reaches the farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk at the heart of resilience building.



Participants at the National Learning Event on Building Support for Investment in Agricultural Adaptation

Capacity Strengthening for Participatory Climate Risk Assessment

ADA Consortium was commissioned by the World Bank to support Capacity Strengthening for Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PCRA) for the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) program. FLLoCA is a flagship initiative by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank aimed at strengthening climate resilience through locally led adaptation (LLA) approaches.

The project will employ a collaborative approach, working with all climate change stakeholders, state and non-state actors, at both national and county government level. This will ensure co-creation and co-learning on all aspects, including adherence to the core principles of LLA and promoting community ownership, equity and sustainability. This partnership will ensure sustainability and culminate in the institutionalization of learnings and outcomes of this process.

In the previous quarter, ADA successfully concluded the inception phase where all stakeholders were engaged, setting a strong foundation for an inclusive and participatory process. The next steps include conducting desktop reviews and data collection from communities and actors, on Participatory Climate Risk Assessments (PCRA) and County Climate Change Action Plans (CCCAPs) to gain deeper insights into how local climate priorities are being addressed through FLLoCA.



ADA and World Bank teams during the project kickoff meeting



Facilitated by WWF Germany, the German-Kenyan Knowledge Exchange visit took place from 22nd to 31st May, 2025 and brought together representatives from key Kenyan agricultural and environmental organizations. These included; Adaptation Consortium Kenya (ADA), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF), International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT (AB-CIAT) and African Group of Negotiators' Expert Support (AGNES).

The visit aimed to showcase investment prospects within Kenya's agriculture sector while fostering dialogue with German stakeholders. Discussions spanned topics such as the status of German agriculture, BMEL's Africa strategy, gender roles in agriculture and bilateral trade relations.

Throughout the exchange, the Kenyan delegation visited prominent German institutions, research farms and production hubs to explore best practices in organic and cooperative farming. The visits offered hands-on exposure to sustainable agricultural approaches, including organic farming systems, agroecological methods, climate-resilient livestock management and direct-to-market strategies. The delegation drew key lessons from Germany's transition toward climate-smart agriculture, with practical applications for Kenya's local climate action and adaptation programming.

Kenyan delegation meeting with in Germany

Engagements with institutions such as BMEL and GIZ, along with field visits, facilitated knowledge sharing on climate resilience, innovation and market-oriented agricultural solutions. These insights will support the integration of German agricultural frameworks into Kenya's adaptation strategies, enhancing investment potential and collaborative action.

Notably, the exchange helped advance the inclusion of Kenyan concept notes into investment pipelines, an important step in unlocking climate finance for community-driven adaptation efforts. The visit fostered valuable institutional linkages, laying the foundation for sustained cooperation and continuous knowledge exchange between Kenyan and German partners.



The Kenyan delegation after presenting investment proposals at the GIZ Headquarters in Bonn, Germany.

In a significant step toward more inclusive and peaceful climate action, ADA Consortium and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) formalized a strategic partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening conflict-sensitive adaptation governance in Kenya.

This collaboration seeks to embed principles of conflict sensitivity and social cohesion into the governance of Kenya's County Climate Change Fund mechanism. By aligning climate adaptation efforts with peacebuilding goals, the MoU sets the stage for more sustainable and inclusive community development, particularly in areas more vulnerable to climate induced, resource based conflict.



The signing of the MoU between NCIC and ADA Consortium



"This partnership reinforces our shared vision of building peaceful, climate-resilient communities through collaborative governance and community engagement," said Dr. Giti, NCIC CEO, during the signing.

Mr. Ododa, the ADA Consortium Coordinator, described the MoU as a key milestone, emphasizing the value of partnerships and collaboration initiatives in supporting communities to manage climate-induced conflict and strengthen their resilience.

Innovative Climate Finance Mechanisms Green Finance Project Preparation Facility

07

ADA Consortium, in collaboration with Financial Sector Deepening Kenya (FSD-Kenya), supported 10 counties of Makueni, Wajir, Kisumu, Embu, Vihiga, Nandi, Taita Taveta, Kirinyaga, Laikipia and Nairobi to establish the green finance preparation facility. The FSD led consortium engaged with the County Executive leadership to deliberate on exploring innovative climate finance options for adaptation and resilience building.

Green Technical Working Groups were also established to primarily work with the project's investment consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Kenya to identify and prioritize bankable projects that have the potential to attract alternative climate financing from various sources for green investments.

This work aimed to build on the potential identified in the preliminary green finance assessment conducted between 2022 and 2023 and whose report was published in April, 2024.

The county executives underscored the importance of concerted efforts in combating climate change through diverse initiatives that bear significant benefits for communities.



Kick off meeting with Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o and the County Executive leadership in Kisumu County



In the heart of Isiolo County, the Ewaso Nyiro River, once a nurturing lifeline for the Waso Boran communities of Merti, has become an unpredictable and dangerous force due to deforestation, land degradation, invasive species like *Prosopis juliflora* and the growing impacts of climate change. In April 2024, the river burst its banks, displacing over 700 households, submerging villages and cutting off entire regions.

Faced with repeated floods and minimal external aid, the people of Merti formed a 12-member community-led task force rooted in indigenous knowledge and local leadership, identified urgent interventions and raised over KES 400,000 through household contributions and support from well-wishers.

Their aim was to reduce future flood risks through; blockage of intake points at Godh Rupa, construction of a diversion channel at Malka Funan area and rehabilitation of a key canal at Malka Funan to safely guide floodwaters.

Despite the challenges faced by the taskforce, such as long distances, limited transportation and financial constraints, they coordinated physical works including canal rehabilitation and intake point blockages. Support from partners like the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) helped ease logistical hurdles, while community barazas ensured transparency and collective ownership of the interventions. Though flooding recurred in April 2025, the experience revealed the critical need for a shift toward long-term, hybrid approaches that blend grey infrastructure with ecosystem restoration. Their efforts symbolized a powerful community-led reconciliation with a river that holds cultural, economic, and ecological importance.

Looking ahead, the now expanded 18-member task force is developing a fundraising proposal and seeking new partnerships to scale their interventions and guide the Ewaso Nyiro back into its rightful streambed. Their vision goes beyond flood mitigation, it's about restoring the river's course and securing stable, equitable water access for communities from Merti to neighboring Wajir County. As local elder Ali Boru remarked, "If we succeed, not only will the lower stream communities of Bassa and Sericho drink deep from her bounty, but even our neighbors in Habaswein will feel her renewed embrace." The people of Merti have demonstrated that through indigenous knowledge, collaboration, and deep-rooted resilience, communities can be powerful drivers of climate adaptation and environmental stewardship.



Credits: Merti Integrated Development Programme (MID-P)



To enhance community resilience to effects of climate change in Bungoma County, ADS-W focused in training (16 WCCPC members from Kimaeti and Saboti ward in Bumula sub-county, 4 farmer representatives, 6 local administration and 2 Agriculture extension staff). The training involved giving basic definition of climate change, causes and impacts of climate change. The training was tailored into simple concepts that allowed easy understanding to the beneficiaries. The approach used in this involved group exercises, testimonials from the participants and group presentation to also address the increased vulnerability of smallholder farmers to Climate Change and its impacts.

Through the group discussions the participants came up with adaptation measures such as value addition and off farm incomes, efficient water use – drip, bucket and right amount, control use of fire for land clearing to reduce GHG emissions and deforestation, Integrated Pest and disease management (IPM) – scout, decide and manage – reduce use of pesticides and demonstration to showcase best practices.



Under mitigation, measures such as change in agricultural practices (e.g. avoid excessive use of fertilizer) and use organic manure, planting more fruit trees, using energy saving jikos (cooking stoves) and solar energy were proposed at household level. Other proposed practices include soil and land management through establishing cover crops and protection of soil from erosion, green manuring, use of liquid fertilizers, use of clean energy and efficient water use measures such as precise irrigation and mulching. From these engagement, ADS-W involved other stakeholders who promote specific technologies in the training and sensitization.

Credits: Anglican Development Services - Western (ADS-W)

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