

ADFJ ISSN 2522 - 3186.

African Development Finance Journal

VOLUME 9 (II)

*Empowering the Grassroots: Optimizing Financing
Locally led Climate Action Programme (FLOCCA) for
Climate Resilience in Kenya*

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Date Received: April 10, 2026

Date Published: July 06, 2026

Empowering the Grassroots Optimizing Financing Locally led Climate Action Programme (FLOCCA) for Climate Resilience in Kenya

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Abstract

There is a growing awareness of the necessity of locally driven climate action initiatives to lessen the effects of climate change at the local level as they continue to show up on a global scale. The Financing Locally Led Climate Action Programme (FLLoCA), which aims to empower local communities to confront climate change impacts, has become an important project in Kenya, where communities are particularly exposed to climate-related difficulties. Though it has great potential, FLLoCA in Kenya is hampered in its efficacy and scalability by large funding gaps. The goal of this paper is to identify current gaps and explore potential areas for development as it examines the strategies and interventions required to boost financing for FLLoCA in Kenya. The study primarily utilized an extensive analysis of extant literature, policy papers, and empirical data, and triangulated using data from key informant interviews to verify and bolster the discussions and findings. The research scrutinizes the present state of FLLoCA finance, accentuating crucial obstacles such restricted financial availability, insufficient institutional backing, and disjointed governance frameworks. The study addresses the difficulties Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) in Kenya faces and offers ways to overcome them, including strengthening financial systems, encouraging collaboration amongst several stakeholders, engaging the youth, women and incorporating climate finance into development strategies. It also emphasizes the necessity of concrete suggestions to enhance FLLoCA funding and optimize its influence on regional efforts to adapt to climate change and become more resilient to it. Boost the flow of climate funds to low-income communities by supporting policies that provide sufficient, stable, and dependable funding sources. Encourage funding source diversification and lessen reliance on outside climate funds by enhancing cooperation and coordination amongst the government, civil society organizations, and other relevant parties. The FLLoCA national conference in 2023 emphasized the importance of implementing a comprehensive work plan and engagement framework to effectively carry out climate change projects at both national and local levels. This framework aims to promote equal partnerships and build capacity among CSOs, FLLoCA program, and Implementing Partner Groups. It is also imperative to activate the representative joint steering committee or secretariat that was established to supervise the implementation of the engagement framework and programme activities. The research paper adds to the current discourse on localized climate action and climate finance.

Keywords: Local climate action, climate resilience, locally led, FLLoCA.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Financing Locally Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA) aims to strengthen local resilience to the impact of climate change, natural hazards, and other shocks/stressors. The program aims to achieve this by building local capacity to plan, budget, implement and monitor resilience through collaborative partnerships between communities, national and county governments.

FLLoCA is a pioneering concept that emphasizes localized solutions and community empowerment as the foundation for effective climate change resilience. This paradigm is based on the concepts of inclusion, participatory engagement, and sustainable development, and it recognizes the unique vulnerabilities and strengths of many communities in the face of climate change.

1.2 Background of the Study

Kenya's economy heavily relies on natural and environmental resources in its quest to achieve development goals. Thus, climate change poses a significant threat to Kenya's sustainable development, with the country being highly vulnerable to its impacts due to its reliance on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and tourism (Republic of Kenya, 2018). Climate change can potentially impede the achievement of Vision 2030 goal of transforming Kenya into a globally competitive and prosperous nation with a high quality of life unless strategic mitigation measures are implemented. Kenya is a party to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement and it's therefor obliged to take part in the global effort to combat climate change through implementing strategies that would reduce emission of Green House Gases (GHG).

Towards this end, the Government of Kenya to demonstrate its commitment through policy and legal adjustment earmarked by the enactment of the Climate Change Act, (2016). This was closely followed by the adoption of the National Climate Finance Policy in 2018 as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2017 as well as the Public Finance Management (Climate Change Fund) Regulations (2016) under the Public Finance Management Act (2012), This stems from the recognition of the fact that all the forty-seven (47) counties in Kenya are highly exposed to the potential negative impacts of climate change.

The impacts of climate change are grave and insidious. They have negative implications for poverty reduction efforts and sustainable protection of livelihoods. We are already experiencing extreme vulnerabilities because of climate change manifested by myriads of extreme events including increased frequency of droughts, chronic levels of water scarcity, floods, landslides food insecurity, diseases among others.

Effective implementation of climate action requires adequate financing, particularly at the local level, where communities are at the forefront of experiencing climate change impacts. Consequently, through the devolved system of government climate change related development activities in Kenya are now being implemented at county level. Indeed, there some counties have made remarkable efforts to institute climate change mitigation through ratifying County Climate Change Acts (CCCA). The CCCAs include elaborate guide for the establishment of County Climate Change Funds (CCCF). The CCCF are mobilized from various sources including county development budgets, national climate funds or in-country bilateral and multilateral development partners.

FLLOCA Program aims to strengthen local resilience to the impacts of climate change, natural hazards and other shocks/stressors by building counties' capacity to plan, implement and monitor resilience investments in partnership with communities. It would emphasize the governance, social inclusion and citizen participation aspects of climate and disaster risk management, and support resilience investments identified by counties in partnership with communities. The FLLOCA Program aims to achieve this through:

- a) Capitalizing the National Climate Change Fund and subsequent County Climate Change Funds.
- b) Building county level capacity for planning and implementation of local climate actions; and
- c) Strengthening national level capacity for coordination, monitoring and reporting.

However, despite Kenya's commitment to climate action through FLLOCAs, several gaps and challenges exist in effectively implementing and financing locally led climate initiatives (Omolo, 2021; Opondo, 2022). To effectively harness the potential benefits of FLLOCAs, there is a need to

identify and address these gaps and challenges. To achieve this, we propose a study to critically analyze the strategies and interventions that can strengthen Financing Locally Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA) in Kenya. The study will unravel the gaps and opportunities in implementing FLLoCA in Kenya.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study is to analyze the strategies and interventions that can strengthen Financing Locally Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA) in Kenya through unravelling the gaps and opportunities in implementing FLLoCA in Kenya.

The study will be guided by the following specific objectives:

1. To assess the current state of financing for locally led climate action in Kenya, including the availability of funding sources, accessibility, and utilization.
2. To identify the key gaps and challenges faced by local communities, organizations, and stakeholders in accessing and effectively utilizing climate finance for locally led initiatives.
3. To explore opportunities and strategies for strengthening the financing mechanisms and support systems for locally led climate action in Kenya.
4. To develop a comprehensive framework and recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the FLLoCA program in Kenya.

1.4 Justification

Addressing climate change requires a concerted effort at all levels, including local communities and stakeholders who are directly affected by its impacts. The FLLoCA program provides a platform for empowering locally led climate action, but its success depends on identifying and addressing the gaps and challenges hindering effective financing and implementation. This study will contribute to the development of strategies and interventions to strengthen the FLLoCA program in Kenya, ensuring that climate finance reaches and benefits local communities and stakeholders. By doing so, it will support Kenya's efforts to achieve its climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, while promoting sustainable development and resilience at the local level.

1.5 Methodology

The study adopted mixed methods research combining both quantitative and qualitative techniques. Participatory approach was adopted throughout the study, involving stakeholders in the design, implementation, and validation of the research findings and recommendations. To adequately address the objective outlined above, the study followed these steps.

1.5.1 Literature Review: The study started with a thorough analysis of the body of knowledge about climate finance, locally driven climate action, and related subjects. The review of the literature offered a basic overview of the state of FLLoCA finance in Kenya, points out important issues and gaps, and looks at potential fixes as well as best practices from other situations.

1.5.2 Qualitative Data Collection: Key stakeholders engaged in the FLLoCA implementation in Kenya were interviewed in semi-structured interviews and also held focus group discussions. Representatives from financial institutions, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other pertinent stakeholders were among the participants. A thorough examination of stakeholders' viewpoints, experiences, and insights about FLLoCA financing potential and problems is made possible by the qualitative data collection process.

1.5.3 Data Analysis: To find recurrent themes, patterns, and narratives around FLLoCA finance, the qualitative data gathered from focus groups and interviews was subjected to a thematic analysis. To combine and analyze the results, qualitative data analysis methods including thematic mapping, categorization, and coding are used. To highlight important trends and patterns in FLLoCA finance, descriptive statistics like frequencies, percentages, and mean scores are used to analyze the quantitative data.

1.5.4 Integration of Findings: To give a thorough grasp of the opportunities and shortcomings in FLLoCA financing in Kenya, the qualitative and quantitative findings are combined. To verify and bolster the results from many data sources, triangulation procedures are used. The combined results are then utilised to create suggestions and workable plans for bolstering FLLoCA funding and improving its efficiency in tackling localized effects of climate change.

2. DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS

This section, which is based on the objectives the study set out to accomplish, discusses the findings and results as per the secondary review of literature.

2.1 Current State of Financing for Locally Led Climate Action in Kenya

2.1.1 Overview of FLLoCA in Kenya:

The need for and efficacy of locally led climate solutions is becoming more widely acknowledged. But statistics indicate that these are being ignored in the worldwide reactions to the climate catastrophe. Less than 10% (US\$1.5 billion) of the US\$17.4 billion allocated to climate change programmes between 2003 and 2016 were thought to be locally focused, according to the International Institute for Environment and Development ((*Locally-led Climate Solutions – VCA*, n.d.)).

In June 2020, the Kenyan government announced the Government Financing Locally Led Climate Action Programme (G-FLLoCA), which aims to increase local resilience to natural disasters, climate change, and other shocks/stressors by enhancing the nation's capacity to plan, carry out, and monitor resilience investments in collaboration with County Governments (CGs) and communities. For a decade (2020–30), the programme will focus on all 47 counties. The TNT&P is the lead organization for implementation strategy, which is monitored and advised by an interagency Climate Change Technical Advisory Committee (CF-TAC) and a multi-sectoral Programme Steering Committee (PSC). The County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) is embraced by the G-FLLoCA as a novel means of funding locally led climate action. In five critical areas—Enabling and Readiness Actions, Climate Finance, Technology and Innovation, capability Development and Knowledge Management, and Enabling Policy and Regulatory Framework—it enhances county capability. Throughout the next ten years, the programme will coordinate development partner assistance for local climate action using G-FLLoCA as a platform.

2.1.2 Overview of Climate Finance in Kenya

Climate finance in Kenya involves a mix of bilateral (AFD, DFID, GIZ, DANIDA, SIDA, JICA, USAID, SNV, KFW) and multilateral sources (UNFCCC, Adaptation Fund, GCF) which brings about challenges in coordination due to overlaps and fragmentation. Devolution models add complexity to governance. Kenya's devolution has led to a more decentralized governance system, with 47 county administrations taking over decision-making and execution, potentially causing coordination issues and impacting climate finance efforts due to the spread of duties and resources.

Kenya's Climate Change Act mandates the establishment of a National Climate Change Fund at national and county levels to manage climate finance flows and combine public and private funding. The Climate Change Council, chaired by the President, reports to the National Treasury. The major barrier in the is the lack of capacity at sub-national levels hinders coordination. Kenya has informal donor and sector coordination bodies, assisting government officials, development partners, and civil society organizations in climate finance initiatives, but challenges persist in maintaining effective involvement and prioritization among stakeholders. Capacity building is therefore crucial for successful climate finance coordination (Dzebo et.al. 2020).

- Analysis of funding allocation trends for climate-related projects, with a focus on locally led initiatives.

2.1.3 Accessibility of Climate Finance for Local Communities:

The CCCF mechanism has successfully increased climate resilience and promoted inclusive economic growth in counties such as Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Makueni, and Wajir. The CCCF has provided significant benefits to disadvantaged households by distributing devolved funding handled by county administrations and directed by community priorities and climate information services. Furthermore, it has demonstrated the successful reach of global climate funding to vulnerable communities, thereby promoting climate-resilient development and adaptation in line with the Paris Agreement's objectives.

Crick et.al. (2019) recommends aligning county legislation with the Climate Change Act of 2016 and assisting in formulating regulations for County Climate Change Funds linked to the national Climate Change Fund. They suggest operationalizing the fund, enhancing gender inclusion, and promoting a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and transparent approach to adaptation action.

However, findings from a recent stakeholder meeting by the National Conference on FLLoCA in 2023 it emerged that there is Inadequate and unreliable flow of climate finance to frontline communities: Participants highlighted the challenges faced by vulnerable populations in accessing adequate, predictable, and reliable climate finance. This underscored the need for

recommendations to ensure improved financial support for communities most affected by climate change.

“...the flow of climate finance to frontline communities is inadequate and unreliable, and therefore, the need for the Africa Climate Summit to recommend measures to ensure adequate, predictable and reliable flows of climate finance to vulnerable populations.”

Despite the challenges in funding, capacity limitations, coordination hurdles and sustainability issues in CCCF, there has been success in tailored adaption of projects, community empowerment, improved climate information aiding improved decision making and institutional reforms ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups. In their working paper, Dinshaw & McGinn (2019) discuss issues in assessing adaptation effectiveness and offer solutions. They propose integrating adaptation M&E into performance-based awards, resolving measurement challenges in mainstreamed adaptation, and balancing country-specific and portfolio-wide adaptation M&E requirements. The Assessing Climate Change Adaptation Framework (ACCAF) strikes a balance between existing grant mechanisms and adaptation monitoring and evaluation priorities, as well as training and capacity building to address adaptation and M&E requirements. To successfully assess the contribution of climate resilience funds to adaptation, the ACCAF must be implemented with strong leadership, continuing training, and capacity building.

During the National Conference on FLLoCA in 2023, it was suggested to strengthen participatory processes and accountability mechanisms. This governance context highlighted the importance of enhancing participatory processes, oversight, and accountability mechanisms for climate change planning, budgeting, and implementation. This ensures that climate response programs align with the interests of communities most affected by climate change.

The people most vulnerable to negative climate change impacts are the poor, politically disenfranchised and marginalized groups and communities. In Kenya, these are mainly represented by the pastoralists, fisher-folk, smallholder farmers, women and youth, who are largely excluded from the mainstream conversations that aim to find solutions to climate crisis. Lack of awareness, political consciousness and engagement of these core constituents is partly to be blamed on the centralized, global-centric and top-down climate response systems and approaches which have failed overtime.

The above findings are also consistent with Kiremu et.al. (2022) suggested actions to improve climate finance readiness in Kenya. They suggested strengthening monitoring and reporting systems for climate finance to enhance transparency and accountability, including the introduction of budget coding processes for tracking investments. By fostering an environment conducive to investment, policy measures that promote transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement can also facilitate access to capital (OECD, 2019).

2.2 Key Gaps and Challenges Faced by Local Communities, Organizations, And Stakeholders in Accessing and Effectively Utilizing Climate Finance for Locally Led Initiative

2.2.1 Utilization of Climate Finance by Local Actors

Climate financing instruments play an important role in assisting local communities in managing climate change impacts and transitioning to low-carbon, resilient paths.

International climate finance systems like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund mobilize resources from affluent countries to support climate action in developing nations, including local efforts. These funds support vulnerable communities' adaptation and mitigation projects through grants, concessional loans, and technical assistance (Buchner et al., 2019). However, there are barriers to accessing and successfully utilizing these monies at the local level, such as complicated application processes, insufficient capacity, and bureaucratic impediments (Roberts et al., 2020). National and sub-national governments allocate climate money through budgets and public expenditure. Climate finance can be incorporated into national development plans, sectoral budgets, and local government programmes to help fund climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy projects, and ecosystem restoration initiatives (IPCC, 2014). However, budget restrictions, competing objectives, and political concerns sometimes limit the availability and efficiency of climate funding at the local level (Harvey et al. 2017). The private sector is increasingly seen as a crucial source of climate funding, particularly for expanding local investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure projects. Green bonds, impact investments, and public-private partnerships enable the private sector to participate in climate-resilient development (Klein et al., 2020). However, problems continue in attracting

private investment to climate projects in underdeveloped countries, including perceived risks, market restrictions, and regulatory uncertainty (Buchner et al., 2021).

Local needs assessment is an important step in identifying and prioritizing climate-related needs and actions within communities, allowing for more effective use of available funds for adaptation and mitigation efforts. Community-based participatory approaches emphasize the active participation of residents in the assessment process. These approaches consider local knowledge, values, and goals, ensuring that climate initiatives are context-relevant and responsive to community needs (Dilling & Lemos, 2011). Communities use participatory methods such as community meetings, focus groups, and participatory mapping to identify vulnerabilities, assess risks, and collaborate on adaptation and mitigation plans (Reid et al., 2019). Assessments of vulnerability offer understanding of the institutional, socioeconomic, and environmental elements that affect a community's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Many times, these evaluations combine quantitative and qualitative data to pinpoint vulnerable groups, important resources, and regions that need the most attention (Birkmann et al., 2019).

Understanding local vulnerabilities allows communities to customize climate action to meet needs and improve resilience (Ford et al., 2018). To carry out thorough needs assessments and promote inclusive decision-making processes, stakeholders—local governments, NGOs, academia, and indigenous groups—must work together (Nalau et al., 2020). Communities are better equipped to evaluate their requirements and obtain climate funding when partnerships facilitate the sharing of information, resources, and experience (Bassett & Shandas, 2010). Using frameworks for adaptation pathways, one can methodically rank climate activities according to their viability, efficacy, and co-benefits (Haasnoot et al., 2019). These frameworks assist communities in negotiating trade-offs and uncertainties so they may invest in adaptation strategies and allocate resources with knowledge (Tompkins et al., 2013).

Financial instruments play an important role in mobilizing and allocating climate funding at the local level, thereby assisting programmes to address climate change consequences and promote sustainable development. Grants are non-repayable monies given to programmes and activities linked to climate change by governments, international organizations, or charitable organisations.

Grants have been crucial in Kenya in enabling community-based adaptation programmes, renewable energy projects, and environmental conservation initiatives (Opiyo et al., 2018). In dry and semi-arid areas of Kenya, for instance, the Adaptation Fund has backed initiatives including water resource management and sustainable agriculture methods (Adaptation Fund, n.d.). Grants work especially well for activities like community resilience-building that have significant social and environmental co-benefits, but where repayment might not be possible (Nyangena et al., 2019).

Loans is another form of financing that must be paid back gradually, usually with interest. Climate financing loans in Kenya are frequently obtained from commercial lenders, development banks, and microfinance organizations. Projects for renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable water management have all benefited from these loans (Kibati & Kiraithe, 2016). Loans provide smallholder farmers and community-based organisations with a way to access cash for climate action, but they also carry financial risks including interest payments and debt loads (Nduhiu & Nyangena, 2020). Risks and calamities associated with the climate can be financially protected by insurance mechanisms like parametric insurance plans and weather-indexed insurance. Initiatives in Kenya, such the Kenya Livestock Insurance Programme (KLIP), provide pastoralist communities susceptible to drought and livestock losses index-based insurance (Jensen et al., 2017). Rapid and consistent payouts from insurance policies during climate shocks can help people and businesses recover and adjust more successfully (Osgood et al., 2010).

Funding climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in Kenya requires a mix of grants, loans, and insurance arrangements. Nevertheless, the kind of projects, the competence of local stakeholders, and the risk profiles of various areas and industries determine whether these financial instruments are appropriate. The efficiency of these tools in encouraging climate resilience and sustainable development in Kenya needs more investigation.

The above mechanisms are not without their shortcomings, which is over-reliance on external climate finance. Kenya and other African countries heavily depend on external sources of climate finance to implement national and subnational climate strategies. This over-reliance poses risks to

frontline communities living under constant threats of climate change impacts as discussed in the National Treasury FLLOCA workshop in 2023 with major CSO stakeholders.

“There is need to strengthen collaboration and partnership with government, and peer-to-peer learning among CSOs to enhance synergies and increase opportunities for replication and scaling up of proven climate-smart initiatives.”

“There is need for effective participation of local communities, including vulnerable groups such as women in climate change decision-making processes to ensure the implementation of no-regret adaptation measures.”

The sentiments above are consistent with literature that policymakers and stakeholders should prioritize the development of long-term plans and strategies to enhance resilience against future climate changes. This involves investing in infrastructure, technology, and capacity building to support sustainable adaptation measures (Kenya Climate Change Adaptation Finance Strategy, 2021). The suggestion by IFC, 2021 that encourages Public-Private partnerships to generate new financing streams and utilise market-based techniques to scale up climate action

2.3. Opportunities and Strategies for Strengthening the Financing Mechanisms and Support Systems for Locally Led Climate Action in Kenya.

2.3.1 Gaps and Challenges in FLLOCA

Successful and long-lasting adaptation requires local leadership. But local players frequently have little say over decisions about implementation, design, or money. Flexibility, community leadership investments, and scaling-up of adaptation are important features that facilitate local adaptation. Low accountability, little investment, and inadequate finance are obstacles to local led adaptation financing (Tye & Suarez, 2021).

Poverty and disparity: Local communities' access to finance for climate change projects is hampered by high levels of poverty and income disparity. Many times, underprivileged groups lack the means and expertise to carry out adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Local attempts to solve climate issues are hampered by inadequate access to resources such land, water, and financial capital. This restricts FLLOCA project scope and size, especially in rural locations where resource limitations are more noticeable.

Governance Challenges: FLLOCA programmes are less successful when there are weak governance systems marked by corruption, inefficiency of the bureaucracy, and lack of openness. Resources can be misallocated and climate projects implemented ineffectively if there is little accountability and financial management. Implementation of the project is hampered by unclear and insufficient policy and regulatory frameworks for FLLOCA. Coordination and alignment of FLLOCA initiatives are hampered by unclear standards, contradicting laws, and overlapping missions among government entities.

Climate Variability and Change: Droughts, floods, and erratic weather patterns are only a few of the effects of climate change to which Kenya is particularly exposed. With their disruption of agricultural activity, threat to livelihoods, and exacerbation of food insecurity, these environmental stressors provide serious obstacles to FLLOCA initiatives. Deforestation, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss are examples of environmental degradation that weakens ecosystems' ability to support FLLOCA programmes. Less ecosystem services are available from degraded landscapes that are necessary for climate adaptation and mitigation.

To help curb the gaps stated above some measures were recommended in two workshop deliberations in 2023 as outlined below:

Engagement Framework Establishment: There was a successful establishment of a framework to guide partnerships and collaborations between CSOs, IPGs, and the FLLOCA program during the National conference of FLLOCA, in 2023. This framework aims to enhance capacities, promote equal partnerships, and increase the impact of climate resilience actions. Governments and donors play crucial roles in locally driven climate action, requiring multi-level governance systems, collaboration, and innovative funding tools to ensure local priorities are met and efforts are coordinated effectively (Carter et al., 2020; UNDP, 2021; and OECD, 2021).

Steering Committee Formation: A representative joint steering committee or secretariat was established to oversee the execution of the engagement framework and program activities. This committee acts as a central point between FLLOCA, CSOs, and IPGs, ensuring efficient collaboration and coordination. This is also in line with the suggestions of (McGee et al., 2020) who emphasizes the need for collaborations between CSOs, local governments, and other

stakeholders in ensuring inclusive decision-making processes. Communities are better equipped to evaluate their requirements and obtain climate funding when partnerships facilitate the sharing of information, resources, and experience (Bassett & Shandas, 2010).

2.3.2 Capacity Building Needs

An adaptation strategy to climate change called Local Livelihood Action (LLA) gives local stakeholders the ability to make project managers and financiers answerable. It provides adaptation financial flexibility while giving lessons from both triumphs and failures top priority. LLA records local viewpoints through inventive techniques including participatory video, storytelling, and community Atlases of Community Change. It runs the danger of being hijacked by development objectives, though, and of donors seeking quick fixes. Through challenging business-as-usual practices, promoting multi-scalar changes in the adaptation sector, and promoting reflection and learning among adaptation players, LLA can advance climate justice (Rahma et.al. 2023).

Community participation, enhancing access to climate information and early warning systems, supporting knowledge sharing, capacity building, ensuring inclusivity and equity, and incorporating climate adaptation into local development plans are all examples of locally led climate action. This approach considers the needs and views of vulnerable populations, including women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and indigenous communities. To solve complicated climate concerns, collaboration and partnerships are encouraged among local governments, non-governmental organizations, academia, and the commercial sector. Policy advocacy is promoted to support locally driven adaptation activities. Financing and resources are secure, and monitoring and evaluation systems are in place to assess the effectiveness of adaptation efforts.

An engagement framework was developed at the FLLOCA national conference in 2023 to direct collaborations and partnerships between CSOs, FLLOCA programme, and Implementing Partner Groups (IPGs), with an emphasis on equal partnership promotion and capacity building.

2.3.3. Community Engagement and Participation:

Fostering ownership, resilience, and sustainability in climate projects requires an understanding of the function of community engagement and participation in locally led climate action (FLLOCA). The need of giving communities active involvement in decision-making and implementation activities linked to climate resilience and adaptation is highlighted by recent studies.

The people most vulnerable to negative climate change impacts are the poor, politically disenfranchised and marginalized groups and communities. In Kenya, these are mainly represented by the pastoralists, fisher-folk, smallholder farmers, women and youth, who are largely excluded from the mainstream conversations that aim to find solutions to climate crisis. Lack of awareness, political consciousness and engagement of these core constituents is partly to be blamed on the centralized, global-centric and top-down climate response systems and approaches which have failed overtime.

By enabling local people to take charge of climate change projects, community involvement and engagement guarantee that solutions are contextually appropriate and responsive to community needs (UNDP, 2021). Local knowledge, resources, and networks can be used by FLLOCA projects to improve their efficacy and sustainability by including communities in project design, planning, and execution (IFAD, 2020). By increasing local capacity, encouraging adaptation practices, and boosting social cohesiveness, involving communities in FLLOCA enhances their resilience to climate effects (Satterthwaite et al., 2019). Communities can find and put into practice context-specific adaptation strategies that target their vulnerabilities and priorities by using participatory methods that include traditional knowledge, indigenous customs, and local inventions (Klein et al., 2021).

These are the Successes of the County Climate Change Funds (CCCCF) in Kenya: Tailored Climate Adaptation Projects: CCCC has facilitated customized climate adaptation projects in counties like Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Makueni, and Wajir. Community Empowerment: CCCC has empowered local communities to participate in activities that enhance resilience. Enhanced Climate Information Services: CCCC has improved access to climate information services, aiding informed

decision-making. Institutional Reforms: CCCF has led to institutional reforms at the county level, ensuring the representation of vulnerable groups.

CCCF faces the following Challenges: Limited Funding challenges due to constraints in funding availability; Capacity Constraints: Some counties encounter limitations in project management capacity. Coordination Challenges which are ensuring effective coordination among stakeholders poses a challenge for CCCF. Sustainability Issues which entail maintaining the long-term sustainability of projects presents challenges for CCCF.

Key recommendations by key stakeholders in the Report on National Conference on FLLoCA (2023) in the ASALs which are mainly impacted by climate change to the counties included:

- (i) Mechanism for effective participation of communities in climate change planning, budgeting and implementation needs to be strengthened.
- (ii) Members of County Assembly should be empowered through training to prioritise climate change in budgeting processes.
- (iii) Investment in agricultural and livestock value chain should be prioritized by the county governments to strengthen local resilience to climate change.

2.3.4 Strengthening Financing Mechanisms

Numerous constraints prevent Kenya from having easy access to climate funds. Significant constraints noted by local stakeholders include a lack of awareness of various funding channels, bureaucratic difficulties, and low technical capacity (Mazza et.al., 2021; Dzebo et.al. 2020). Furthermore, constraints like stringent qualifying standards and inadequate documentation processes may hinder local people' and organizations' access to climate finance (Ministry of Environment and Forestry, 2020).

Despite the challenges, various facilitators have arisen to improve Kenyans access to climate funding. Capacity-building programmes, targeted technical assistance, and streamlined application processes have showed potential for assisting local stakeholders (UNDP Kenya, 2019). Furthermore, creating specific climate finance support mechanisms and coordination platforms might improve local financial resource access and utilization (African Development Bank, 2021). Compliance requirements for accessing climate money frequently include establishing compliance

with national legislation, environmental safeguards, and international obligations. Projects seeking funding must meet criteria for project design, monitoring, and reporting to ensure compliance with regulatory standards and donor requirements (Ministry of Environment and Forestry, 2020).

Effective climate finance policy frameworks in Kenya should be consistent with national development goals, climate action plans, and international obligations such as the Paris Agreement. Climate finance considerations must be integrated into national budgets, sectoral strategies, and development programmes to ensure coherence and coordination among government agencies and stakeholders (Kenya Climate Change Directorate, 2021).

To boost locally led action, promote adaptable strategies, include local players in decision-making, develop technical competence, and work with current systems (Tye & Suarez, 2021).

2.3.5 Policy and Institutional Support:

Facilitating or impeding access to financial resources for climate adaptation and mitigation projects is mostly dependent on the local policy and regulatory framework controlling climate finance. The efficiency and availability of funds for climate adaptation and mitigation projects in Kenya are greatly influenced by the local policy and regulatory framework surrounding climate finance.

The efficient application of climate finance at the local level is hindered by a multitude of obstacles. The obstacles that may impede progress in this regard consist of bureaucratic complexities, insufficient institutional capacity, and ignorance regarding the financing mechanisms that are accessible (Schalatek et al., 2020). Furthermore, local stakeholders' ability to access climate finance may be impeded by obstacles including rigorous eligibility requirements, limited financial resources, and inadequate technical proficiency (Sovacool et al., 2021).

Notwithstanding the obstacles, a few facilitators have the potential to augment local access to climate finance. Potential benefits may consist of streamlined application procedures, initiatives to enhance capabilities, technical aid, and support systems tailored to the needs of local organizations and communities (UNDP, 2020). By fostering an environment conducive to

investment, policy measures that promote transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement can also facilitate access to capital (OECD, 2019).

The study *Strengthening Climate Governance in Kenya: A Situational Analysis* | Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, 2001 shows that to keep society support for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, national and county governments need to actively shape interest perceptions. Building alliances, establishing institutional players, modifying legal rights, and redefining standards are some of the measures. Seventy percent of counties in Kenya, however, are unable to deal with the issues of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

To obtain climate finance, one is frequently expected to exhibit conformity with domestic development objectives, adherence to environmental and social protections, and responsibility for the use of funds (World Bank, 2018). To secure funding, local initiatives might be required to satisfy standards pertaining to project design, oversight, and documentation in order to comply with the demands of donors or investors (IPCC, 2018). In accordance with international commitments, including the Paris Agreement, national development strategies and climate action plans, effective policy and regulatory frameworks for climate finance should be established (UNFCCC, 2015). The alignment of development policies, sectoral plans, and national budgets with climate finance has the potential to improve coordination and coherence among government entities and stakeholders (GIZ, 2021).

County governments should establish robust climate governance structures to monitor local ecosystems, participate in scientific assessments of climate change vulnerabilities, participate in national and international climate processes, promote public education and stakeholder involvement, and effectively utilize climate change funds, with civil society participation being crucial for all five projects.

2.3.6 Existing policies and institutional frameworks supporting FLLOCA in Kenya.

By putting a few laws and policies into place to increase climate investments and resilience, Kenya has shown tremendous success in its response to climate change (Kiremu et.al., 2022). The nation's climate policies exhibit consistency and continuity, with each new policy filling in the gaps left by

earlier ones. The measures implemented by the nation in the pursuit of an organized framework for climate policy include Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) which was created in 2013; the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) created in 2015, and the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) was first implemented in 2010. The execution of Vision 2030 has taken climate change into consideration as well. In addition, the nation developed the National Policy on Climate Finance, the National Climate Change Framework Policy, and passed the National Climate Change Act 2016, which establishes a set of regulations for a more effective response to climate change.

The prominence of climate change issues in Kenya has increased with the formation of the National Climate Change Council (NCCC) at a high level within the government. The adoption of climate-related projects benefits greatly from Kenya's constitution's acknowledgment of sustainable development. A few organizations, such as the NCCC, were established with the express purpose of addressing climate change issues. To enable direct access to climate financing, Kenya has additionally selected institutions to work with the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Important organizations like the National Treasury and NEMA play crucial roles in managing climate finance, with NEMA serving as the National Implementing Entity for the Adaptation Fund.

2.3.7 Gaps in policy coherence and coordination among various stakeholders involved in climate finance

Kenya is facing a few obstacles in her efforts to operationalize her strategy for adapting to climate change. These include restricted access to adaptation funds, inadequate coordination, enforcement, and limited financial and technical competence.

The findings from the case study on Kenya's Climate Change Adaptation Finance Strategy carry significant implications for policymakers and stakeholders engaged in climate change adaptation efforts in Kenya:

- **Enhanced Financial Resources:** It is imperative for policymakers and stakeholders to prioritize the mobilization of substantial financial resources to effectively combat the impacts of climate change in Kenya.

- **Multilateral and Bilateral Partnerships:** Sustained collaboration with multilateral and bilateral partners is essential to access the necessary financial and technical support for the successful implementation of climate change adaptation projects.
- **Grassroots Engagement:** Collaborating with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that focus on grassroots interventions is crucial to ensure that adaptation initiatives adequately address the specific vulnerabilities of local communities.
- **Policy Alignment and Institutional Strengthening:** Ensuring coherence among different policies, laws, and instruments related to climate change adaptation is vital. Strengthening institutional frameworks and governance structures is key to the effective execution of adaptation strategies.
- **Access to Adaptation Finance:** Advocating for a balanced approach that encompasses both high-capital infrastructural investments and longer-term funding is essential to overcome the challenges associated with accessing adaptation finance in comparison to mitigation funding.
- **Long-Term Planning and Resilience Building:** Policymakers and stakeholders should prioritize the development of long-term plans and strategies to enhance resilience against future climate changes. This involves investing in infrastructure, technology, and capacity building to support sustainable adaptation measures.

2.4 Developing a comprehensive framework and recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the FLLoCA program in Kenya

2.4.1 Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnerships and networks are critical in increasing access to climate funding, exchanging knowledge, and leveraging resources among local communities, organisations, governments, and international players. Partnerships and networks connect local stakeholders to financial resources for climate-related projects and initiatives. Collaboration among governments, NGOs, CBOs, corporate sector entities, and international organisations improves coordination of financing options, capacity-building support, and technical help for climate finance (Sovacool et al., 2021; Kenya Climate Change Directorate, 2021). Local communities can improve their ability to implement climate-resilient projects by using different networks. By using different networks, local communities receive greater access to financial resources customized to their climate

adaptation and mitigation requirements. Stakeholders communicate information on successful projects, new finance mechanisms, and implementation lessons learned via workshops, forums, and knowledge-sharing events (GIZ, 2020; UNDP Kenya, 2019). This information exchange promotes reciprocal learning, strengthens institutional capacity, and improves the efficiency of climate finance interventions across Kenya's many sectors and regions.

Collaborative partnerships allow for the pooling of resources and co-financing arrangements to maximize the impact of climate finance investments. Partnerships can mobilize more resources for climate action by combining financial contributions from various sources, including as governmental money, corporate investments, and charitable awards (Green Climate Fund, 2021; African Development Bank, 2021). Co-financing arrangements also increase project ownership and sustainability by encouraging local stakeholder buy-in and commitment (OECD, 2021).

Governments have a critical role in developing enabling circumstances for locally driven climate action. Recent research emphasizes the necessity of multi-level governance systems that enable local governments to draft and implement climate policies that are specific to their communities' needs (Carter et al., 2020). Collaborative frameworks, such as national adaptation planning procedures and decentralized climate funds, help central and local governments coordinate their objectives and resources for effective climate action (UNDP, 2021). Donors play a vital role in providing financial and technical support for locally led climate projects. Recent research emphasizes the need to connect donor money with local priorities and increasing coordinating mechanisms to prevent duplication and fragmentation of efforts (OECD, 2021). Climate funds and impact investment platforms are examples of innovative funding tools that allow donors to leverage resources and catalyze private sector engagement in climate-resilient development.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) help to drive locally led climate action by mobilizing people, creating awareness, and lobbying for policy change. Recent study emphasizes the need of collaboration between CSOs, local governments, and other stakeholders in ensuring inclusive decision-making processes and improving social equality in climate policies (McGee et al., 2020). Platforms for discourse and knowledge exchange, such as community forums and participatory planning processes, allow civil society to shape policy agendas and elevate grassroots voices in

climate governance. The business sector is critical in fostering innovation, mobilizing capital, and delivering climate solutions at the community level. Recent research highlights the potential for public-private partnerships (PPPs) to generate new financing streams and utilise market-based techniques to scale up climate action (IFC, 2021). Collaboration among enterprises, investors, and local communities promotes the development of sustainable business models, technology transfer, and capacity-building efforts to enhance climate resilience and adaptation (World Economic Forum, 2021).

Recommendations by the key informants indicate that:

- (i) There is need to create/strengthen issue-based collaborative forums for climate change and natural resources management to enable robust dialogue between government, CSOs and local communities.
- (ii) There is need to enhance cooperation between KWS, wildlife conservancies and local communities to address incidences of human-wildlife conflicts.
- (iii) There is need to strengthen oversight and accountability for locally led climate actions.
- (iv) There is need for effective engagement of the youth in building climate resilience through tapping into their innovativeness.

During the National Treasury CSO workshop in 2023, a Steering Committee was formed. A representative joint steering committee or secretariat was established to oversee the execution of the engagement framework and program activities. This committee acts as a central point between FLLoCA, CSOs, and IPGs, ensuring efficient collaboration and coordination. This is also in line with the suggestions of (McGee et al., 2020) who emphasize the need for collaborations between CSOs, local governments, and other stakeholders in ensuring inclusive decision-making processes. Communities are better equipped to evaluate their requirements and obtain climate funding when partnerships facilitate the sharing of information, resources, and experience (Bassett & Shandas, 2010).

2.4.2 Case Studies and Best Practices

These examples illustrate the diverse range of locally led adaptation projects that have been implemented successfully in various regions, emphasizing the importance of community engagement, local knowledge, and collaborative approaches in building resilience to climate

change. The wide variety of effective FLLOCA strategies used in many nations is highlighted by these case studies and best practices. Countries like Kenya may improve their own FLLOCA initiatives and contribute to global climate resilience and sustainability by taking lessons from these instances and encouraging information sharing and South-South collaboration.

Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CCRIP) is one of Bangladesh's well-known community-based adaptation projects. Communities in Bangladesh's coastal areas have successfully put in place adaptation strategies like raising homesteads, constructing embankments, and encouraging saline-tolerant crops through decentralized decision-making and participatory methods. These programmes show how successful it is to enable local people to spearhead climate resilience projects catering to their requirements and circumstances.

Brazilian indigenous peoples have long used sustainable forest management to protect biodiversity and slow down climate change. Leading projects like the Suruí Carbon Project, headed by the Paiter-Suruí indigenous group, show how traditional land management techniques and indigenous knowledge can support FLLOCA. These initiatives advance social justice and environmental sustainability by involving indigenous people as landowners and offering them incentives for forest protection.

Community-Based Renewable Energy Projects: India has advanced decentralized renewable energy projects headed by local communities quite a bit. Initiatives such as the Barefoot College Solar Initiative enable women from rural areas to install and maintain solar panels, therefore enabling them economically and enabling them to access clean energy. These programmes, which stress community ownership and capacity building for sustainable development, are prime examples of FLLOCA's potential in the renewable energy industry.

Peru's Indigenous Water Management Systems: To gather and store water from high-altitude glaciers for agricultural use, Peruvian indigenous people have created complex water management systems called "*amunas*." These age-old methods protect indigenous rights and cultural legacy in addition to guaranteeing water security in the face of climate change. Peru illustrates the

significance of indigenous-led strategies to climate adaptation and resilience by acknowledging and promoting indigenous knowledge systems.

Kenya Climate-Smart Agriculture initiative (KCSAP): This initiative promotes climate-smart agriculture techniques locally and is being carried out by the Kenyan government with assistance from foreign partners. Through financial assistance, training, and access to climate-resilient seeds, KCSAP enables smallholder farmers to mitigate climate change while raising their agricultural output and income. Using indigenous knowledge to provide context-specific solutions and including local populations in decision-making processes, the project exemplifies a successful FLLOCA paradigm.

To strengthen KCSAP, it was recommended by the report on National Conference on FLLOCA 2023:

- (i) There is need to promote transfer of climate-smart agricultural technology and innovations through improved access to farmer extension services.
- (ii) There is also need to strengthen local capacities to enable communities diversify their livelihood bases by venturing into non-agricultural climate change adaptation opportunities.
- (iii) There is need to put in place a policy to promote uptake of rainwater harvesting technology and practices.
- (iv) There is need to sensitize local communities on climate change and sustainable land management.

2.4.3 Lessons learned and implications for scaling up successful interventions in Kenya.

According to Wachira et.al., 2021, by introducing accountability and transparency in the reporting of climate finance flows, Kenya is attempting to enhance its adaptation financing system. To encourage further funding for adaptation efforts, the National Treasury intends to set up a system to monitor and report on adaptation financing. Private sector investment in adaptation financing can also be encouraged using incentives and subsidies. To improve private finance of climate change initiatives, a policy framework on green fiscal incentives is being established. To have better outcomes in adaptation financing, ministries and actors must coordinate their efforts more

effectively. To ensure early stakeholder engagement, Kenya's climate change initiatives should also be directed by the nation and in line with national interests (Wachira et.al., 2021).

To improve climate finance readiness in Kenya, Kiremu et.al. (2022) recommend the following actions:

- a) Support the private sector in climate finance by incentivizing investments and assessing their involvement in accessing funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- b) Implement policy incentives to boost participation in climate finance, focusing on measures that encourage sector engagement.
- c) Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems for climate finance to enhance transparency and accountability, including the introduction of budget coding processes for tracking investments.
- d) Continuously update institutional structures and policies to optimize access to climate finance, recognizing that readiness is an ongoing process requiring adjustments to meet changing needs and challenges.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Conclusions

The conclusions below are based on the key objectives in the discussions and findings in section two of this paper as follows:

Current State of Financing for Locally Led Climate Action in Kenya

Kenya's Government Financing Locally Led Climate Action Programme (G-FLLoCA) aims to increase local resilience to natural disasters, climate change, and other shocks/stressors by enhancing the nation's capacity to plan, carry out, and monitor resilience investments in collaboration with County Governments (CGs) and communities. The County Climate Change Fund (CCCCF) is embraced by the G-FLLoCA as a novel means of funding locally led climate action.

Climate finance in Kenya involves a mix of bilateral and multilateral sources, which brings about challenges in coordination due to overlaps and fragmentation. Kenya's Climate Change Act mandates the establishment of a National Climate Change Fund at national and county levels to

manage climate finance flows and combine public and private funding. However, the lack of capacity at sub-national levels hinders coordination.

The CCCF mechanism has successfully increased climate resilience and promoted inclusive economic growth in counties such as Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Makueni, and Wajir. It has provided significant benefits to disadvantaged households by distributing devolved funding handled by county administrations and directed by community priorities and climate information services. However, there is an inadequate and unreliable flow of climate finance to frontline communities, highlighting the need for recommendations to ensure adequate, predictable, and reliable flows of climate finance to vulnerable populations.

To improve climate finance readiness in Kenya, it is suggested to strengthen participatory processes, oversight, and accountability mechanisms for climate change planning, budgeting, and implementation. This ensures that climate response programs align with the interests of communities most affected by climate change.

Key Gaps and Challenges Faced by Local Communities, Organizations, And Stakeholders in Accessing and Effectively Utilizing Climate Finance for Locally Led Initiative

Climate finance plays a crucial role in assisting local communities in managing climate change impacts and transitioning to low-carbon, resilient paths. International climate finance systems like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund mobilize resources from affluent countries to support climate action in developing nations, including local efforts. These funds support vulnerable communities' adaptation and mitigation projects through grants, concessional loans, and technical assistance. However, there are barriers to accessing and successfully utilising these monies at the local level, such as complicated application processes, insufficient capacity, and bureaucratic impediments.

Local needs assessment is an important step in identifying and prioritizing climate-related needs and actions within communities, allowing for more effective use of available funds for adaptation and mitigation efforts. Community-based participatory approaches, such as community meetings, focus groups, and participatory mapping, help communities understand their institutional,

socioeconomic, and environmental elements that affect a community's vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

Financial instruments play an important role in mobilizing and allocating climate funding at the local level, thereby assisting programmes to address climate change consequences and promote sustainable development. Grants are non-repayable monies given to programmes and activities linked to climate change by governments, international organizations, or charitable organizations. Loans provide smallholder farmers and community-based organizations with a way to access cash for climate action but also carry financial risks including interest payments and debt loads.

The efficiency of these tools in encouraging climate resilience and sustainable development in Kenya needs more investigation. Policymakers and stakeholders should prioritize the development of long-term plans and strategies to enhance resilience against future climate changes, investing in infrastructure, technology, and capacity building to support sustainable adaptation measures.

Opportunities and Strategies for Strengthening the Financing Mechanisms and Support Systems for Locally Led Climate Action in Kenya.

While challenges remain in financing locally led climate action in Kenya, strategic measures and robust support systems can significantly enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of climate adaptation initiatives, ensuring that they are responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

Climate change is a significant challenge in Kenya, particularly in terms of climate adaptation. Local leaders play a crucial role in facilitating adaptation, but often face challenges such as low accountability, inadequate funding, and poverty. Access to resources, such as land, water, and financial capital, is limited, especially in rural areas. Governance issues, such as corruption and bureaucracy inefficiency, also hinder the successful implementation of climate change projects. Environmental stressors like droughts, floods, and erratic weather patterns further impede climate adaptation efforts. To address these challenges, the National Conference of FLLoCA in 2023 established an Engagement Framework to guide partnerships and collaborations between CSOs, IPGs, and the FLLoCA program. A steering committee was also formed to ensure efficient

collaboration and coordination between FLLoCA, CSOs, and IPGs. These measures aim to enhance capacities, promote equal partnerships, and increase the impact of climate resilience actions in Kenya.

Community engagement and participation in locally led climate action (FLLOCA) are crucial for fostering ownership, resilience, and sustainability in climate projects. In Kenya, the County Climate Change Funds (CCCCF) have successfully facilitated customized climate adaptation projects, empowering local communities and improving access to climate information services. However, challenges such as limited funding, capacity constraints, coordination challenges, and sustainability issues remain. Key recommendations include strengthening mechanisms for community participation in climate change planning, budgeting, and implementation, empowering county assembly members, and prioritizing investment in agricultural and livestock value chains.

Developing a comprehensive framework and recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the FLLoCA program in Kenya

Climate change is a pressing issue in Kenya, and climate adaptation is a critical aspect of addressing this issue. Climate finance plays a vital role in facilitating climate action, and partnerships and networks are essential for leveraging resources and promoting climate adaptation. Governments, NGOs, CBOs, and international organizations can collaborate to coordinate financing options, capacity-building support, and technical help for climate finance. Co-financing arrangements can increase project ownership and sustainability by encouraging local stakeholder commitment. Governments can develop multi-level governance systems to enable local governments to draft and implement climate policies tailored to their communities' needs. Donors play a vital role in providing financial and technical support for locally led climate projects. Civil society organizations (CSOs) can drive locally led climate action by mobilizing people, creating awareness, and lobbying for policy change. The business sector can foster innovation and mobilize capital for climate solutions. Recommendations from stakeholders include strengthening issue-based collaborative forums, enhancing cooperation between KWS, wildlife conservancies, and local communities, strengthening oversight and accountability for locally led climate actions, and engaging the youth in building climate resilience.

Climate change is a pressing issue that Kenya is addressing through climate adaptation initiatives. The National Treasury CSO workshop in 2023 established a Steering Committee to oversee the execution of these initiatives, ensuring efficient collaboration between FLLOCA, CSOs, and IPGs. This committee aims to facilitate inclusive decision-making processes and promote information sharing and South-South collaboration.

Examples of successful locally led adaptation projects in various regions highlight the importance of community engagement, local knowledge, and collaborative approaches in building resilience to climate change. Countries like Kenya can improve their own FLLOCA initiatives by learning from these examples and encouraging information sharing and South-South collaboration. For example, Bangladesh's Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CCRIP) and Brazil's Suruí Carbon Project demonstrate the success of community-based adaptation projects. India's Barefoot College Solar Initiative and Peru's Indigenous Water Management Systems demonstrate the potential of FLLOCA in the renewable energy industry. To strengthen KCSAP, Kenya needs to promote the transfer of climate-smart agricultural technology and innovations, strengthen local knowledge systems, and improve access to farmer extension services.

To make sure that climate response programmes serve the interests of the people most impacted by climate change, it is essential to strengthen accountability systems and participatory processes for planning and implementing climate change.

3.2 Recommendations

By putting these recommendations into practice, stakeholders can close the gaps that have been found and take advantage of the chance to increase funding for locally driven climate action initiatives in Kenya. This will improve climate resilience and support sustainable development at the local level. Below are some of the recommendations:

Aligning county legislation with the national Climate Change Act, operationalizing the County Climate Change Funds, enhancing gender inclusion, and promoting a participatory, transparent approach to adaptation action. Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems for climate finance is crucial for enhancing transparency and accountability.

Engagement Framework and Steering Committee: Establish partnerships between CSOs, IPGs, and the FLLOCA program, guided by a joint steering committee to enhance collaboration and capacity building.

There is emphasis on the significance of developing capacity, engaging communities, enhancing funding mechanisms, and leveraging existing policies and institutions to support climate investments and resilience. It is recommended to employ Local Livelihood Action tactics like participatory video and storytelling to empower people and ensure accountability.

There is also emphasis on the need to streamline application processes, provide technical assistance, and establish climate financing support structures.

The need to leveraging Kenya's climate policies and institutions to improve cooperation cannot be downplayed as well. There is also needed to address Policy Coherence and Coordination Gaps to enhance financial resources, partnerships, grassroots engagement, policy alignment, and institutional strengthening to overcome obstacles in climate finance.

Strengthen local governance, foster partnerships, and ensure community ownership for sustainable climate projects. Invest in capacity building, knowledge sharing, and inclusive participation to enhance climate adaptation efforts.

Boost the flow of climate funds to low-income communities by supporting policies that provide sufficient, stable, and dependable funding sources. Encourage funding source diversification and lessen reliance on outside climate funds by enhancing cooperation and coordination amongst the government, civil society organisations, and other relevant parties.

To improve efforts at adaptation and climate resilience, national and local legal frameworks for participatory climate change policy and legislation should be strengthened.

To guarantee the involvement of marginalized communities and alignment with their needs and priorities, there is need to strengthen participatory processes, oversight, and accountability systems for planning, budgeting, and implementation of climate change.

To methodically carry out climate change projects at the national and local levels, it is important to implement the extensive work plan created during the FLLOCA national conference in 2023. Put into practice the engagement framework that was developed at the FLLOCA national conference in 2023 to direct collaborations and partnerships between CSOs, FLLOCA programme, and Implementing Partner Groups (IPGs), with an emphasis on equal partnership promotion and capacity building.

To ensure effective cooperation and coordination between FLLOCA, CSOs, and IPGs, activate the representative joint steering committee or secretariat that was established to supervise the implementation of the engagement framework and programme activities.

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