

A woman wearing a green headscarf with floral patterns and a yellow and blue striped short-sleeved shirt is smiling as she works in a field of green leafy vegetables. She is leaning over, tending to the plants. The background shows more of the field and some trees under a clear sky.

10 YEARS



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND:
10 YEARS OF
INNOVATION, ACTION & LEARNING

ADAPTATION FUND: 10 YEARS OF **INNOVATION, ACTION & LEARNING**

Cover: A project funded by the Adaptation Fund in the Mopani district of South Africa is increasing community resilience to climate change and rainfall variability through water management and sustainable farming techniques. The project pioneered 'Enhanced Direct Access', which empowers national institutions to identify and implement local adaptation measures. Maria Chavalala (pictured) employs adaptation measures of the project, which is implemented by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and facilitated by the Tanani Matiko Multipurpose and Disabled project. Photo by Mpfunzeni Tshindane (SANBI)



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Pioneering Innovation, Action and Sharing



MICHAEL KRACHT

Chair
Adaptation Fund Board

It is an honor to serve as the Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board for this important milestone year in which the Fund commemorates 10 years of pioneering innovative climate finance, delivering concrete adaptation results on the ground and sharing lessons and best practices.

As we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the launching of the Fund's operations, the Fund has established a clear niche within the global climate finance landscape.

In funding concrete, localized and scalable projects to the most vulnerable communities while building national capacities to adapt to climate change through its pioneering Direct Access modality, the Fund continues to respond effectively to rising climate change impacts and urgent adaptation needs that disproportionately affect developing countries.

Although the Fund has been delivering results since early on when the Board approved its first two projects in 2010 in Honduras and Senegal and has steadily grown (it is now approaching 70 concrete adaptation projects in nearly 55 countries), the Adaptation Fund has gained considerable momentum and widening appreciation for its valuable work over the last two years through the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015 and the subsequent 22nd Session of the Conference of Parties in Morocco in 2016. Further, just this July at the Hamburg summit the G20 also stressed support for national adaptation action and recognized efforts promoted by the Adaptation Fund.

In Paris, parties agreed to enhance international support to developing countries for adaptation, while deciding the Fund

may serve the Paris Agreement. That was strengthened in Marrakech when the Fund surpassed its yearly resource mobilization goals and country parties agreed the Fund "should" serve the Agreement. Preparatory work is underway to make this a reality we hope in the very near term.

As we embark on COP23 in my home country of Germany—one of the progressive international fronts in tackling climate change both at home and abroad and a strong contributor to the Adaptation Fund to help address priorities and needs of many developing countries—the focus now is on implementing the Paris Agreement and accelerating climate action.

As evidenced by its concrete actions in delivering tangible projects to help the most vulnerable communities around the world adapt to growing sea level rise, floods, droughts, and food and water security risks, the Adaptation Fund is already contributing to this integral global effort.

Its pioneering Direct Access modality is building national capacities to adapt to climate change from within. The Fund now has 25 national implementing entities (NIEs) under Direct Access with the capability to access Fund resources and design localized projects directly, and another 18 multilateral and regional entities capable of designing projects in any eligible developing country.

Many NIEs have since been fast-tracked to accreditation with other climate funds, leveraging their experiences with the Adaptation Fund to access further needed resources. Several trailblazing Fund projects have also been scaled up or replicated in other vulnerable communities by larger climate funds.

Not only has the Fund pioneered Direct Access, it has adopted several other innovative policies. Among them are its progressive Environmental and Social Policy, which promotes



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The Fund is nimble and quick to adapt to countries' adaptation needs, and the results show.

—MICHAEL KRACHT,
Adaptation Fund Board Chair

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human rights, gender equality and conservation principles in Fund projects, and its Alternative Streamlined Accreditation Process for smaller entities—many of which would likely not be able to access climate finance otherwise.

The Fund is nimble and quick to adapt to countries' adaptation needs, and the results show. The first phase of an Independent Evaluation in 2015 demonstrated the Fund to be a great value for the money, effective, relevant and a thought leader that innovates, learns and shares its experiences. It is also highly transparent and country-driven, with a network of NGOs and local stakeholders that invest their expertise to enhance Fund projects.

As a result, the Fund is in high demand. The Board approved a record US\$ 60.3 million in new project funding in March 2017, and received another record US\$ 219.4 million in new funding requests for the Board meeting in October 2017.

To meet this rising demand, the Adaptation Fund strives to tap public, private and innovative sources of international climate finance. In its early years, it thrived under an innovative market platform to receive a share of Certified Emission Reduction (CER) credits from the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism. Since the carbon market dropped in 2011-2012, the Fund has relied mostly on generous public contributions. In the coming years, government contributions will continue to be pivotal but the Fund may also have an opportunity through the Paris Agreement to leverage its experience in carbon markets.

A medium term strategy being developed by the Fund further emphasizes its strong focus on 'action, innovation and learning' to enhance adaptive capacities and resilience while reducing vulnerabilities.

So, the Adaptation Fund will continue to lead the way through its innovations and concrete actions to help many more vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt and build resilience to climate change.



⌘ The Adaptation Fund's pioneering 'Enhanced Direct Access' project implemented by SANBI features a small grants facility in South Africa empowering national institutions to identify and fund local level responses to climate change. Photo by South African National Biodiversity Institute.



Adaptation Fund's 10th Anniversary: Significant Contribution to Progress on Climate Change



PATRICIA ESPINOSA

Executive Secretary

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

At the outset, let me congratulate the Adaptation Fund on your tenth anniversary and recognize your significant contribution to progress on climate change over the last decade.

Dedication and hard work by the Adaptation Fund and its partners builds the trust and momentum needed to truly meet the immense challenge of climate change.

This momentum was crucial in adopting a new, universal climate change agreement in 2015. The historic Paris Climate Change Agreement unites the world in action on one of the most pressing challenges we have ever faced. The agreement provides a framework for driving down emissions and increasing the ability of people to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement is the world's first universal climate pact, and it is built on a foundation of institutions that enable and empower the developing world to fully participate.

The Paris Agreement entered into force in November of 2016, and the era of implementation has begun. Every nation has submitted a national contribution to the agreement, and now we should see country-level action to fulfill those contributions.

Right now, governments will be looking at how to curb emissions to reduce risk and how best to adapt to climate impacts that are locked into the climate system. Throughout the developing world, these adaptation actions need support to move forward with maximum speed and effectiveness.

Ten years ago, governments had the foresight to create what was, at the time, the only dedicated multilateral source of funding for adaptation in developing countries. The Adaptation Fund remains a catalyst for moving from planning for adaptation to implementation of concrete steps that reduce the vulnerability of people and the ecosystems on which they depend. The Fund pioneered an approach to work directly with national and regional institutions to build their capacity to adapt.

The ability to manage risk and vulnerability in the face of climate impacts is an increasingly important asset to deliver benefits of sustainable development to communities. For this reason, the Adaptation Fund plays an essential role in generating and sharing vital knowledge that protects the wellbeing of the most vulnerable peoples. Over the last 10 years, the international community has greatly benefitted from this activity and is currently building on the wealth of experience amassed by the Adaptation Fund.

The nature and the scale of the climate challenge is such that all stakeholders need to cooperate across all levels of society. I thank all stakeholders to the Adaptation Fund and its capable secretariat for embracing this spirit of cooperation. But there is much work yet to be done to realize the vision laid out in the Paris Agreement.

Support for adaptation and ambition to meet the challenge we face head on must continue to grow. In the integrated approach to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, adaptation action promises a better future for all. I look forward to seeing how the Adaptation Fund continues to support and strengthen efforts towards the climate-safe and sustainable future that must be our legacy to coming generations.

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The Adaptation Fund plays an essential role in generating and sharing vital knowledge that protects the wellbeing of the most vulnerable peoples.

—**PATRICIA ESPINOSA**

Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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Vegetable plantation in Vietnam, Shutterstock/Aleksandr Shilov >>>







GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

Celebrating 10 Years of the Adaptation Fund



NAOKO ISHII

CEO and Chair, Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Head of the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

This year the Adaptation Fund is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2017.

The establishment and operationalization of any new fund takes enormous time, energy and hard work by all stakeholders and the Adaptation Fund is no exception. After going through several stages of development, the Fund is today highly recognized for its achievements. Most recently, at COP 22 in Marrakesh, it raised US\$ 84 million, a clear signal of trust from both developed and developing countries.

Over the past decade, the Adaptation Fund has channeled US\$ 436 million in 54 countries through concrete, localized adaptation projects that may later be replicated or scaled up by others. The Fund has developed a business model focused on supporting vulnerable communities, adopted innovative financing approaches, and played a key role in building the national capacities of some of the world's most vulnerable countries. It was also the first climate fund to implement a Direct Access modality that offered developing countries the possibility to accredit National Implementing Entities, which can receive funding to implement projects directly.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been a proud partner of the Adaptation Fund from the very beginning, since the GEF Secretariat was invited to host the Fund Secretariat.

Over the years, the collaboration between the GEF and the Adaptation Fund has been fruitful on various fronts, like the strengthening of coherent gender mainstreaming approaches

in collaboration with other climate funds, or the co-reviewing of Adaptation Fund project proposals.

It has been my personal privilege to enhance the partnership between the GEF Secretariat and Adaptation Fund Secretariat, aiming to catalyze finance for developing countries' adaptation actions on the ground.

On behalf of the GEF secretariat, I want to wish the Adaptation Fund a happy 10th anniversary and continued success in the future.



⌘ Naoko Ishii (center) appears at Adaptation Fund Board meeting in March 2017 alongside AF manager Mikko Ollikainen (left) and AFB Chair Michael Kracht (right).



ADAPTATION FUND

10 Years and Counting: Pioneering Innovation, Concrete Actions and Learning



MIKKO OLLIKAINEN
Manager
Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

The heart of the Adaptation Fund's effectiveness remains its work on the ground in funding concrete projects that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt and build resilience to climate change.

I have seen several impressive results of this first-hand during our portfolio monitoring visits in such places as Mongolia, where ecosystem-based adaptation techniques are helping rural farmers conserve water; Turkmenistan, where policy and community-based adaptation is strengthening water delivery services; and Georgia, where national and local flood management efforts are paving the way to inspire positive change.

The strength of the Adaptation Fund in innovating new approaches could be seen in each location.

Water-saving irrigation practices, pasture rotation and organic gardening is increasing climate-smart use of land in Mongolia, while intercropping, terracing, drip irrigation and canal improvements are strengthening water management in Turkmenistan.

And my most recent visit this June to our project culminating in Georgia summed up the tremendous value of the Fund's work.

Many impoverished residents in the Rioni River Basin had been challenged by increasing rainfall, landslides and severe floods in recent years due to climate change and

unsustainable land use practices. The project, funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UNDP with Georgia's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, introduced national floodplain policies, flood mapping, climate-resilient flood management practices and early warning systems that have improved communities' adaptive capacities and reduced their vulnerabilities.

With support from the project, the government has produced substantial results on the ground with not only great concrete work supporting the communities, but increased national understanding of the hazards of climate change. It has led to development of a follow-on project with another climate fund that will scale up these actions, and the government drawing upon some of the project's experiences in their recovery work following the catastrophic 2015 Tbilisi floods.

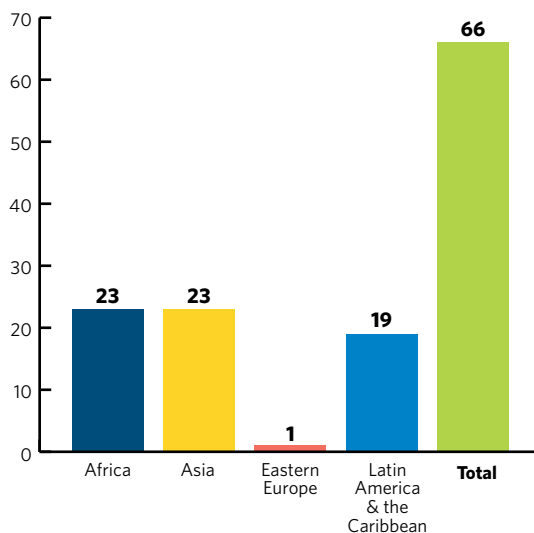
This is what the Adaptation Fund is all about—pioneering new types of activities to address the urgency of climate change in vulnerable areas and gathering experiences that can be replicated or scaled up with additional resources, while at the same time producing immediate results that help communities adapt to their very real adaptation challenges. It's one of the great successes of this project. It delivered

trainings and approaches that work in practical ways and the communities saw that they really work. It introduced new sustainable tools so they can protect themselves and adapt.

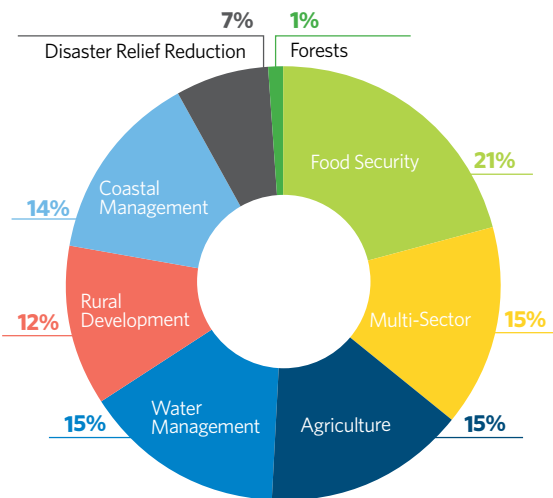
You see this across the Adaptation Fund’s portfolio, which has steadily grown to US\$ 436 million now committed to 66 concrete projects in 54 countries serving more than 5.4 million direct beneficiaries. Projects are country-led with an inclusive stakeholder consultation process so that the most pressing climate vulnerabilities are being addressed.

Direct Access remains the Fund’s pioneering hallmark program, giving developing countries the opportunity to access climate finance and develop projects directly through accredited national implementing entities (NIEs) while building their own adaptive capacities. It has been heartening to hear, time and time again, the testimonies from NIEs and their corresponding governments, about the significance of getting to truly and completely be in the driver’s seat of their own climate adaptation efforts. The indirect effects of this empowerment have been simply staggering. For instance in India, the trust put by the Adaptation Fund in the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the accredited NIE for that country, prompted the government to additionally entrust NABARD with the management of India’s own national adaptation fund.

PROJECT DISTRIBUTION BY REGION



NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY SECTOR



The Adaptation Fund has accredited 25 NIEs to date (along with 18 multilateral and regional implementing entities), and Direct Access has since been emulated by other climate funds—allowing NIEs to be fast-tracked to additional accreditations and resources.

MOMENTUM: THE ADAPTATION FUND, INNOVATION AND PARIS

The Adaptation Fund remains in high demand, with a record US\$ 60.3 million in new funding approved for projects at its March 2017 Board meeting alone, and has gained considerable momentum within the international climate finance landscape.

It reached or nearly attained its annual resource mobilization goals the last two years during critical climate change conferences in Paris and Morocco. Its inclusion in the accompanying language of the landmark Paris Agreement signaled growing recognition for the Fund’s work. That was strengthened further last year in Morocco when conference parties agreed the Fund ‘should’ serve the agreement. Preparatory work is well underway to try to make that happen in the near future.

Meanwhile, the Fund continues to innovate and adapt to countries’ needs.

Its Environmental and Social Policy adopted in 2013 has been ahead of the curve in promoting human rights, gender equality, marginalized groups, climate action and biodiversity in its projects. The policy was praised by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment as a possible international model for similar principles called for in the Paris Agreement.

The Adaptation Fund's alternative, streamlined accreditation process created in 2015 has opened doors to climate finance for smaller entities—with three NIEs since being accredited through the process. Its Funding Window for Regional Projects to address climate issues that cross borders has also grown rapidly, with three regional projects approved since it was established in 2015.

The Fund also pioneered 'Enhanced Direct Access', which has been implemented, for instance, through a small grants facility project in South Africa empowering national institutions with further autonomy to identify and fund local adaptation projects. Nearly 3,000 people are benefitting from climate resilient livelihoods, climate smart agriculture and climate-proofed infrastructure through the Fund's NIE, the South African National Biodiversity Institute, which has also developed a follow-up project concept for the Green Climate Fund to further expand the facility's work.

In addition to its pioneering innovations in climate finance and concrete actions across food security, water management, sustainable agriculture, coastal management, disaster risk reduction, rural development and forests, the Fund is rapidly developing a learning and sharing component.

With a newly approved Knowledge Management Strategy and a growing Climate Finance Readiness Programme, the Fund is expanding its knowledge sharing platforms while providing small technical assistance and south to south grants that help build institutional capacities through seminars and webinars that bring NIEs together to share experiences and lessons in adaptation practice and finance.

Just this July we held our 4th annual global NIE seminar, this time in a partner country—Costa Rica—for the first time rather than at our Washington, DC headquarters. We co-hosted with our accredited NIE in Costa Rica, Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible, and more than 20 NIEs attended. The experience was invaluable in furthering our NIE network, and we also visited the Fund's innovative multi-sector project in Costa Rica that is



⌘ A well drilled in the desert zone project site gives villagers access to water. Field Monitoring Mission in Turkmenistan, Adaptation Fund

enabling localized adaptation solutions to reach many at-risk communities in the agriculture, water resources and coastal sectors.

The Adaptation Fund is making a difference.

The first phase of an Independent Evaluation showed it to be effective, efficient and relevant, as well as a learning institution that shares new innovations.

It continues to expand its funding sources, as well. Although it initially relied principally on a share of proceeds of carbon emission reduction sales from the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism, it has increasingly turned to generous contributions from developed countries to compensate for the drop in carbon prices in 2011. Full integration into the Paris Agreement and maximizing all potential public and private funding streams would complement these efforts well.

As the Fund continues to grow and its financial sustainability is strengthened, we hope to continue to reach many more vulnerable communities with innovative adaptation solutions. With a massive amount of global adaptation needs, the Adaptation Fund's concrete actions are as relevant and needed today than ever.



⌘ Greenhouses help use scarce water resources in Uvs Province more efficiently and for higher-priced crops such as strawberries. Project Monitoring Mission in Mongolia, Adaptation Fund.



⌘ Semi-nomadic herders in the mountains of Uvs Province are benefitting from ecosystem-based water management practices. Field Monitoring Mission in Mongolia, Adaptation Fund



⌘ Improved water harvesting techniques in the desert zone project site help communities faced with severe water scarcity. Field Monitoring Mission in Turkmenistan, Adaptation Fund



⌘ AF senior climate change specialist Daouda Ndiaye (2nd from left) and AF manager Mikko Ollikainen (4th from right standing) with stakeholders at AF-funded agricultural project implemented by the Planning Institute of Jamaica.





10 YEARS OF INNOVATION, ACTION & LEARNING IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



Making Measurable Impacts in Adaptation Through Smallholder Cattle Ranchers



WALTER OYHANTCABAL

Director of Climate Change
Uruguay Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock and Fisheries, Executing
Entity of Adaptation Fund Project
in Uruguay

MARCOS JAVIER MARTINEZ TECHERA

Uruguay Ministry of Agriculture
Livestock and Fisheries, Executing Entity of Adaptation Fund
Project in Uruguay

The project with the Adaptation Fund was the starting point for the development of actions for adaptation planned in the productive sector, which is more vulnerable to climate change in Uruguay: cattle production in smallholder ranchers.

Due to its design and features, the Adaptation Fund represented the best available climate financing option for Uruguay to launch this necessary adaptive process.

Components and databases built to support adaptation in this project have included:

- a. training for the management of natural pastures;
- b. harvesting infrastructure and distribution of animal drinking water; and
- c. strengthening of networks and producer organizations.

Given the limited experience in the country on the impacts of innovations for adaptation, the project developed a baseline of participants and “controls.” At the end of the project, plans call for the repetition of the study to assess the impact.

The project has supported nearly 1,000 smallholders, with amounts that do not exceed US\$ 8,000. It has involved around 60 private technicians and has covered a variety of investment and management measures that contribute to climate change adaptation.

To strengthen knowledge management, an in-depth intervention is being implemented in a subset of 27 farms, with a focus on co-innovation, where agro-climatic and productive variables are monitored.

Some lessons learned include:

- a. adaptation must be integrated into development policies;
- b. links between policies, academia, and social stakeholders (producers and their organizations) are key;
- c. proposals for adaptation should consider the production system as a whole;
- d. technological change requires a learning process;
- e. it is possible to develop strategies for adaptation with ecological, social and economic co-benefits;
- f. networks and organizations are key channels to disseminate information and promote innovation;
- g. it is necessary to have a framework of indicators for adaptation.

The project has promoted the partial contribution of producers' resources and they have taken the commitment to repay part of the resources received to a Revolving Fund managed by their producer organization.

In sum, the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) thinks that, due to its features, design and access

modalities, the Adaptation Fund represents a valuable climate financing option, and in the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it has advocated for the inclusion of this climate financing window in the Paris Agreement, providing it with genuine and significant funding sources.



⌘ Field Monitoring Mission in Uruguay, Adaptation Fund



⌘ Photo of Uruguay project provided by MGAP



⌘ Photo of Uruguay project provided by MGAP



⌘ Photo of Uruguay project to enhance grasslands, pasture management practices, shade trees, animal management, agro-forestry and water supply management, provided by MGAP.



Antigua’s Northwest Coastal Communities to Benefit from Concrete Adaptation Measures



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
National Implementing Entity for Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda’s private sector and communities are bearing the costs of climate variability by borrowing at high rates to meet adaptation needs for their businesses and homes—costs that are projected to increase due to climate change. The most vulnerable people are unable to self-finance hurricane recovery, drought, higher temperatures, and mosquito-borne illnesses. According to demographic data, one in ten people are likely to fall below the poverty line due to an extreme climate event.

The Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda’s national implementing entity (accredited with the Adaptation Fund), designed a project to help the most vulnerable communities out of this cycle.

Accredited in 2015, the Department developed a US\$ 10 million project, titled, *An integrated approach to physical adaptation and community resilience in Antigua and Barbuda’s northwest McKinnon’s watershed*. The Adaptation Fund Board approved the project in March 2017, and the project’s three components will

1. implement concrete adaptation (actions) in the main waterways on the northwest coast (such as drainage systems, retention ponds and wetlands restoration),
2. provide concessional loans to vulnerable homeowners through a Revolving Fund for Adaptation (so that home and business structures withstand extreme climate variability through water harvesting, hurricane shutters, mosquito screens, and water storage), and

3. provide grants to community groups for adaptation of the most vulnerable people (including climate-resilient interventions that support local ownership of adaptation and community-awarded contracts fostering social adaptive capacity and allowing community buildings to withstand hurricanes and droughts and to serve as storm shelters).

The project preparation activities in 2016 have already contributed to community action on climate change. A survey of over 200 households, community consultations, parliamentary representative meetings, and a documentary on the climate and socio-economic realities on the northwest coast raised national consciousness of community vulnerability to climate change, and this is motivating private businesses and public officials to take action. As recounted by an active member of the project’s advisory Committee:

“On Saturday May 11, 2016, I was part of the team that started the community outreach and engagement in the Yorks community to inform residents of the Adaptation



⌘ Eroded semi-urban drainage systems prevent access to a home; climate change is impacting the cost and quality of living in vulnerable homes. Photo by Department of Environment



⌘ An aerial image of the McKinnon's watershed project site on Antigua's northwest coast after a heavy rainfall. Photo by Marlon Jeffers



⌘ The Department of Environment team pictured with Prince Harry planting a tree, who visited Antigua and Barbuda in November 2016 to celebrate the island's 35th anniversary since independence. Photo by Justin Peters

Fund project, and the common theme was that, 'Groups and agencies can come see the situation and make promises, but nothing happens.'

A year later, as a result of follow-up and outreach, the project consultation process is delivering remarkable actions, including the production of a video showing the dilapidated conditions of houses inhabited by the poor. Seeing and hearing the voices of these persons took the issues to a new and heightened level of awareness, increasing visibility of the pilot site and the human imperative. "Operation Restore" is the name given to the pre-project activities to start immediate actions to repair homes, many of which are single women-headed households with children, who could not repair or carry out improvements for they did not have access to financing.

"The outreach to the vulnerable and marginalized groups has been done in collaboration with groups in the community, and the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities (ABAPD) has been an active and engaged group. Kemoy was our guide who accompanied us in his wheelchair up and down the roads throughout the community, introducing us to the residents." - Ruth Spencer, member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The project's anticipated adaptation outputs over the next four years include: 3 kilometers of urban drainage that can withstand a one-in-50 year flood event; more than 200 homes and small businesses to benefit from concessional loans for adaptation; three NGOs to receive grants for community resilience; and 4-5 existing shelters renovated to withstand extreme events.



⌘ Vulnerable homes in the McKinnon's watershed will benefit from innovative climate financing. Photo by Marlon Jeffers.

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The outreach to the vulnerable and marginalized groups has been done in collaboration with groups in the community, and the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities (ABAPD) has been an active and engaged group. Kemoy was our guide who accompanied us in his wheelchair up and down the roads throughout the community, introducing us to the residents.

—RUTH SPENCER

Member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

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Adaptation Fund Presents Opportunity to Support Development Efforts in Context of Climate Change



IBRAHIM TRAORE
Senior Environmental Economist
West African Development Bank (BOAD)

The costs to be borne by developing countries for adaptation are very high, estimated at up to US\$ 150 billion per year in 2020. For example, between 2000 and 2008, the effects of flooding in the UEMOA (West African Economic and Monetary Union) zone were characterized by more than 1.2 million affected people, plus material damage, increased risk of disease, loss of infrastructure, and more.

The damage was estimated at between US\$ 189 million and US\$ 388 million. These situations have highlighted the profound vulnerability of populations and ecosystems in a context where countries should focus on poverty reduction, quality basic education for all, promotion of youth, health and employment, and so on. At the same time, these countries are facing fiscal constraints at the national level and a scarcity of concessional resources at the international level.

BOAD—FIRST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY OF THE ADAPTATION FUND

The UEMOA Joint Facility for Development Financing, whose eight states are poor and vulnerable countries suffering from the adverse effects of climate change, is composed of stakeholders in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. Conscious of the vulnerability of populations to the adverse effects of climate change and the need to increase financing of development actions, UEMOA states have seized the opportunities offered by the mechanisms of the Convention, namely the Adaptation Fund and its Direct Access approach

to ask **The West African Development Bank (BOAD)** at the 15th Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in 2009 to be their Regional Implementation Entity with the Fund. Once the Member States' requests were received, the Bank submitted an application for accreditation to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat in 2011 and followed the accreditation process. At the end of this process, the Adaptation Fund Board in June 2011 approved the accreditation of BOAD as a Regional Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund with the capability to develop and propose Fund projects. This accreditation was renewed in June 2016.

OPERATIONS SINCE ACCREDITATION TO THE ADAPTATION FUND

Several actions have been initiated since the Bank's accreditation as part of its mission to develop adaptation projects. These include:

- The mobilization of African expertise to support BOAD in identifying opportunities for adaptation projects in the UEMOA area;

- The organization of institutional awareness-raising missions in the UEMOA countries on the role of the BOAD as a regional implementation entity of the Adaptation Fund;
- The organization of technical missions to identify projects in Niger, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea Bissau; and
- Preparation of national and regional projects summarized below:

Niger: Program for the promotion of irrigated agriculture by solar pumping system in the context of strengthening the resilience of rural communities; US\$ 9.9 million (Adaptation Fund grant financing); US\$ 21.4 million (expected BOAD co-financing); Funding for the project has been approved by the Adaptation Fund Board for an amount of US\$ 9.9 million. The Grant Agreement was signed in December 2016. BOAD's co-financing was approved by the Board of Directors in March 2017. A start-up advance of US\$ 1,269,000 and fees in the amount of US\$ 107,000 has already been paid to the Bank, March 2017.

Togo: Project to increase the level of resilience of vulnerable actors in the Mandouri agricultural sector in Togo; The concept note for the project was prepared and submitted to the Adaptation Fund Board; due diligence is in progress for the preparation of the full project document.

Guinea Bissau: Climate-intelligent agriculture development project in eastern Guinea Bissau; the concept note for the project was endorsed by the Adaptation Fund Board.

Regional: Project to promote climate-smart agriculture in Burkina Faso-Benin-Ghana-Niger and Togo; the concept note for the project was prepared and submitted to the Adaptation Fund Board; due diligence is in progress for the preparation of the full project document.



⌘ Celani school food garden, Impendle, South Africa. Photo by Pam Madondo





DESERT RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF NAMIBIA (DRFN) –
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (NIE) FOR NAMIBIA

Applying Environmental, Social and Gender Principles to Enhance Climate Change Adaptation Projects in Namibia



DR. MARTIN SCHNEIDER
Executive Director
Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN)

Achieving accreditation as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) for Namibia with the Adaptation Fund has strengthened the capacity of the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) to address climate change-related issues in a more holistic manner together with other institutions locally and within the Southern Africa Region.

The relationship with the government’s national Designated Authority (DA) to the Fund, as well as with decision-making bodies (Parliament, Local and Regional Government Institutions) further improved this capacity, as did networking through social media.

Since the introduction of the Adaptation Fund’s Climate Finance Readiness Programme and small technical assistance and south-south grants offered through it, considerable awareness campaigns have taken place together with other civil society organizations in Namibia. A very important aspect is the capacity building of NIE staff, which during 2017 included a training workshop with the aim to produce an Environmental, Social and Gender Policy for DRFN, based on the Fund’s policies in these areas that strive to incorporate human rights, gender equality, biodiversity and habitat conservation in projects funded by the Adaptation Fund. This document is downloadable through the website of the DRFN (www.drfn.org.na) and continues to attract great interest among stakeholders and NGOs in Namibia.

COLLABORATION ON AN ADAPTATION FUND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROJECT

Building on a 2013 Memorandum of Agreement between the DRFN and the International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC), a collaborative proposal was submitted to the Adaptation Fund in August of 2016 in response to the Fund’s “Call for Technical Assistance Grants for NIEs to Build Capacity to Mitigate Environmental, Social and Gender-related Risks.”

In January 2017, the grant was awarded to DRFN, and IALC consultants Dr. Barbara Hutchinson and Kristin Wisneski-Blum initiated project activities soon after. This involved employing user-experience research methods to develop a policy manual, which included the following components:

1. Guidelines for screening projects for environmental, social, and gender (ESG) risks
2. Guidelines for ESG risk assessments and management plans

3. Checklist for public disclosure and gender-responsive consultation

4. Guidelines for ESG-responsive grievance mechanisms

Overall, the purpose of the grant was to strengthen capacity to implement the Fund's ESG policies. The aim was also to allow potential executing entities (EEs) and partners of DRFN, as well as the DA—which is the Ministry of Environment and Tourism—to discuss strategies for improving the competitiveness of current adaptation project proposals in development. The concepts have been endorsed by the Adaptation Fund Board, and are being developed further into full project proposals. One of these concepts aims to test a pilot desalination plant with renewable power for improving and ensuring the supply of good quality groundwater to small towns and villages, while the other seeks to strengthen adaptive capacities and enhance resilience of vulnerable farming systems to include adaptive crop systems and efficient irrigation technologies. It is hoped that once the final projects are approved they will improve resilience of these communities in Namibia against the increased variability in rainfall that is expected with climate change.

To this end, virtual interviews were held with NIE staff members and extensive research conducted on the Adaptation Fund's ESG-related policies and procedures, as well as international and national laws and regulations. The results of these efforts are included in a final manual provided to DRFN as well as in the workshop training presentations.



The primary context for integrating ESG into project design and implementation is the DRFN's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), which is composed of the steps outlined below. Each step was described in detail in the prepared manual and referenced in project components and steps, such as project formulation, proposal development, and project implementation. The steps include:

1. Environmental, social, and gender risk identification through a screening process
2. Environmental, social, and gender assessment
3. Development of environmental and social management plans
4. Environmental, social, and gender management monitoring, reporting, and evaluation
5. Public disclosure and consultation (stakeholder engagement)
6. Grievance mechanism

The culmination of this technical assistance was a four-day in-country workshop for NIE staff members covering Adaptation Fund ESG policies and procedures, held from May 29–June 1, 2017.

It is capacity building activities and inclusive stakeholder engagement policies like these that originated from the Adaptation Fund and were incorporated into DRFN's work processes that will make its adaptation project proposals and responses to climate change issues affecting the country considerably more effective and stronger. With warming temperatures, less rainfall and a rise in forest-cutting compounding Namibia's vulnerability to climate change, DRFN is well-positioned through the Adaptation Fund's pioneering Direct Access modality to make positive change in the country. Direct Access allows DRFN to develop effective adaptation projects for vulnerable communities and access finance directly through the Adaptation Fund, while helping to build Namibia's national capacity to adapt to climate change over the long run.

«« Participants of the Environmental, Social and Gender Policy Workshop held in Namibia in May 2017. Pictured from left standing: Mr. Olla Aldrich (DRFN), Dr. Jack Elliott (TAMU), Dr. Martin Schneider (DRFN), Prof. Mutjinde Katjiua (NUST), Dr. Barbara Hutchinson (IALC), Mr. Sion Shifa (Ministry of Environment and Tourism: AF Designated Authority). Pictured front left to right and in front row: Mr. Salomo Mbai (NUST), Ms. Ester Nangolo (UNAM), Dr. Axel Rothauge (AgriConsult Namibia).



⌘ Hambukushu Tribe Children near Divundu, Namibia, Shutterstock/Bernhard Richter.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT (EPIU) –
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (NIE) FOR ARMENIA

Republic of Armenia Breaking New Ground on Adaptation in Eastern Europe



GEVORG NERSISYAN
Environmental Project Implementation Unit
Armenia Ministry of Nature Protection

When the Republic of Armenia became the 25th country to achieve Direct Access under the Adaptation Fund in November 2016, it was no small feat.

The first country in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States to do so, Armenia is breaking new ground for other climate-vulnerable areas in the region that may be facing similar challenges.

The Environmental Project Implementation Unit (EPIU) in Armenia's Ministry of Nature Protection was also the Adaptation Fund's third national implementing entity (NIE) to be accredited under its alternative, streamlined accreditation process aimed at opening doors to climate finance for smaller entities.

Gaining accreditation with the Adaptation Fund under the Fund's pioneering direct access modality means a lot for Armenia. We shall be able to implement projects aimed at enhancing resilience of natural ecosystems to climate change; support and scale up the application of water saving technologies; and support and scale-up measures aimed at increasing the forest cover and enhancing the carbon accumulation.

One of the biggest challenges faced by mankind is global climate change, which can be addressed by joint efforts made by all countries. Armenia ratified the Paris Agreement and formulated its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution

submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015.

The EPIU sees its role in developing and implementing projects and programmes with the support of international organizations such as the Adaptation Fund, GCF and the GEF as well as the state budget with the sole aim to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change in the Republic of Armenia.

The cooperation between the Adaptation Fund and EPIU started in 2014. The launch of the cooperation was EPIU's undertaking of the accreditation process through the Fund under the direct access modality (which gives developing countries the opportunity to access finance and develop projects directly through accredited national implementing entities and build their own capacity to adapt to climate change).

Over a year EPIU was able to demonstrate capabilities in terms of policies and framework and give adequate evidence of adhering to sound accreditation standards and implementing effective social and environmental safeguards to identify any project risks in advance, prevent any harm and improve the effectiveness and sustainability of results.

As a result, on November 4, 2016 having considered the recommendation of the Accreditation Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- a. To accredit EPIU as an NIE under the streamlined accreditation process for a period of five years; and
- b. To entitle the EPIU to submit project and programme proposals to the Adaptation Fund for up to US\$ 4 million.

ENHANCING ARMENIA'S ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The geographical location of Armenia—a landlocked mountainous country with vulnerable ecosystems—and the country's need to ensure its national security necessitates the prioritization of climate change adaptation. Studies show that climate change will lead to an upward shift of landscape vertical zones in Armenia. A desert zone will be developed in Armenia and semi-desert zones will grow to 1,700 meters above sea level while currently they stand at 1,500-meter levels. Lower and upper limits of forests will be significantly reduced.

Since Armenia is landlocked, its natural landscapes are more vulnerable to global warming and climate change and at risk to landslides, mudflows, groundwater fluctuations, loss of biodiversity, desertification and abandonment or overuse of lands. Ararat and Armavir Provinces located in the central part of the country and around the capital are particularly vulnerable. All these factors have a direct impact on the socio-economic development of the country, particularly on agriculture, as lands of agricultural importance are less represented in the country.

The upper and lower layers of Armenia's mountainous forest regions additionally serve as important ecosystems, but are also vulnerable to climate change and have urgent natural landscape adaptation needs.

Specially protected natural areas play important roles in the country as essential climate adaptation activities for stabilizing the biosphere. Stabilization of the conditions for the existence of biodiversity of these layers and at the same time extending coastal layers of rivers and lakes, as

well as soil protection layers of agricultural lands will raise landscape resistance and will reduce the impact of adverse factors affecting the loss of biodiversity. The improvement of management procedures of these areas will have significant importance both in those areas and in adjacent areas to provide stability of biodiversity habitats. This will create an opportunity to develop ecotourism and recreational environments, which will also lead to Armenia's socio-economic development.

Currently two project concepts have been developed and submitted to the Adaptation Fund, namely:

1. "Artik city closed stone pit wastes and flood management pilot project"
2. "Sustainable management of adjacent ecosystems of specially protected nature areas of the country and capacity building in communities"

EPIU is now in the process of reviewing and resubmitting the concepts to the Fund for review. EPIU on behalf of the Republic of Armenia is sure that the cooperation with the Adaptation Fund will continue for a long time and as a result the country will be able to solve the environmental issues that Armenia is facing today.

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Cooperation with the Adaptation Fund will continue for a long time and Armenia will be able to solve the environmental issues the country faces today.

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⌘ EPIU Staff



Building Adaptation Capacity to Manage Water in the Face of Climate Change



MS. ROSA MONTAÑEZ

Executive Director
Fundación Natura (Natura Foundation)

While Panama is a country with naturally abundant water resources, they are threatened by its high vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change.

Extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and windstorms, and climate variability put these resources at risk because water users and management authorities have not had the tools and information to adapt to them in timely and effective ways.

The accreditation of NATURA Foundation in Panama as a National Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund has been pivotal in starting to build local capacity to better address these issues.

NATURA Foundation was institutionally strengthened through the accreditation process with the Adaptation Fund in key processes related to its quality management system, incorporating environmental and social safeguards, anti-corruption policies and a code of ethics. These are all tools that in terms of management enable NATURA to contribute to a better recognition and image, and its relationship with the community.

To counter the country's vulnerability to climate change, NATURA Foundation developed a US\$ 9.9 million project funded by the Adaptation Fund that puts water management at the center of its adaptation efforts. It promotes climate change resilience and reduces vulnerability in communities by enhancing food and energy security based on an integrated

water resources management approach that highlights the nexus of water, energy, food and climate change adaptation. The project focuses activities in two river watersheds, Chiriquí Viejo and Santa María, both prioritized in light of their water resources, importance for energy and food production at a national scale, and the existence of unresolved issues among water users.

The formative stages of the project proposal were coordinated and jointly worked on with key stakeholders, particularly key authorities from various sectors such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agricultural Development, the Panamanian Electric Transmission Company, and the National Civil Protection System, as well as public consultations in the project areas, generating an enriching process of contributions. The proposal was based on and aligned with public policies, in particular the National Water, Safety Plan (2015–2050), Integrated Water Resources Program (2010–2030), and the Energy Plan and the National Agricultural Pact.

A key aspect of the project's integrity has been NATURA Foundation's transparency in consulting with local stakeholders through public meetings and interviews during the development of the project proposal. Climate-vulnerable communities in the country had been under siege in recent

years from increased storm intensity and it was particularly useful to get their input.

"The strong breezes damaged everything that was part of a structure and indoor production. The strong winds also did damage to small fruits to the point that they were not in condition to be sold in the market," said María Quiel, a tomato producer in the Chiriquí Viejo Watershed during a public consultation as the project was being developed. "After that also came a plague to the same fruit, it attacked the leaves. After the heavy rains again the breezes came. By that time the harvest was almost completely lost. Tomatoes started to crack up. The breeze tumbled the tomatoes and fruits. We are talking about 4,800 plants that used to produce about 200 to 300 quintals and now we only managed to harvest approximately 100 quintals. The whole production was only losses, no gain. The previous year we didn't have such strong wind and unexpected rains. The radical changes in the rains and wind affected our production."

Quiel and other vulnerable community members would soon get the help they had been seeking. In March 2017 the project proposal was approved by the Adaptation Fund Board. It will strengthen local and national capacity in the use of better

tools and good practices where the water, energy and food security sectors meet. It will positively impact critical sectors such as agriculture, livestock and energy generation to adapt to climate change and manage risk in priority watersheds in Panama. As a result of implementing the Adaptation Fund program, Panama will have greater resilience to climate change in the Chiriquí Viejo and Santa María river watersheds.

“

The radical changes in the rains and wind affected our production.

—MARÍA QUIEL

”



⌘ Coffee farmer, Ms. Carmencita Tedman MacIntyre, Public consultation in Chiriquí Viejo Watershed. Plenary session. Photo by Fundación Natura.



⌘ Tomato production in Caisan subwatershed, Chiriquí Viejo Watershed in Panama. Photo by Fundación Natura.



⌘ *Public consultation with communities in Chiriqui Viejo Watershed. Work group session. Photo by Fundación Natura*



Building Resilience in Coastal Communities



MONICA TANUHANDARU

Executive Director

Partnership for Governance Reform in Indonesia (Kemitraan)

The risks of climate change for Indonesia's population are high, particularly in coastal areas with low socio-economic capacity. Many poor communities often do not have adequate resources to find innovative solutions and alternative livelihoods to sea-level rise, higher tides and extreme weather.

Java's northern coast repeatedly suffers from adverse climate change impacts. Sea level rise in this region is between 6-10 millimeters a year. High population density and rapid urban development has made Pekalongan City, located on the northern coast of Java, highly vulnerable to climate change impacts compared to other cities. In 2050, the maximum water level inundation could reach 135 centimeters, affecting up to 1,295 hectares (ha) of residential area, 507 ha of paddy fields and 230 ha of wetlands and fish ponds. This represents 51 percent of the city's administrative jurisdiction, with Pekalongan Utara sub-district experiencing the most severe impacts.

Accreditation to the Adaptation Fund as a national implementing entity for the Partnership for Governance Reform in Indonesia (Kemitraan) opens opportunities for Indonesia's entities to play a pivotal role in providing much-needed support to Indonesia's local communities to adapt

to climate change and improve livelihoods. The first project (proposal being developed for approval) involves vulnerable communities in nine Pekalongan Utara villages on the northern coast of Java. Communities will be in the driver's seat leading the way for this project in climate risk assessment, adaptation strategy, livelihood strategy development and adaptation implementation in their own villages, based on local wisdom.

Beneficiaries will include 9,300 flood-prone households, including 13,700 fishermen and farmers. As women constitute half of the population, women-headed households would also benefit from the project. The project will also enhance local government capacities in mainstreaming climate change adaptation and resilience strategy into development planning to ensure that benefits sustain well beyond the life of the project.



Targeting Water and Agriculture in Vulnerable Communities



AHMAD ABDEL-FATTAH, PHD

Project Manager

Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan

Jordan is strengthening the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities through innovative projects in water and agriculture supported by the Adaptation Fund. These efforts build on the country's continuous commitment toward climate change adaptation that started 25 years ago when Jordan was the fourth Arab country to sign the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and then became the second Arab nation to ratify the convention on November 12, 1993.

The Adaptation Fund's contribution to Jordan of US\$ 9.2 million will help alleviate the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly on the country's scarce water resources and vulnerable agriculture sector. This continuing role of the Adaptation Fund in the global climate finance landscape will enable Jordan to mainstream its efforts towards fulfilling the objectives of its sustainability plans.

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) is the national implementing entity (NIE) for the program, which has 10 executing entities (EEs). Through the Adaptation Fund, MoPIC is further contributing to building organizational and national capacity to adapt to climate change. It hired and incubated a Project Management Unit (PMU) to supervise implementation, which effectively began work on November 20, 2016. The PMU prepared a robust work plan for the first year of the execution phase of the

program involving all focal points of EEs. Further, the PMU has engaged all focal points/project coordinators of EEs in a tailored Project Management Professional training course. The PMU has already started field visits to sub-projects to ensure outcomes of baseline assessments are in line with the needs of local communities .

As of June 2017, the first major water harvesting structure proposed in one of the sub-projects was under tendering. The program aims through its first component to support climate change adaptation of the agricultural and water sectors through technology transfer (the use of non-conventional water resources: reuse of wastewater; rainwater harvesting; and permaculture). Through its second component, the program aims at strengthening adaptation capacities at both the national and local/community levels, disseminating knowledge and mainstreaming policy and legislation.



⌘ A photo just at the fence of the wastewater treatment plant that is the main target of the sub-project “Tal El Mantah Wastewater Treatment Plant Wastewater Reuse Project”. The site that is being pointed out to by the Program Manager in the picture is the 150-dunum (15-acre) land proposed to be irrigated with the produced started water to cultivate for the first time alfalfa (clover), a challenge that is facing some health and social-related concern. The thin dark green line in the very far top part of the background are trees along the Jordan River. The main beneficiaries are members of Water Users Associations and / or potential investors in treated wastewater-irrigated crops.



⌘ The first meeting of all coordinators of sub-projects of Jordan Adaptation Fund’s Programme held at MoPIC to launch the workplans and the development process.



⌘ A photo near the site of proposed water harvesting project titled “Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Through Water Harvesting Technologies in Poverty Pockets”. Flood water is mostly lost by evaporation; it is estimated that the volume of water lost in this manner exceeds all the utilized sources of water in the country, so harvesting part of this water should be a priority. Historically, agriculture using surface run-off and rainwater harvesting techniques was extensively practiced as early as 4000 years ago in Jordan. Rainfall variability is high in addition to the trend of decreasing rainfall amounts resulting from climatic change. Jordan faces long-term challenges due to increasing frequency of drought and the impact of climate change during the last three decades on available water resources. The beneficiaries of this sub-project will be farmers of southern Jordan valley in targeted poverty pockets of the country



The Sahara and Sahel Observatory as a Regional Actor for Climate Change Adaptation



NABIL BEN KHATRA
Environment Program Coordinator
Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)



HARTMUT SCHIFFERER
Climate Change Expert
Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)



HABIBA KHIARI
Environmentalist
Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

The most vulnerable countries related to climate change and climate variability are located in Africa. The Circum-Sahara Zone is affected by increases of temperatures and extremely variable precipitations.

Climate change and variability are considered major threats to sustainable development in this region, where a subsistence economy relies on natural resources and the adaptive capacity of its inhabitants. Adaptation actions are necessary in order to cope with these challenges and to safeguard both natural resources and people's lives.

Since its foundation in 1992, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel, or OSS), a regional platform for North-South-South partnerships, has been supporting African member countries to address environmental issues as part of a long-term sustainable development vision for the Circum-Sahara. This international organization carried out numerous activities to improve climate change adaptation and initiated mutual processes

for the identification of countries' needs. These efforts led to the development of methodologies and tools to address drought, early warning systems (EWS) and climate change vulnerability mapping.

At the strategic level, OSS has developed a set of reference documents for decision-makers such as a comprehensive framework on climate change for Africa, developed for the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN).

As an accredited Regional Implementation Entity of the Adaptation Fund, OSS is supporting its member countries in developing climate change adaptation projects through activities at national and regional levels, while tackling various sectors like watershed management, fisheries, aquaculture, biodiversity, pastoralism and construction.

Furthermore, OSS is currently implementing a US\$ 7.8 million Adaptation Fund-supported project entitled, *'Enhancing resilience of communities to climate change through catchment-based integrated management of water and related resources in Uganda'*. The objective of the project is to increase resilience of vulnerable communities concerning risks of flooding and landslides in the Awoja, Maziba and Aswa catchment basins of Uganda.

Besides this, the Adaptation Fund Board has endorsed a project concept note on the W-Arly-Pendjari Transboundary Complex, shared by Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger which was recently classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This regional project aims to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and to improve populations' livelihoods through the establishment of multi-risk EWS and the implementation of adaptation measures.

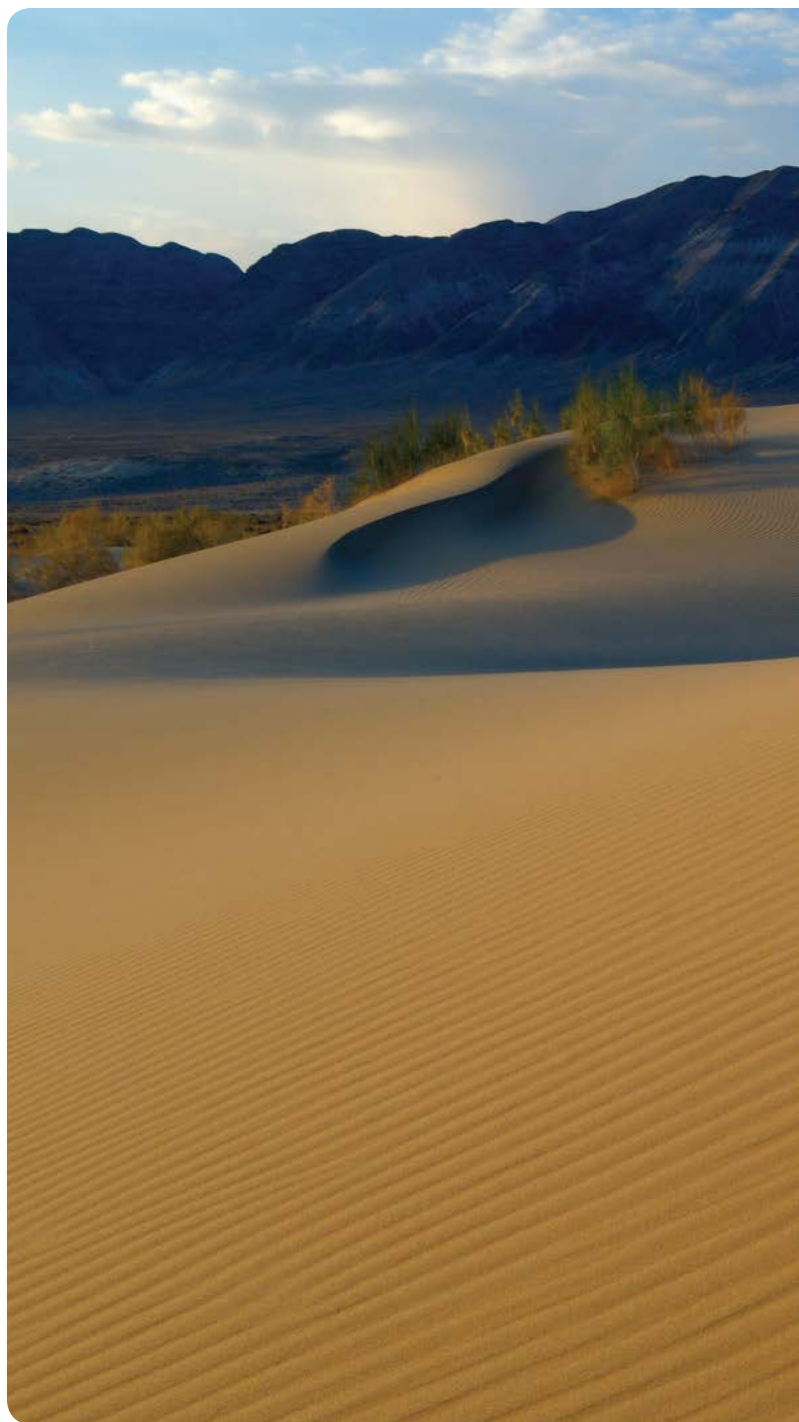
Currently OSS is working on several other concept notes with a dozen different institutions in West, Central, and East Africa. This is part of OSS's support to its member countries for sustainable development and for getting increased access to climate finance, which is essential for strengthening the resilience to climate change.

The OSS would like to take this opportunity to thank the Adaptation Fund and its Board for the trust they have shown, as well as for the renewed accreditation as a regional implementing entity.

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Adaptation actions are necessary in order to cope with these (climate) challenges and to safeguard both natural resources and people's lives.

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⌘ Desert dune, Shutterstock/Nurlan Kalchinov





PLANNING INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA (PIOJ) –
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (NIE) FOR JAMAICA

Small Farmers in Vulnerable Communities Reap Big Harvests from Game-Changing Adaptation Fund Programme



CLAIRE BERNARD

Deputy Director General
Planning Institute of Jamaica



SHELIA MCDONALD-MILLER

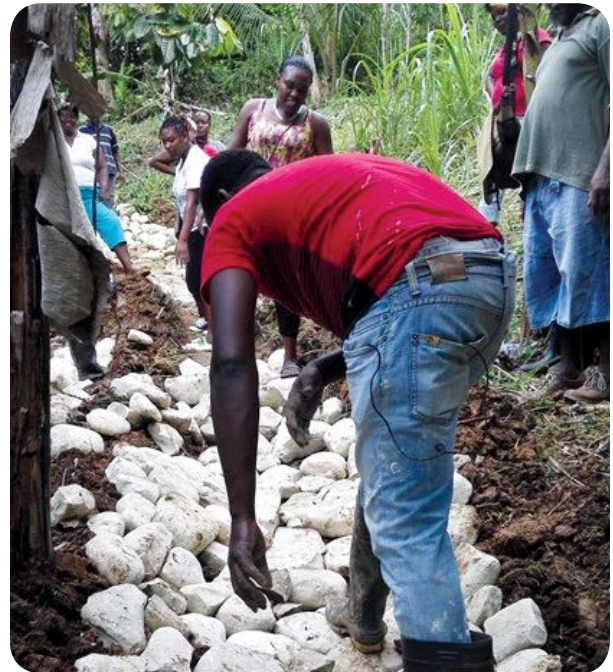
Programme Manager
Government of Jamaica/Adaptation
Fund Programme
Planning Institute of Jamaica

More than 2,500 farmers and their families in highly vulnerable communities are breaking the cycle of poverty using new techniques learned under the Government of Jamaica/Adaptation Fund Programme (GOJ/AFP) to produce bumper crops and increase earnings.

Under implementation since 2013 by the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the accredited National Implementation Entity of the Adaptation Fund for Jamaica, the project has been commended for its successful impact. The project, “Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security”, has been hailed by Donovan Stanberry, Permanent Secretary in Jamaica’s Agriculture Ministry as a “game-changer” for the targeted channeling of technical support and funding resources to farmers in over 200 farming communities and in the government’s agro-parks.

“The impact of the programme has been remarkable... nothing short of a game-changer for us. The interventions in land husbandry and water harvesting have worked well, and it is now heartwarming to hear the farmers consistently using the term ‘smart agriculture’ to describe their new approach to farming”, said Mr. Stanberry.

In the face of Jamaica’s high vulnerability to climate-related hazards, the components of the project have focused on building institutional and local capacity for climate change adaptation, and protecting livelihoods and improving food security in vulnerable communities.



⌘ Farmer Stanford Ellis helping to construct a Ballasted Waterway to minimize soil erosion.

GOJ/AFP Programme Manager, Shelia McDonald-Miller is pleased with the programme's contribution and impact and points to the value of partnership in achieving programme outcomes.

"By working together we achieved tangible results on the ground over the implementation period of the Programme. Investments of over US\$ 3 million have resulted in positive economic impact on livelihoods and greater food security; improvements in land and water management as well as Disaster Risk Reduction training, Business Continuity Planning, and climate change education. All this has led to more empowered and knowledgeable communities."

Concrete results of the GOJ/AFP include:

- 7,500 tons of crops reaped from 909 hectares and support to 15 school gardens to improve food security;
- 220 gravity drip irrigation systems, 11 land husbandry demonstration plots, farmer field school training and the establishment/formalization of 21 Water Users Groups to enhance land and water management.

Mr. I.W. Wilson, Manager of the agricultural component of the project, cites improved community resilience and prosperity as hallmarks of the programme. Using farmers' crop reports he estimates that sales and earnings have exceeded JMD\$1 billion to date.

"Jamaica's farmers made a success of this Adaptation Fund programme, and we are confident that they will continue to improve their livelihoods," added Mr. Wilson.

In lauding the support of the Adaptation Fund, Claire Bernard, Deputy Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica cited the enduring legacy being left by the GOJ/AFP.

"This programme made measurable impact: it improved local capacity, reduced vulnerabilities, fostered community empowerment, increased awareness of the environment and climate change and built more climate-resilient communities", she affirmed.

We express our appreciation to the Adaptation Fund for providing these resources to facilitate the implementation of options that are integral to building the climate resilience of our country.

“

This programme made measurable impact: it improved local capacity, reduced vulnerabilities, fostered community empowerment, increased awareness of the environment and climate change and built more climate-resilient communities.

—CLAIRE BERNARD

Deputy Director General of the
Planning Institute of Jamaica

”



⌘ Water Harvesting infrastructure installed by the GOJ/AFP to assist farmers.



⌘ Mr. I.W. Wilson making a presentation on climate change to students of the Port Morant Primary and Junior High School in Jamaica.



⌘ Farmers in Jamaica preparing compost heap.



⌘ Farmers in Woodside, St Mary, proudly displaying some of their land husbandry tools.



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE (SANBI) —
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (NIE) FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Empowering Rural Small Farmers Through Localized Projects



MANDY BARNETT
Executive Director
South African National Biodiversity
Institute (SANBI)



MPFUNZENI TSHINDANE
Project Officer, Climate Funds Unit
South African National Biodiversity
Institute (SANBI)

The Adaptation Fund has strengthened SANBI's experiences in building local and organizational capacities to adapt to climate change impacts.

SANBI is South Africa's National Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund, with two projects under implementation:

- "Building resilience in the greater uMngeni catchment" project (US\$ 7,495,055) aims to increase resilience of vulnerable communities in a catchment that provides water to two of South Africa's large cities.
- "Taking adaptation to the ground: a small grants facility for enabling local level responses to climate change in South Africa" (US\$ 2,442,682) provides small grants that enable vulnerable communities to directly implement local adaptation responses.

Through implementation of the projects, SANBI has learned valuable and rewarding lessons regarding unlocking pathways for climate change adaptation finance in South Africa.

The "Taking adaptation to the ground" Small Grants Facility (SGF) project has supported local organizations to identify and respond to climate-driven impacts that have negatively affected their settlements, agricultural practices and livelihoods. The project has and continues to provide training in project development, implementation, reporting on safeguards risk assessment and monitoring and evaluation

tools. To date, the project has approved nine small grants projects across two District Municipalities. These will provide concrete tangible benefits to about 2,488 direct beneficiaries.

Some beneficiaries can be found in the community of Suid Bokkeveld in Nieuwoudtville, where Katriena Fortuin has had difficulties with household water scarcity. She could not water her plants and also have enough water for her domestic use. The change in rainfall patterns, seasonal shifts and drought have exacerbated Katriena's water problems. Through the SGF project, Katriena has been among beneficiaries who have installed water harvesting infrastructure for her domestic use. The project made a significant difference in Katriena's life and family because she now harvests rainwater that is also used for her home garden.

Meanwhile, Katrina Schwartz, a livestock farmer who has been involved in the Savings and Credit Groups (SCGs) initiated by Save Act in the village of Leliefontein on the Northern Cape, has been impacted by climate change through the loss of her livestock due to heat stress. Through the SCGs and the Small Grant project, Katrina has diversified her source of income through savings and now has more disposable cash to improve her livelihood and become more resilient to climate change.

«« Winnett Sibongile Dihadla from Swayimani, South Africa, applying new small scale farming techniques which have substantially increased her maize production in the uMngeni resilience project. Photo by Christine Cuenod (UKZN Friends of Agriculture)

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Farmers have been supported to implement climate smart agricultural techniques, which have resulted in the increase in food and livelihood production.

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BUILDING RESILIENCE IN uMNGENI

Through the implementation of the 'Building resilience in the greater uMngeni catchment' project, rural subsistence farmers in Swayimane have started benefiting from the project's agricultural component. Most of the farmers in the region depend on maize, beans, sweet potato, green pepper and "Amadube" (taro) small-scale farming. The farmers have been supported to implement climate smart agricultural techniques, which have resulted in the increase in food and livelihood production.

Experiences among uMngeni Resilience Project beneficiaries are reflected in small farmers like Mrs. Xaba, who has endured changes in rainfall patterns that have made it very hard to identify suitable dates for the maize growing season in Swayimane. But through the uMngeni Resilience Project interventions, she has gained useful knowledge on future weather patterns, which have informed her maize planting dates. Advice from the agricultural extension officers on rainfall patterns protected her crops from being washed away by heavy rainfall. This has increased her maize yields and income generation produced from selling surplus yields.

The changing rainfall patterns have similarly affected Mr. Joseph Ncube, who has learned through the project of the opportunities provided in night mist to help grow his crops. Through interacting closely with the uMngeni Resilience Project team, improvements to his maize and vegetable garden have helped him increase production of both maize and beans. The project has also helped him save money on buying seeds for his vegetable garden.

The projects that have been supported by the Adaptation Fund have significantly increased country ownership of the climate change agenda in South Africa from national, district and local levels through its bottom up project identification, design and implementation approach.

SANBI is very grateful to the Adaptation Fund for the opportunity to partner with it, and for the support that has been provided to grow SANBI's institutional and technical capacity to administer funding for climate change adaptation interventions.



⌘ Katriena Fortuin with rainwater harvesting tank to support her family in managing water scarcity in South Africa. Photo by Siya Myeza, Environmental Monitoring Group



⌘ Katrina Schwartz is a livestock farmer who has been involved in the Savings and Credit Groups (SCG's) initiated by Save Act in the village of Leliefontein, Northern Cape, South Africa. Photo by Rouchette Daniels, Conservation South Africa.



⌘ Lungeleni Sibiyi is from Swayimani and is a small scale beans, mealies, potatoes and amadumbe (taro) local root vegetables farmer. Photo by Christine Cuenod

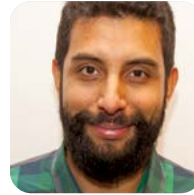


UNIT FOR RURAL CHANGE (UCAR) –
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (NIE) FOR ARGENTINA

Building Climate Change Resilience of Small Farmers in Northeast Argentina



SOLEDAD MOREIRAS
Environmental and Social Management Unit
Unit for Rural Change (UCAR)



JORGE ARIAS ALMONACID
Environmental and Social Management Unit
Unit for Rural Change (UCAR)

To address a noticeable increase in recent years of frequent and intense floods, droughts and water deficits affecting the lives of Argentina's small-scale agricultural producers that are predominant in the northeastern part of the country, the Adaptation Fund's accredited National Implementing Entity for Argentina (the Unit for Rural Change, or UCAR) began to implement the country's first climate change adaptation project just a few short years ago.

In October 2013, UCAR started the implementation of the 4½-year project funded by the Adaptation Fund, *“Enhancing the adaptive capacity and increasing resilience of small-size agricultural producers of the Northeast of Argentina.”*

One of the main challenges consisted in understanding the new role of UCAR as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Fund, along with the responsibility enabled by ‘Direct Access’ to the funding potential that goes with it. [The Adaptation Fund pioneered Direct Access, which gives developing countries the opportunity to access climate finance and develop projects directly through the Fund's accredited NIEs while building their own capacity to adapt to climate change].

In order to achieve its climate adaptation goals, UCAR's first milestone was the creation of strategic partnerships within UCAR itself and with a number of executing agencies to help with carrying out the project: the National Institute of Agriculture and Livestock Technology (INTA), Agriculture

and Livestock Risk Office (ORA); and National Direction of Climate Change (DNCC).

Establishing a climate change approach among public staff and technicians was another important challenge. Public staff had long experience in the field within agricultural production development, but little practice in the consideration of the climate change approach in the diagnosis and formulation of projects. As a result, important efforts were made to enhance capacities of staff and technicians in this field, as well as to disseminate information regarding activities and achievements of the project.

After four years of project implementation, more than 1,100 families, 10 schools and one orphanage have benefited from access to safe water. As a result, women have improved their quality of life, due to saving roughly four hours a day in the transportation of water. Furthermore, the health of the whole family and the attendance of children at school have also improved. Another 100 additional families and two

schools benefited from livestock and improved agricultural practices. The project also implemented a Pilot Insurance for Greenhouse Horticulture program aimed at smallholders in the Province of Corrientes. This benefited more than 580 families during the first stage, and another 660 families this year. It was an innovation for the country and a success verified by the high acceptance rate of the product among reinsurance companies.

Another major achievement is the development of improved agro-climatic information systems for decision-making through the increased placement and density within the community of agro meteorological stations, along with the

integration of existing climate information networks among public and private institutions.

The use of national technologies that are appropriate for the territory, and the focus on capacity-building among beneficiaries and public staff ensure the sustainability and replicability of the project. As a result of direct access, UCAR, public staff and technicians from the participating institutions have gained experience, learned significant lessons and created strategic alliances. Thus, important capacities have been strengthened to continue working and implementing projects in adaptation and mitigation to climate change.



⌘ Beneficiaries of the project located in the province of Chaco, in the middle of construction of a cistern of 16,000 liters, destined to the capture of rainwater. Photo by Rodrigo Alonso, (UCAR)



⌘ Beneficiaries of the project located in the province of Chaco, in the middle of construction of a cistern of 16,000 liters, destined to the capture of rainwater. Photo by Rodrigo Alonso



⌘ Three beneficiaries of the project, based in the province of Chaco, with one of the wells built by the project.



⌘ UCAR-Argentina project photos by Rodrigo Alonso



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP),
MULTILATERAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY – CAMBODIA

Rural Communities in Cambodia Find Ways to Overcome Impacts of Climate Change



UN ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Ministry of Environment in Cambodia, Executing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Cambodia Project

Fruit trees pepper the homesteads, fish swim among the rice stalks in paddy fields, and stout chickens run around the village of Chiork Boeungprey, located within Boeungper Wildlife Sanctuary in Cambodia.

Villagers here plant rice and cashew trees, raise livestock and carry out odd jobs for a living. They also protect a 2,000 ha patch of forest—one of 27 such Community Protected Areas (CPAs) within the wildlife sanctuary—that provides them with a sustainable supply of resin and other non-timber forest products.

Over the past few years, the villagers began noticing changes in the climate, which have brought more extensive flooding and drought, reducing their crop yields and forcing them to strip their forests to provide things like firewood.

“The seasonal rainfalls have changed and the heat waves are getting hotter,” said Sieng Houy, a farmer in the village.

In 2013, after a country-wide assessment highlighted the vulnerability of the region to climate change, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP, a multilateral implementing entity accredited with the Adaptation Fund) started to work with villagers to build their resilience to the changes brought about by global warming.

The project, *Enhancing Climate Change Resilience of Rural Communities living in Protected Areas in Cambodia*, funded

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The nursery gives this community hope. We used the seedlings to reforest our environment, and the fruit trees and vegetables from my home garden give us food and nutrients daily.

—SVAY KHIN

Long-time resident of
Chiork Boeungprey

”

by a US\$ 4.9 million grant from the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UNEP, intensifies agricultural production well beyond the protected areas, improves food security, increases income, and rehabilitates degraded forest, thus ensuring the sustainable supply of essential ecosystem goods and services.

Work on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) to address climate change is a priority at UN Environment, which supports countries at all levels to help them achieve ecologically sound, resilient development.

The project team began with construction of a tree nursery, and since then more than 902,364 trees have been planted throughout the pilot project sites. The nursery's sunny but sheltered interior is filled with rows of seedlings of indigenous trees meant for forest rehabilitation, and clutches of baby fruit trees destined for homesteads, to bring even greater food security.

“

The tube wells the project installed guarantee water supply for our home gardens, family livestock farming and household use, and the chickens we are raising have given my family financial security.

—SVAY KHIN
LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF CHIORK
BOEUNGPREY

”

Alongside the nursery, villagers gather in the newly built community hall to share new farming practices and share successes and lessons of what has or hasn't worked in their home gardens.

The village has become a living example of successful community-based adaptation, regularly visited by university students from Phnom Penh.

“The nursery gives this community hope. We used the seedlings to reforest our environment, and the fruit trees and vegetables from my home garden give us food and nutrients daily,” said 71-year-old Svay Khin, a long-time resident of Chiork Boeungprey, who has seen the onset of climate change reduce his rice yields.

Both the nursery and community hall are cornerstones of the project, which is carried out by Cambodia's Ministry of Environment in cooperation with UN Environment. It is funded by the Adaptation Fund, which was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to finance country-led projects that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change.

Recently, this particular project has seen more than 500 home gardens established, approximately 5,000 community members trained in a variety of relevant skills and more than 300 households gain improved access to water through extensive development of infrastructure for water resources.

Khin has observed the benefits of the training he has received in the last three years. “The tube wells the project installed guarantee water supply for our home gardens, family livestock farming and household use, and the chickens we are raising have given my family financial security,” he advised.

The project is one within a diverse portfolio that UN Environment manages, working with governments to shape and implement plans to respond to and buffer against current and future impacts of climate change that are specific to their countries and vulnerable communities. Since major and often-overlooked impacts of climate change are socioeconomic, the project also has a focus on enriching community interaction and collaborative stewardship in the protected areas of the communities.



⌘ Educational school visits to the nursery. Photo by Cambodia project management team



⌘ Mr. Ouk Navann, project manager of the Cambodia Ministry of Environment, which executes the Adaptation Fund project, working the nursery trees. Photo by Cambodia project management team



⌘ Planting trees. Photo by Cambodia project management team



⌘ Community involvement in managing the nursery. Photo by Ouk Navann



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UN-Habitat Salutes Adaptation Fund



ROBERT KEHEW

Leader
Climate Change Planning Unit
Urban Planning and Design Branch
UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat congratulates the Adaptation Fund on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Within the global climate finance architecture, the Adaptation Fund plays a vital role in funding projects that address climate resilience. Moreover, the Fund has accumulated impressive cutting-edge knowledge on how to help hard-to-reach vulnerable populations adapt to climate change.

As the UN entity mandated to promote a better urban future, UN-Habitat is particularly concerned with assisting one of those vulnerable populations: the urban poor in developing countries. All too often, marginalized urban populations are crowded into flood- or landslide-prone informal settlements; problems of exposure are exacerbated by underlying conditions such as poverty, lack of secure tenure and access to basic services. Such settlements may not even appear on the official maps of a city.

Poor human settlements in rural areas also suffer from severe vulnerabilities. It is just such vulnerable village populations that UN-Habitat is assisting in a project funded by the Adaptation Fund in Lao PDR. This project, launched in early 2017, aims to increase the resilience of the most vulnerable settlements in the impoverished southern provinces of the country. In addition to the risk of exposure to climate-related natural disasters such as floods, droughts and landslides, 60 percent of the inhabitants in targeted villages are living in poverty. Access to basic services, including potable water, is very low. This concentration of issues results in problems such as climate-related diseases and other health issues.

At the same time, these human settlements are scattered, leading to access and delivery challenges.

To help ensure that inhabitants are protected against future floods, droughts, landslides and climate change-related diseases, the project will develop protective infrastructure and enhance access to clean water and other basic services. Innovative designs and the siting of interventions in low-risk locations will help ensure that such services remain accessible even during disasters. To identify these “safe” locations and to respond appropriately to climate change impacts, teams are assessing vulnerabilities and mapping risks; they are gauging the current capacities of local authorities; and they are building their planning capacities. The implementing team will work closely with community members to use local knowledge to ground-truth scientific projections, prioritize actions and develop local resilience strategies and action plans.

UN-Habitat looks forward to continuing to partner with the Adaptation Fund in coming years to assist some of the most vulnerable populations on the planet—the urban poor—to adapt to climate change.



⌘ Saravane area of Lao PDR.



⌘ Attapeu Province in Lao PDR.



⌘ Attapeu Province of Lao PDR. The project is enhancing climate and disaster resilience of vulnerable settlements by increasing sustainable access to basic infrastructure systems and services. Photos courtesy of UN-Habitat.



⌘ Community-based Adaptation Fund projects aimed at enhancing access to clean water and basic services in Lao PDR. It is funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UN-Habitat.



Building Climate Resiliency with UNDP



PRADEEP KURUKULASURIYA

Head of Climate Change Adaptation
Global Environmental Finance Unit
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

Since its inception, the Adaptation Fund has provided critical support for climate resilient development strategies across the globe. Working through agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), governments across the globe have accessed Adaptation Fund finance to reduce climate change risks and build more climate resilient nations.

This work has been a key driver over the past 10 years in protecting Small Island Developing States, supporting climate-smart agriculture, ensuring long-term food security for vulnerable populations, and promoting the effective management of natural resources.

With financing and support from the Adaptation Fund, UNDP works with national governments to identify, design and implement interventions that are needed to achieve the goals set out through the Paris Agreements, 2030 Agenda and other global accords.

In the end, the collaboration between the Adaptation Fund, UNDP, national governments and local beneficiaries is about reducing risks, building and strengthening institutions, and supporting vulnerable communities in effectively and efficiently managing the uncertain future that climate change brings.

Many developing countries are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Droughts, floods and changing rainfall patterns are compounding factors in water shortages and hunger, which in turn have cascading effects including

migration. These are very real and present threats that require immediate action. Continued financial support especially for those countries bearing the brunt of impacts is important. Catalyzing finance, especially from the private sector, to affect behavioral change at scale is also critical. Left unchecked, these climatic challenges threaten to unravel efforts to build a more peaceful, more secure, more equal world.

Current Adaptation Fund-financed climate change adaptation initiatives are being implemented by national governments with the support of UNDP worldwide. Adaptation Fund-financed climate change adaptation initiatives have been completed or are being implemented by national governments with the support of UNDP in Colombia, the Cook Islands, Cuba, Djibouti, Eritrea, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Continuing this partnership, a number of interesting Adaptation Fund-financed projects are also being developed by national governments in coordination with UNDP.

The impact of Adaptation Fund finance is most apparent when one looks at the way lives and livelihoods have been positively affected, how certain parts of the Earth have transformed to resist the impacts of climate change, and how local cultures, economies and institutions have grown strong roots to withstand the stormy and unfavorable winds of change.

In Mauritius for instance, Adaptation Fund financing has been used to plant 20,000 mangrove plants that will function to protect the coastline from erosion. Dual benefits of adaptation and livelihood options are promoted by also creating new economic opportunities through ecotourism.

With financing from the Adaptation Fund and support from UNDP, the Government of Myanmar is helping rural villagers living in drought-stricken areas to collect and store water, rehabilitate landscapes of 4,200 hectares of micro-watersheds and support community-based agro forestry, taking climate change risks into account.

Building on strategies based on the principles of local empowerment and ecosystem-based approaches, these types of projects are making key technical investments toward ensuring that climate change risks are integrated

into improved water supply systems, expanded agro-forestry services, diversified livestock, watershed and soil conservation, while promoting climate-resilient livelihoods that permit the diversification and reduction of risks.

In the Pacific, Samoa has made use of financing from the Adaptation Fund to build the resilience of coastal communities to the impacts of climate change in a range of practical ways. Among them are updated and 'climate-proofed' independent-water-scheme water storage and supply systems for the villages of Maasina, Lelea, Sili and Lona; a new 1.4km road connecting the villages of Neiafu, Falealupu Tai, Falealupu Uta and Tufutafoe to inland areas. When extreme weather events manifest now, people are informed in advance to move away from vulnerable coastal areas. The construction of a rock and seawall now protects community assets from increasingly intensifying hazards such as waves, storm surges and coastal floods.

The ongoing commitment of UNDP through its partnership with countries worldwide and financial institutions like the Adaptation Fund is to connect people, ideas, new technology, innovative ways of doing things and financial support to build a world where vulnerable people can build resilience to a changing climate and thrive in the 21st Century.



∞ UNDP in Guatemala. The Guatemala project is providing climate-resilient ecosystem management and production practices that reduce the vulnerability of communities. Photo courtesy of UNDP



⌘ UNDP in Guatemala. Chocolate farmers in Guatemala. UNDP photo



⌘ UNDP in Turkmenistan.



⌘ UNDP in Guatemala, site of one of several AF-financed UNDP projects.



The Importance of Stakeholder Engagement for Behavioral Change



DR. ITHAR KHALIL
Program Officer
WFP Egypt Country Office
Climate Change and Resilience Building

Southern Egypt is one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change within the region. More than 90% of Egypt is desert and the agricultural land base totals about 3.5 million hectares—just 3.5% of the total land area. Some 46% of households in Southern Egypt currently live below the national poverty line. What’s more, the region stands to lose up to 30% of its food production by 2050 as a result of the impact of climate change.

To address this challenge, the project “Building resilient food security systems to benefit the Southern Egypt region” financed by the Adaptation Fund takes an integrated approach, building adaptive capacity at national and community levels to provide food-insecure people with the knowledge, skills and tools to build their own climate resilience.

When the project was conceived, it was clear that behavioral change was going to be a fundamental requirement in order to encourage communities to change centuries-old livelihoods. To date, the project has delivered concrete results and seen positive impacts in the community through its implementation. This in turn led to a scale-up of the initiative in regions around the existing project as well as plans to scale-up nationwide. Stakeholder engagement has been key for the successful implementation, community acceptance and scale-up of the project. The project adopted a participatory approach that engaged stakeholders throughout different phases to build ownership, encourage them to work collaboratively and enhance their capacities.

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

Stakeholders at the national, district and community levels have been involved from the very beginning (and continue to be) at the project identification and design stages to ensure project interventions were relevant to the existing context in terms of size, timeliness and capacity to absorb. The concept note was finalized through extensive consultations at the national level with the Ministry of Agriculture, while the development of the full proposal took into close consideration the adaptation gaps and needs of the communities.

This involvement has ensured national stakeholder engagement and commitment to the successful implementation of the project. Such close collaboration has also ensured learning and replication of best practices and skills development, for example through adopting new techniques (raised bed cultivation), rescheduling irrigation, using heat-tolerant crop varieties and changing sowing dates in wheat production through the National Wheat Campaign.

“The integrated set of solutions of the project have offered great assistance to the vulnerable smallholders in their battle against climate change. The way in which several stakeholders were engaged in the planning and implementation is also very commendable as climate change is a complex issue that no one entity can resolve on its own,” said Eng. Khaled Abdel Rady, Director of Agriculture in Luxor.

The government is now including the project interventions as key pillars of the National Adaptation Plan that is being developed.

Estimation of wheat yield from the project sites in Negoe’ Kebly, Esna district of Luxor governorate. Photo: courtesy of Mr. Mohamed Mahdy



⌘ Estimation of wheat yield from the project sites in Negoe’ Kebly, Esna district of Luxor governorate. Photo by Mohamed Mahdy.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

The project engaged volunteers from each village to assist in awareness sessions, home visits and support to farmers in the climate information centers established by the project. They received training in computer skills, effective communication and community mobilization. Such activities not only enhanced their individual skills and experience, but also gave the project interventions a sense of local acceptance, ownership and sustainability. Training in project management skills, administration of revolving loans and strategic planning boosted the capacity of local NGOs.

Climate information centers were established in each village and units set up to manage the revolving loan scheme affiliated to the local NGOs. Due to the revolving

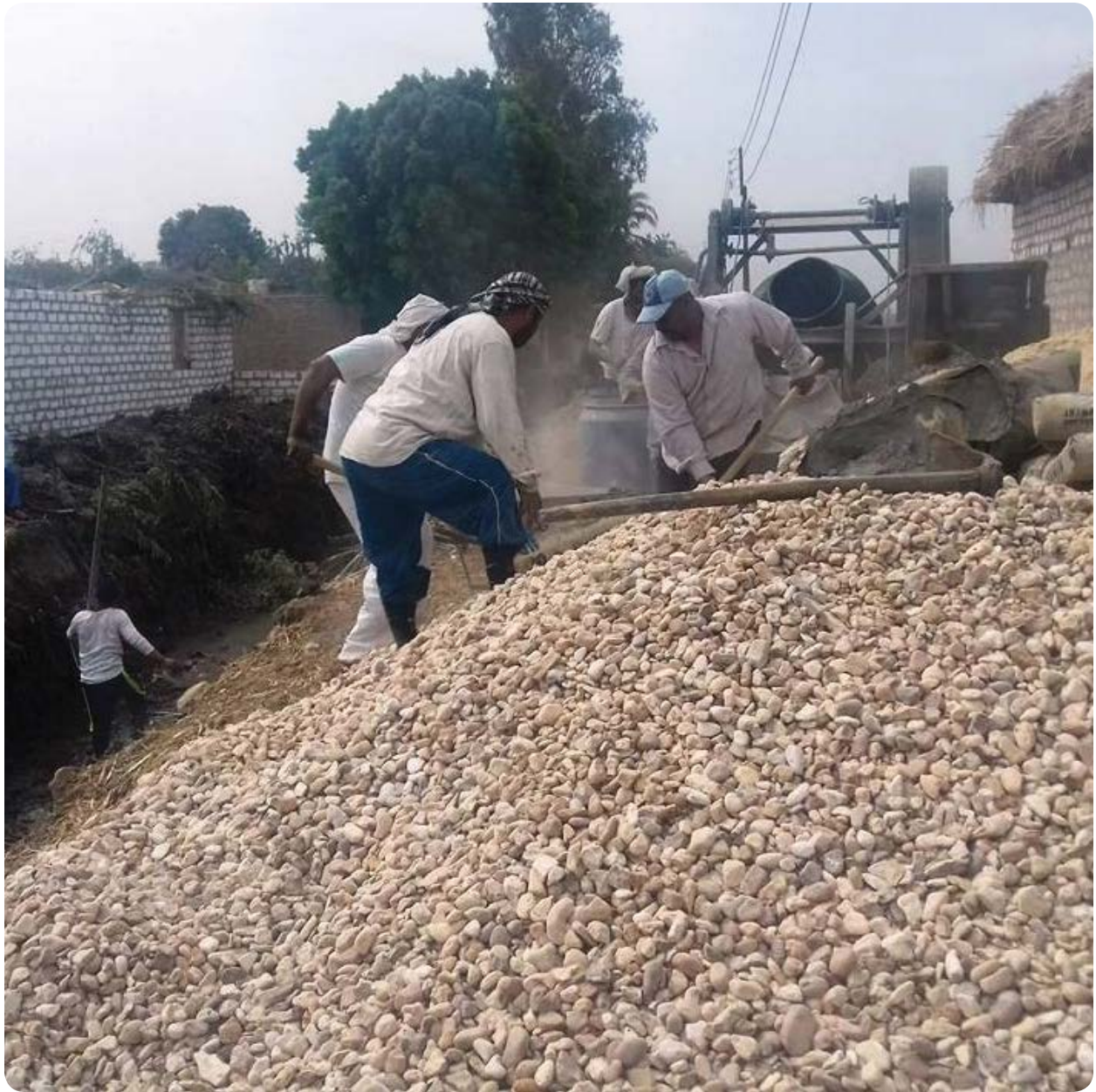
loans, vulnerable people (such as widows) who were the primary beneficiaries, were able to develop their own small businesses (selling clothes, handicrafts, etc.). Through word-of-mouth such success stories inspired other women to take the same course toward self-sufficiency and away from climate-sensitive livelihoods.

Another key element has been the incorporation of local cultures, traditions and norms in approaching the communities. For example, the project targeted women in the animal-lending activities, where their role is culturally accepted, to overcome the imbalance caused by the male dominance of land cultivation. This was vital to bring about a behavioral change among community members who had been practising their traditional livelihoods for centuries. Communities now plan the type of crops and the sowing and harvesting periods based on climate information. The spread of information by word of mouth was vital in securing the acceptance of groups of farmers of new adaptation practices. Early adopters and opinion formers were the first to share their success stories with other community members, thus leading to scale-up and replication of activities and ideas.

The Government of Egypt and the World Food Programme consider the project to be a major contribution to their efforts to build resilience and enhance food security of the most vulnerable communities in Egypt. This project is also widely acknowledged as a contributor to the fulfilment of the National Agriculture Strategy 2030 and the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.



⌘ A training session at Egypt project site in sustainable farming techniques and water management. Photo from Adaptation Fund project monitoring mission.



⌘ Through the “Building resilient food security systems to benefit the Southern Egypt region” project funded by the Adaptation Fund, communities now plan the type of crops and the sowing and harvesting periods based on climate information. Early adopters and opinion formers were the first to share their success stories with other community members, thus leading to scale-up and replication of activities and ideas. Pictured above, workers are improving Abu Abed Mesqa in Maharza, Abu Tesht district, Qena governorate. A monument was also unveiled to commemorate improvement of Geady Mesqa in Benban Bahary, Daraw district, Aswan governorate. Photo by Mrs. Eman Abderehim



Adapting to Climate Variability in a Transition Zone Between the Pampa and Patagonia, Argentina



THE WORLD BANK GROUP

Argentina is a global leader in food production, yet 75% of its territory is at risk from land degradation due to soil depletion and desertification.

Farmers in dry and semi-arid areas affected by climatic variability represent 30% of Argentina's population and account for approximately 50% of its agricultural and livestock production. To ensure food security and protect their livelihoods, these farmers require knowledge and resources to understand climatic risks they face and adapt to them through sustainable land management strategies.

In an agricultural-livestock region about the size of Belgium, located between the country's Pampa and Northern Patagonia regions, recurrent droughts combined with unsustainable agricultural practices have caused a serious loss of natural, financial and social capital. The loss manifests through increasing vulnerability of the productive environment, declining economic opportunities for the rural population, and migration to urban areas.

Thanks to a US\$ 4 million grant from the Adaptation Fund, a World Bank project implemented by the Argentina Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development helps to address these challenges through a three-pronged approach that builds awareness among farmers and local institutions about climate risks, introduces resilient and sustainable agricultural practices, and strengthens the enabling environment for adapting to climate change.

The project uses participatory planning processes to ensure stakeholder ownership of the activities. Farmers' active

involvement from the beginning in capacity-building efforts has proven to be a fundamental strength of the project strategy.

Today, groups of farmers carry out adaptation measures that they proposed for 11 sites. These include techniques to improve soil composition and promote natural recovery of rangeland by planting perennial grasses, as well as measures to restore productive ecosystems through forestation and piloting of alternative agro-ecological practices. Farmers are changing the way they use and manage their land by applying environmental criteria to determine the optimum uses and practices in differing areas, investing in efficient irrigation technology, and applying technologies to restore saline soils.

A key project achievement has been the development of a unique Early Warning and Information System for droughts that facilitates decision-making for farmers. By establishing a network of scientific, technological organizations and local Governments, short-and medium-term periodic agro-climatic forecasts are generated and disseminated by radio, local newspapers and social networks to present the projected rainfall, risk of erosion and pasture fires, as well as corresponding recommendations on preventive measures.

The experience gained through the project provides a wealth of useful lessons for similar projects and we look forward to sharing them!



Enhancing the Health of Belize's Coasts Through Ecosystem-Based Conservation and Adaptation



THE WORLD BANK GROUP



⌘ Coral nursery table at Calabash Caye, Turneffe Atoll. Photo by Lisa Carne

The Marine Conservation Climate Adaptation project (MCCAP), is a five-year US\$ 6 million coastal zone management project funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by the World Bank that has been carried out in Belize since July 2015.

The primary objective of the project is to implement priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate change adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System.

The health of Belize's coasts is critical to the local economy, including livelihoods in the fishing and tourism sectors. But it has been impacted by an increase in climate-induced storm surges. The project aims to enhance ecosystem function and climate resilience through recovery, restoration and reducing environmental degradation.

With a focus on improving the protection regime of marine and coastal ecosystems, project activities include the realignment of zones and increasing replenishment zones of three marine protected areas (MPAs): namely Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve and South Water Caye Marine Reserve. MCCAP currently collaborates with the three MPA managers and supports enforcement patrols in these areas. Six coral nursery tables have been planted in two of the MPAs to foster coral reef repopulation.

One of the strengths of the project is working with 12 fishing communities, which are affected users of the three MPAs, on the expansion of their replenishment zones. Users will not only be affected by this expansion but also must adapt to the effects of climate change in relation to their fisheries resources. The fishers that are users of these MPAs are

being engaged. They have been invited to apply for grants to engage in sub-project activities related to Tourism, Fisheries and Agriculture. Fishers of these communities have expressed their interest in diversifying into seaweed farming and deep slope fishing. Other fishers are interested in going into agriculture diversification. MCCAP will provide technical assistance for them to farm climate change resilient crops that will not require too much water for growth.

The MCCAP project is also involving four northern communities by providing them with skill set training in Food Preparation, Cosmetology, Computer Service Repairs and Electrical Installation in accredited vocational institutions recognized by the government of Belize. Furthermore, 53% of the trainees are women. Similar trainings will also be conducted in the southern communities of Belize where Garifuna, identified as indigenous peoples, are located.

Chunox St. Viator High school and Agriculture Natural Resources and Institute, which have student enrollment from surrounding fishing villages, are being engaged in climate change adaptation. They were exposed to marine and forest ecology and are given support by developing community projects based on climate change adaptation. MCCAP recognizes that for these communities to build resilience to climate change effects, youths must be engaged on climate change awareness, households involved in skills training activities and fishers in alternative livelihoods sub-projects.



ADAPTATION FUND TIMELINE OF MILESTONES

⌘ "Cuban coast's greatest hope"
Children of the Surgidero de Batabanó community learning how to plant a mangrove, as part of environmental education activities about the importance of protecting the coast against climate change. Activities are part of Adaptation Fund project in Cuba to protect mangroves and manage sea rise in the South of Artemisa and Mayabeque Provinces. Photo by Carlos Ernesto Escalona Marti, 2nd place winner in 2016 Adaptation Fund Photo Contest

ADAPTATION FUND TIMELINE OF MILESTONES





A photograph showing several people, likely climate refugees, standing on a wooden pier or boat. They are carrying heavy loads on their heads and backs. One person in the foreground is carrying a large white sack with the word 'FRESH' printed on it. Another person is carrying a large brown sack. A child in the foreground is wearing a red and black backpack. The background shows a body of water and a distant shoreline under a cloudy sky. A green horizontal bar is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

10 YEARS OF INNOVATION, ACTION & LEARNING **ADAPTATION FUND**

«« Climate refugees from Bhola Sadar, Bhola getting in a boat to migrate to the capital city of Dhaka in Bangladesh in 2014.
Photo by Mohammad Ponir Hossain, winner of 2016 global Adaptation Fund photo contest.



Direct Access to Climate Finance Builds Capacity and Credibility of National Institutions



⌘ *Field Monitoring Mission in Morocco, Adaptation Fund. A direct access project implemented by Morocco's agency for agriculture development, it is helping vulnerable oasis communities adapt to drought by revitalizing canals and water management.*

One of the most recognizable and positively-received programs associated with the Adaptation Fund is “Direct Access.”

Direct Access gives developing countries the opportunity to access finance and develop their own adaptation projects directly through country-based national implementing entities (NIEs) accredited with the Fund, while building their own capacity to adapt to climate change along the way. The Adaptation Fund pioneered this innovative climate finance modality, and began accrediting its first NIEs around the globe in 2010.

“Historically, most global emissions that cause climate change are generated by developed countries, yet it’s developing countries that bear the brunt of the impact,” says

“ Direct access creates a path for developing countries to take full ownership of their adaptation programs. ”

Mikko Ollikainen, manager of the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat. “Because of this history, there has been a drive to create a pathway for developing countries to take ownership of their own response to climate change. That’s what the ‘direct access’ modality is all about.”

Through this modality, developing countries can access directly up to US\$10 million for adaptation programs, which they manage themselves from project concept to design, implementation and stakeholder engagement throughout. They propose and carry the projects out themselves, while obtaining final Adaptation Fund Board approval for their proposals. The application process is rigorous to ensure the country’s NIE respects fiduciary standards, as well as the Fund’s social and environmental safeguards and gender principles. Although to date the Fund has accredited 25 NIEs for direct access, there are about 150 eligible developing countries (many have not yet nominated or brought NIE applicants forward).

“There is definitely room to expand,” says Ollikainen. “At the same time, each developing country is free to decide for themselves which route they wish to use to access funds for adaptation. Some may not have a national organization that would readily meet the stringent criteria.”

Any eligible country can also pursue an adaptation project through one of the Fund’s 18 multilateral and regional implementing entities, for example.

However, since each NIE is based in the country it serves, the beauty of Direct Access is that it gives the country ownership of addressing climate change, building its own capacity from within, and aligning closely with national priorities. As a way of further opening access to climate finance since 2014, the Fund has also considered applications from smaller NIEs through an individualized “streamlined accreditation process” that takes into account their limited capacities: three NIEs have been accredited to date through this process.

One of the keys to getting Direct Access off the ground several years ago was the inherent collaboration between the Adaptation Fund Board, Secretariat, countries themselves and locally-based stakeholders such as NGOs. This is something that former Adaptation Fund Manager Marcia Levaggi, who served as manager through the Fund’s formative years from 2009-2016, points to.

“The Board placed a lot of trust in me, and the people I hired,” she said. “It was always willing to move forward with our proposals and willing to work together with us. That team—the Board, Secretariat and also our trustee, the World Bank—have all been supportive of us. And the countries, too, from the ground up, once we started accrediting their national implementing agencies. The story continues. I am sure there will be new innovations that the Fund will help advance.”

Emblematic of this successful collaboration is the Fund’s first NIE, Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) of Senegal, which was accredited in 2010 and had its first NIE project approved later that year. The project was very successful in working closely together with affected communities to establish protections against sea level rise and preserve livelihoods, and CSE has since gone on to begin a second coastal management project with the Adaptation Fund in another vulnerable community, while also being fast-tracked to accreditation with the Green Climate Fund.

Michael Kracht, the Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board, also points to collaboration as a key to the success of Direct Access. “The growing community of NIEs is sharing experiences and lessons, and the Board and Secretariat facilitate that very well. Building capacity in national institutions through Direct Access to implement effective adaptation projects in the most vulnerable communities has been an instrumental component of the Fund’s work,” he said. “Projects are transparent and tailor-made, while contributing to capacity building and ownership.”

BUILDING CAPACITY

“Direct access is learning by doing,” adds Ollikainen. “All of the applicants have been involved in climate finance, but the ultimate responsibility has remained with multilateral organizations. Direct access demands a change of mindset—a transition from following someone else’s rules to following your own. It’s also a huge opportunity to build capacity.”

For the Unit for Rural Change (UCAR)—Argentina’s NIE—the process of capacity building began with its application for accreditation with the Fund. “Our projects were already focused on vulnerable people, which is in line with what the Adaptation Fund supports, but we had to incorporate a climate change perspective,” says Laura Abram Alberdi, an environmental scientist with UCAR. “It was a lot of work. It

wasn't easy. But we had all the information we needed to prepare the application."

UCAR's executing entity partners that work with them to implement projects on the ground, such as the National Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA), also had to strengthen their technical knowledge. "Up until a few years ago, climate change was not well understood in Argentina," says Lucas Di Pietro Paolo, Director of Adaptation to Climate Change for the Argentinean government. "Although it focused on agriculture, INTA had limited practical experience with climate change. They have since learned how simple

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—MIKKO OLLIKAINEN
Manager of the Adaptation Fund
Board Secretariat

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approaches, like water capture and storage, can make a big difference for low-income families. And they have replicated these technologies in other parts of the country."

Meanwhile, for the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), the Adaptation Fund's NIE for South Africa, capacity building truly began after accreditation. "I caution others that accreditation is only the beginning," says Mandy Barnett, director of climate change adaptation at SANBI. "A lot has to happen before you can actually implement approved projects."

However, the pay-off from achieving accreditation and putting in place the infrastructure to develop effective projects can represent a monumental shift toward positive change among the most vulnerable communities within a given country.

Once accredited, SANBI put in place a national steering committee to ensure eventual projects would find broad support across the country. The committee's representation ranged from key government departments and the presidency to civil society. "Adaptation is a local issue," Barnett says, "and without that civil society voice we can't know if our work will be relevant."

National governments also build adaptive capacity through the accreditation process. "Our government members have commented that they are seeing how to turn policy and strategy into action," says Barnett. "It is too early to say that SANBI has had a policy influence, but we are starting to see some of what we've learned from adaptation—like the need for cross-sectoral, participatory approaches—reflected in government policy development and planning."



⌘ Field visit to Mopani in South Africa. Photo by SANBI

Above all, SANBI has engaged local partners in the process, both for its large, US\$ 7.5 million project to strengthen resilience of vulnerable communities in the greater uMngeni catchment and for its smaller US\$ 2.4 million groundbreaking 'Enhanced Direct Access' small grants facility project. The latter project empowers SANBI with further autonomy to identify and fund local adaptation projects within the overall project without having to return to the Board for subsequent approvals.

"We found our project development and engagement processes were not straight lines," says Barnett. "We would have a conversation that would unlock further questions and sets of opportunities. Being in-country, we were much more accessible and available to return to the site many times and respond to those new ideas."

In one community, Barnett says, local officials declared they had learned more about climate change in SANBI's two-day workshop on disaster management than they had known to date. "It's very powerful to see that when you do project development in a slow, iterative way, the impact is much more than the linear benefits or the programmed and expected benefits that come out of the projects themselves," she says.

ENHANCING CREDIBILITY

While they can often be experienced in development, environmental issues, or climate finance, NIEs can vary from banks to government institutions to NGOs, and direct access can add a new layer of credibility to their work.

"When UCAR was accredited," recalls Abram Alberdi, "We were identified as a new player in climate change policy in Argentina. And we developed new relationships with partners like INTA and key government departments."

Institutions from other countries also began to approach UCAR for advice.

And direct access with the Adaptation Fund also put UCAR on the fast track for accreditation by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a process which many of the Adaptation Fund's NIEs have also followed to utilize their wealth of experiences learned with the Adaptation Fund and gain access to further resources to address the enormity of the climate change problem.

Indeed, apart from developing its own projects for the GCF, UCAR has helped the government's Adaptation to Climate Change unit develop policy.

"We presented our proposed national adaptation plan to the GCF with input from UCAR," says Di Pietro Paolo, who also represents Latin America and the Caribbean as a member on the Adaptation Fund Board. "We have a strong relationship."

SANBI has had a similar experience. "The Adaptation Fund has been so trusting of us, and supportive," says Barnett. "We've been able to innovate in a number of ways, and that's really set the platform for us to be accredited with the GCF, and to start to amplify our work on a much larger scale."

While the Green Climate Fund has a much larger budget, the Adaptation Fund has shown how even small investments can yield meaningful results. Through its "enhanced direct access" approach, the Adaptation Fund is empowering NIEs to develop and manage an entire program rather than a single project. SANBI's small grants facility, which to date has nearly 2,500 direct beneficiaries, is the most prominent example of this new approach.

The Adaptation Fund also offers small grants and workshops for accredited NIEs to help their peers achieve accreditation through sharing of lessons learned. "Countries are taking this opportunity and running with it," says Mikko Ollikainen. "We definitely want them to succeed. That's our mission, to make this work."

MARK FOSS

Freelance Writer
Special Feature to Adaptation Fund



⌘ *Field Monitoring Mission in Argentina, Adaptation Fund*



Proactive Focus on Environment, Social and Gender Policies



⌘ Rural farmers employ bench terracing to adapt to climate-driven erosion in Nyabihu District, Rwanda. The Adaptation Fund project aims to reduce flooding through integrated, sustainable land and water management and support climate-resilient agriculture and diversified, higher yields that enhance food security. An agricultural terracing component also prioritized hiring of women to generate more family income. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources in Rwanda. Photo by Adaptation Fund.

To ensure its projects have environmental and social principles built in, such as protecting human rights and marginalized groups, promoting gender equality and biodiversity conservation, the Adaptation Fund has taken proactive approaches by developing and approving environmental, social and gender policies over the last several years.

It started in 2013 with the adoption of its Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), and continued with the approval of its follow-on Gender Policy and Action Plan in 2016 that streamlined equal access to all Fund resources among women and men.

The environmental and social policy received international praise in 2016. “Safeguards protect against human rights abuses by ensuring that climate programs and policies supported reflect the concerns of those most affected. The Paris Agreement should follow (and where possible, improve upon) the examples set by other climate mechanisms that have adopted strong safeguards, such as the Adaptation

Fund,” said UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights and the Environment John Knox in May 2016.

“When the Adaptation Fund approved the ESP, it was the first fund in the environment field that included respect and promotion of human rights among its safeguards,” says Marcia Levaggi, who managed the Fund between 2009 and 2016. “The Fund has often been mentioned as a pioneer for its human rights approach.”

Although the Fund was created to finance projects to developing countries that are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, these policies help strengthen that mission further.

⌘ The women living in southeast Morocco are the key of adapting to climate change. To search for water and food and grass to feed their sheep women have to walk long distances under the heat of the noon sun. Photo by Adil Moumane, Adaptation Fund 2012 Photo Contest

"It's not a given that adaptation projects will benefit vulnerable populations," says Emmanuel Seck, a representative of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network, which follows and helps promote and strengthen Fund projects in several countries.

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Integrating gender considerations into adaptation measures is key to achieving results and securing long-term sustainability. Sweden was instrumental in initiating the Adaptation Fund's work in this area and we are happy that it has recently approved and begun implementation of its Gender Policy and Action Plan. This will ensure more systematic integration and follow-up of these crucial issues to the benefit of communities vulnerable to climate change.

—TOVE GOLDMANN

Sweden's representative to the
Adaptation Fund Board

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"Imagine building a seawall to help adapt to climate change, but instead of protecting the fishing community it protects the hotels. That's why we need to orient adaptation toward the vulnerable, and address issues like floods and salt infiltration. Civil society plays an important role to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable."

Beginning in 2010, through the auspices of Germanwatch, the then-newly formed AF NGO Network began encouraging the Adaptation Fund to adopt policies and procedures to protect the most vulnerable communities. The Fund followed through on these recommendations, integrating environmental and social principles more explicitly into its operations in 2013. It revised this policy, known as ESP, in March 2016 with the incorporation of its follow-on gender policy.

The ESP ensures that projects and programs supported by the Fund promote positive environmental and social benefits, and mitigate or avoid adverse environmental and social risks and impacts. The ESP has 15 principles to manage risk that are put into practice during the process of accrediting implementing entities, as well as during review of project and programme proposals. Among them are preserving human rights, gender equality, natural habitats and vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, as well as avoiding waste and pollution.

BUILDING ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN ECUADOR

In addition to promoting human rights, gender equality and biodiversity conservation, the ESP also calls for projects supported by the Fund to avoid imposing any adverse impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, refugees, and indigenous people and tribal groups. In Ecuador, the Fund is supporting the government and the World Food Programme (WFP) to build resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities in Pichincha Province and the Jubones River Watershed. The project, 'Enhancing resilience of communities to the adverse effects of climate change on food security' (known in Spanish by the acronym FORECCSA), was approved in 2011 and runs from 2012-18. It helps communities adapt to the adverse effects of climate change on food security.

"The key to raising awareness and understanding the risk of climate change, and the importance of adaptation, started with inclusive community processes," says Carmen Galarza, the national programme officer for WFP.

Based on this approach, FORECCSA gave special attention to ancestral knowledge with a culturally and gender sensitive lens and focus on food security and nutrition. For example, it built cultural spaces to integrate traditional practices and promote inter-generational learning, with participation of women, youth and community elders. “In the Andean regions, home gardens or ‘chakras’ in the Quichuan language, are known as [natural] ‘drugstores’ in rural areas,” says Galarza. “These gardens have been a family tradition since prehistoric times. They are a small family plot from which vegetables and garnishes are taken each day to secure food security and nutrition for year-round consumption and sale. They provide food during lean pre-harvest periods and supply seed for potatoes and grains.”

The project is learning from this traditional knowledge. For example, FORECCSA supported establishment of home gardens to ensure families will have access to food even after the project ends in 2018. The gardens also offer a space for social interaction among the generations, promoting community cohesion. Other activities also drew on traditional knowledge, including use of organic fertilizers and planting of a species known as “water plants” that produce moisture.

Among its results to date, the project has built or improved 23 reservoirs that have increased water storage capacity by nearly 121,000 cubic metres. It has improved 34 km of community irrigation channels and installed 500 irrigation systems. Some 3,000 families now have a permanent source of irrigation water to produce food all year round. And 15,000 people increased their knowledge in climate change, food security and gender equity.

Early warning systems have also been improved. The project linked weather stations in Pichincha to the national meteorological service, and strengthened the network of such stations in the Jubones River Watershed. Climate warning systems now provide relevant information to help local and national planning.

The WFP had already integrated social, environmental and gender concerns into its project, and now also aligns with the Adaptation Fund’s new policy. “The 15 principles of the Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy help ensure that FORECCSA implemented activities that respect laws, people’s rights, gender equality, heritage, biodiversity and the environment,” says Galarza.

During the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22) in Morocco in November 2016, Ecuador’s Minister of the Environment, Walter Garcia, praised the project for its innovation. “This initiative contributes to mitigating desertification and loss

of biodiversity, as well as discussing alternatives to motivate smallholder farmers to use sustainable practices to adapt to climate change, addressing priority areas such as food security and gender equality as key aspects to combat hunger in the world,” he said.

MOVING GENDER FROM “SENSITIVE” TO “RESPONSIVE”

For the Adaptation Fund, gender concerns go hand-in-hand with environmental and social policies. Principle 5 of the ESP, for example, is gender equality and women’s empowerment. Gender equality is also considered at the review stage of project proposals and in the results framework performance report.

In the lead-up to the Paris Agreement in 2015, the Fund was working on its next step: integrating gender considerations into its policies and procedures. “We were happy to see the agreement recognized gender equality and women’s empowerment in the text,” says Young Hee Lee, the Fund’s operations analyst. “It confirmed we were on the right path, and opened a new chapter to our approach.”

In 2016, the Fund approved a Gender Policy and Action Plan that builds on the policies and plans of other climate funds. While plans of ESP and Principle 5 includes gender, Lee points out, it mostly relates to risk management. By having its own action plan, timeline and specific goals, the Fund took a more holistic approach, demonstrating its commitment to improving gender equality and women’s empowerment.

“Integrating gender considerations into adaptation measures is key to achieving results and securing long-term sustainability,” says Tove Goldmann, Sweden’s representative to the Adaptation Fund Board. “Sweden was instrumental in initiating the Adaptation Fund’s work in this area and we are happy that it has recently approved and begun implementation of its Gender Policy and Action Plan. This will ensure more systematic integration and follow-up of these crucial issues to the benefit of communities vulnerable to climate change.”

Through readiness grants, the Fund is also helping national implementing entities (NIEs) build capacity to make the experiences of both women and men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs—a process known as ‘gender mainstreaming’.

“Our gender policy is still a work in progress,” says Lee. “Leading institutions are talking about gender innovation

whereas the Fund, with its limited experience, is still trying to achieve mainstreaming. We're moving our project template from 'gender sensitive' to 'gender responsive', which aims to address the roots of inequality."

In Rwanda, for example, the Fund supported a project to reduce vulnerability to climate change in vulnerable communities in the northwest. It took a gender-sensitive approach by analyzing gender roles, power relations and distinguishing between the specific interests, needs and

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Safeguards protect against human rights abuses by ensuring that climate programs and policies supported reflect the concerns of those most affected.... The Paris Agreement should follow (and where possible, improve upon) the examples set by other climate mechanisms that have adopted strong safeguards, such as the Adaptation Fund.

—JOHN KNOX

UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights and the Environment

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priorities of men and women. The Fund's accredited NIE in Rwanda, the government's Ministry of Natural Resources, is mainstreaming gender into all of its adaptation activities. The project is building a green village and prioritized households that are led by women, as well as made it a priority to hire local wives for an agricultural terracing project as a way of making extra income for their families. In all, 4,000 women are participating in adaptation planning and program activities within the project. The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) also took a gender-sensitive approach to its large project in the greater uMngeni catchment area. Women, for example, received social and economic benefits comparable to men. By the summer of 2017, for example, the project was benefiting 228 farmers in the Swayimane community of KwaZulu-Natal—179 female and 49 male. "This is broadly representative of the agricultural landscape in rural South Africa where women generally are more involved in agriculture," says Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi, who coordinates the project's agricultural component. "The men are usually involved in migratory labour, working in the cities or mines and sending remittances home (if at all). Women therefore have the responsibility of feeding the family and deciding on household diet, among other things."

From a food security perspective, it's vital to include women in farming as they contribute directly to improve household and nutrition security. But it's also a question of human rights. "As a marginalised group in society, working with women and involving them in leadership positions (in co-ops) and improving their income earned from selling produce, contributes to empowering women in rural areas," says Mabhaudhi.

As the Adaptation Fund continues on its path towards "gender innovation", it is comparing notes with other agencies. A meeting with other climate funds in March 2017 was the first step towards identifying possible areas of collaboration in areas such as training models and gender indicators.

"Other institutions look at us positively when it comes to gender, and we are making progress by learning from the experiences of others and hope to become a leader in the field. We can highly contribute to sharing experiences of gender action because our NIEs are on the ground and already implementing these components into their work," says Lee.

MARK FOSS

Freelance Writer
Special Feature to Adaptation Fund



⌘ Kabyaza Agricultural terracing project in Rwanda to help vulnerable communities adapt to extreme rainfall variability. Photo by Adaptation Fund



Streamlined Access and Regional Approaches Strive to Create Greater Efficiency



⌘ *Distributing 'Life Jackets' Palmerston Island 22 November 2016, as part of a project in the Cook Islands funded by the Adaptation Fund.*

Building on its direct access modality, the Adaptation Fund has introduced two additional approaches to meet the different needs of vulnerable developing countries.

On the one hand, smaller agencies with less capacity, often including those hailing from smaller countries like Small Island Developing States (SIDS), can apply for accreditation through a streamlined version of direct access. On the other, eligible implementing entities can propose regional programs that address the adaptation needs of several neighboring countries. In both cases, the approaches aim to enhance efficiency for implementing entities, the affected countries and the Adaptation Fund alike.

In “traditional” direct access, a country nominates a national implementing entity (NIE) to access funds directly from the Adaptation Fund. To be accredited, potential NIEs must meet the Fund’s fiduciary standards, its environmental and social safeguards, and respect its gender policy. The Adaptation Fund has accredited 25 NIEs to date that can now design projects and access finance directly from the Fund.

STREAMLINED DIRECT ACCESS

Some smaller entities or countries, however, lack the capacity to meet the fiduciary standards. In response, the Fund approved a streamlined accreditation process in 2015. This allows entities to submit alternative documentation for each standard that shows how it mitigates risk, while still respecting the Fund’s policies. Streamlined entities are often eligible to receive amounts that may be less than US\$ 10 million, which is the usual limit for implementing entities. After the entity feels it can handle larger amounts, it can have such conditions re-evaluated and possibly lifted by the Fund.

“If an entity lacks an audit committee, for example, the guidelines clearly identify the acceptable alternative,” says Silvia Mancini, who coordinates accreditation work at the Adaptation Fund. “Acceptance is not a subjective decision

for the Accreditation Panel. However, the amount of funding ultimately available for streamlined entities is not written in stone. That decision comes out of a discussion based on the entity's absorption capacity. Once an entity can show it has managed those funds well, then it is ready to seek additional funding."

The streamlined process aligns the Fund's accreditation process further with key international agreements. The Paris Agreement on climate change, for example, emphasizes the importance of efficient access to financial resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced readiness support for developing country Parties. This is especially the case for least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) in the Federated States of Micronesia is one of three NIEs that have been approved through the Fund's innovative streamlined access feature. MCT was the first to open these doors for other smaller entities. NIEs for the Cook Islands and Armenia have since followed suit.

"We knew if we went through the process we would really build our capacity," says Willy Kostka, MCT executive director. "By gaining accreditation, we knew we could advance our entire organization because of the requirements."

Going through the process, MCT improved several policies related to internal controls and financial management systems. "The accreditation process wasn't easy, but we felt it was fair," says Kostka. "It enhanced our credibility and now other donors are looking at us more seriously."

Indeed, accreditation with the Adaptation Fund has enabled MCT to be fast-tracked with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). However, a "fast-tracked" entity must still satisfy the usual criteria of the GCF. In July 2017, the GCF approved MCT's application for accreditation.

"Streamlined accreditation is an innovative model," says Mancini. "It's been very well received. It is not only a process aimed at complying with the accreditation criteria, but also an important exercise for building capacity. Our job at the Secretariat is to facilitate that process, and to make sure that applicants know that accreditation is only the first step. Developing a project proposal (that is effective and adheres to the Fund's policies) is a whole other exercise."

FINANCING FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

In 2015, the Adaptation Fund Board approved a pilot program for regional projects and programs, now referred to as the Funding Window for Regional Projects. It set aside US\$ 30 million for proposals under three themes: food security; disaster risk production and early warning systems; and transboundary water management. Subsequently, the Board decided to make the funding window a standard feature of the Fund, and approved another \$US 30 million for the program for the 2018 fiscal year.

"Although the first funding approval of regional projects and programmes only occurred in 2017, the Adaptation Fund Board had from the start of its operations explored ways to do so," said Daouda Ndiaye, Senior Climate Change Specialist for the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat. "We are now seeing a great interest from entities and governments for these projects, with a current pipeline of regional projects and programmes of more than US\$ 200 million. This reflects the existing need to address adaptation issues across countries that share natural borders or similar climate threats."

In March 2017, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)—an accredited multilateral implementing entity of the Fund—became the first entity funded under the new funding window when its regional project proposal in East Africa was approved by the Adaptation Fund Board.

"Since the WMO is a relatively small technical organization, a regional approach is the most efficient way for us to be involved in the field, through our regional office based in Nairobi," says Jean-Paul Gaudechoux, acting director for WMO's Resources Mobilization Office. "We will work closely with partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization and national entities, on an integrated program in the Greater Horn of Africa."

The US\$ 6.8 million project, which is expected to get underway in the autumn of 2017, seeks to enhance resilience among targeted farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralist communities in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Its three integrated components focus on community adaptation, climate-proofing the agricultural extension system and climate-informed decision making.



⌘ AF Rwanda project addressing extreme rainfall variability while empowering local women with extra incomes. Photo by Adaptation Fund

“It’s important not just to build people’s capacity, but also to set up a value chain of climate and weather service information,” says Gaudechoux. “All of this information will be mainstreamed to the communities through farmer field schools and agro-pastoralist field schools.

“The Horn of Africa project is the first concrete collaboration between WMO and FAO in that part of Africa,” he adds. “Each organization has its own mandate so we are not stepping on each other’s toes. It makes sense to team up with partners that have a comparative advantage. The project is a good combination of different expertise grounded in country ownership.”

The National Hydro Meteorological Services of the countries involved in the project will be part of the implementation team. In particular, they will be responsible for improving climate-informed decision making in regional, national and sub-national institutions.

As the implementing agency responsible for the first regional project approved by the Adaptation Fund, the WMO appreciates that it is breaking new ground. In keeping

with the Fund’s focus on “innovation, action and learning”, the WMO expects to learn and share many lessons from its experience. “If this project is successful, as I believe it will be, it could be replicated elsewhere in Africa,” says Gaudechoux. “The WMO is already working on a new regional proposal for the Adaptation Fund, as well as developing regional proposals for the Green Climate Fund.”

Proving to be another good example of the Adaptation Fund’s innovative and adaptive approaches to country needs, the regional program continues to grow. Two new regional project proposals were approved during the Adaptation Fund Board’s intersessional period in July 2017. Those include a US\$ 5 million water management project to be carried out by the UN Environment Programme that will benefit five countries around the Lake Victoria Basin in Uganda, and a US\$ 14 million food security project along the Colombia and Ecuador borders brought forward by the World Food Programme.

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Special Feature to Adaptation Fund



Setting up an Emission Reduction Mechanism for Adaptation



MATT PUESCHEL
Communications Officer
Adaptation Fund

The initial main funding stream for the Adaptation Fund based on selling carbon credits for adaptation may have slowed in recent years due to the global drop in carbon prices, but the system established by the Fund to operate it remains an example of its ability to innovate and establish models that didn't exist before.

The roots of the program were planted 10 years ago when the structure of the Fund was established in decisions by the 13th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP13) in Bali, Indonesia. One of those decisions operationalized an earlier decision to earmark a (2%) share of proceeds of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs), issued for the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, to serve as a base funding source for the Fund. The CDM allows emission-reducing projects in developing countries to earn CER credits equal to one ton of carbon to be traded, sold, or used by developed countries under the Kyoto Protocol to meet reduction targets.

Since the Fund was created to finance adaptation projects in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, the idea was that CERs could help these countries meet the costs of adaptation through the Fund.

However, it took creativity and determination to set up the Adaptation Fund CER system. Since it was breaking new ground, the Fund had to start from scratch. The task fell to the World Bank, which had been chosen to serve as the Fund's

trustee, and specifically the Bank's Treasury Capital Markets Department—whose day job was to issue Bank bonds. "Essentially a group of bond traders were being asked to trade carbon," recalls Robert Hunt, who served on the original World Bank treasury staff from 2008-2012 that developed the infrastructure for selling CERs for the Adaptation Fund. "Although the World Bank is one of the pioneers in funding carbon (reduction) projects, no one at the Bank had ever traded carbon."

It took several major steps to get the program rolling. "The key was educating ourselves on how to trade carbon, the logistics of selling carbon credits and moving them to buyers," Hunt advised.

Hunt said the group received invaluable assistance from the Bank's carbon units in helping to understand what carbon was and its place as a new asset class. To learn how to trade it, the treasury staff approached their major bond dealer contacts to introduce them to their carbon departments and eventually selected eight carbon dealers to work with. "After a series of meetings, we eventually learned who the key carbon dealers were, which the best carbon exchange was,

how to set up a registry to hold the carbon and effectively how to trade carbon,” said Hunt. “In addition to helping to educate us, most of these eventually ended up being one of our eight dealers.”

Since carbon credits are held by national registries instead of banks, an Adaptation Fund Registry was opened in Switzerland to hold the carbon credits. Through an interview process, Hunt and his colleagues also opted for a Paris-based carbon exchange among several that were available at the time.

They set up a transparent system with both a front office for trading and a settlement back office to ensure that CERs would be moved properly and on time when trades were completed. This system safeguarded against trade failures and also protected the integrity of the program by preventing proceeds from being delivered to any personal bank accounts.

The final key was developing a benchmarking strategy to sell at least 10,000 tons of carbon daily on the exchange. They developed two exceptions to this goal. When carbon prices were ‘moderately’ higher, they would sell more than 10,000 tons on the exchange. If prices were ‘very’ high, they would aim to sell 100,000-300,000 tons a day in larger over-the-counter (OTC) sales with their dealers.

“The strategy turned out to be very successful, and during my period we added an estimated \$5 million in added value over the benchmark,” Hunt advised.

Once the program was established Hunt and a junior trader based in the Bank’s Paris office performed nearly all of the trading, using three methods to sell CERs. These included selling on a daily basis using the online Paris carbon exchange in which trades were anonymous; conducting larger OTC sales to the eight carbon dealers who acted as intermediaries; and holding a CER auction.

“Following that, it was a matter of implementing; setting up the infrastructure to sell carbon on a daily basis. The entire process took about eight months before we did our first carbon trade,” Hunt said.

Once off the ground in May 2009, the program had a great run through 2012 generating US\$ 188 million for the Fund—which is an overwhelming majority of the total US\$ 197.8 million generated through the program to date. “I feel the biggest advantage is that it worked well,” said Hunt. “Once the monetization process was up and running, we

consistently were providing funds to the Adaptation Fund, and adding extra value over a benchmark.”

The interest was always high, as well. “During the period I sold carbon, we were constantly approached by carbon dealers and other entities to buy Adaptation Fund CERs,” Hunt said. “The motivation for carbon dealers, besides the commissions, was the positive publicity they received in the carbon press for doing an Adaptation Fund deal. Non-dealer entities who approached may have been motivated by altruism to help the Adaptation Fund, but legally we could only sell through the exchange or to an approved dealer we had an agreement with. Normally we would tell the entities to approach one of our dealers. Finding buyers was not an issue and we did not do any advertising other than press releases to the carbon periodicals after our major sales.”

The auction was a perfect example. It was open to all members of the carbon exchange and clear to all that they were buying Adaptation Fund CERs. The auction resulted in completing 200,000 tons of CERs. “The auction generated strong interest, being 6.8 times oversubscribed,” Hunt said. “We would have done more auctions, but soon afterwards the price began to drop.”

Before sales began to dip when the global carbon market dropped out after May 2011, just under 10 million tons were sold through the Fund’s CERs. Although the system continues to run well today, it generates far less income -- a modest US\$ 1.33 million in 2016 and US\$ 730,000 through the first half of 2017 (according to the Adaptation Fund Trust Fund Financial Report prepared by the World Bank). That’s a small slice of the Adaptation Fund’s annual resource mobilization target of US\$ 80 million per year the last couple of years. Generous voluntary contributions from developed country governments have been filling the gap for the last several years.

“The biggest challenge, or actually disappointment, was that it could not continue, as the price collapse effectively ended the (sustained high level of) funding from CER sales,” Hunt said.

It has been theorized that the market collapse can be traced to a combination of the limited actual international participation in the Kyoto Protocol’s carbon cap and trade program, the 2008 global economic crisis, sluggish European growth that led to an oversupply of carbon credits and a lack of universal financial safeguards that undermined confidence in exchanges generally.

That said, the carbon market is down but not completely out, so anything can happen in the future. Hunt thinks things may evolve into smaller carbon markets. “The Kyoto Protocol was trying to create one worldwide carbon market, which failed,” he opined. “The Paris Agreement realizes that carbon markets are growing, but on an individual country or regional basis — fragmented markets. The Paris Accord just verbalizes what had been happening already. I think there is strong hope for carbon markets, but it will be on a fragmented basis.”

One hopeful sign is that the Paris Agreement included a component calling for a nearly identical type of sustainable development mechanism as the Kyoto Protocol’s CDM — to both reduce global emissions and ensure that a share of its proceeds is used, like in the Adaptation Fund, to cover costs to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change meet the costs of adaptation. It provides an opportunity to utilize the Fund’s experience and expertise with its own CER system, which continues to be fully operational.

“The road to success for the Adaptation Fund CER system is another example of the Fund’s ability and willingness to innovate to meet the needs of the vulnerable populations it serves,” said Mikko Ollikainen, Manager of the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat. “The Fund created a new model that is still operational today and provides valuable experiences that could potentially be utilized on a wider scale going forward.”

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The motivation for carbon dealers, besides the commissions, was the positive publicity they received in the carbon press for doing an Adaptation Fund deal.

— ROBERT HUNT

World Bank treasury staff 2008-2012

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10 YEARS OF INNOVATION, ACTION & LEARNING
STAKEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS



ACCREDITATION PANEL

Reflections on the Evolution of the “Direct Access” Concept



PETER MAERTENS

Former Member
Adaptation Fund Accreditation Panel

I perceived my appointment in late 2009 as a member of the first Accreditation Panel of the Adaptation Fund as anything but earth-shattering. However, my initial perception of this assignment being routine quickly faded when I fully appreciated that this Fund would be driven by the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (on enhancing country ownership) and the Accra Agenda for Action (on developing countries committed to taking control of their own future).

As a result, countries would run projects themselves through their national implementing entities (NIEs) that become accredited with the Fund and not through the Adaptation Fund as the donor. The Panel would be a first step to bring about a whole new way of development assistance to recipients, referred to as “*direct access*”.

There would be many benefits: greater country alignment of development assistance and a building of capacity of the NIEs. The Adaptation Fund Board, the donor community and civil society organizations (CSOs) were closely following how the Accreditation Panel would address the direct access challenges. Wrong decisions would translate into the risk of poorly executed projects, losses of donor funds and a loss of faith in the *direct access* modality.

Under the outstanding guidance of its first Chairman, William Kojo Agyemang-Bonsu, and the Vice-Chair Jerzy Bzowski, the Accreditation Panel quickly established how it would work. It established its independence through a clear division of duties. Three chosen independent experts with accreditation and project experience would examine

the detailed applications and discuss these during the Panel meetings. The Board Members on the Panel would then present the Panel’s recommendations to the full Board. This insulated the expert Accreditation Panel members from any Board influences and pressures. I express my appreciation to the first Chair and Vice-Chair and all the successors that maintained and defended this independence and impartiality.

INITIAL APPLICANTS

The initial applications for accreditation were a mix of multilateral development agencies and some progressive national entities. The accreditation of the multilateral banks and development institutions that were affiliated to the United Nations was reasonably straightforward. Nevertheless, achieving the Adaptation Fund’s fiduciary standards could not be taken for granted. Some accreditations of multilateral organizations were delayed until systems, procedures or performance were strengthened.

Several obstacles needed to be addressed in the first few accreditations. These included issues on: how to deal with incomplete applications; how to evaluate strong project delivery systems that were only partially documented; how to evaluate an entity that had experience in executing projects under the guidance of a donor, but not the experience to independently implement projects on its own with its own systems; how to evaluate whether the fiduciary standards were met in cases where the applicant relied on government wide systems within their country; and finally, the need for a clear message that robust and strong anti-fraud policies and practices had to be in place which, for most national and regional applicants, was not the case a decade ago.

The accreditation process continues to be an opportunity, and in many cases a must, for applicants to improve their policies, procedures and practices. The Accreditation Panel appreciated the applicants' efforts to improve their systems during the accreditation period and provided some informal advice. However, the more significant improvements came from the guidance of external experts. Many applicants asked for funds to improve their systems, but the Adaptation Fund did not have resources to support capacity building in the early years.

EVOLUTION OF THE ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

The accreditation system and its requirements have developed over time. Readiness seminars and workshops convened by the Adaptation Fund have helped make applicants familiar with these processes, including how to demonstrate they were meeting the accreditation requirements. Accredited entities began sharing their experiences and assisting new applicants with the application process. The Accreditation Panel developed and issued guidelines on accreditation standards to help entities overcome hurdles in the application process.

The Adaptation Fund approved an Environmental and Social Policy in November 2013 and a Gender Policy in March 2016. Applicants had to demonstrate their capacity relating to these policies. Accreditation Panel members were assisted by outside experts in bringing their understanding of environmental and social concepts to the level of latest developments.

An accreditation is valid for five years after which an entity must be re-accredited. During the re-accreditation process, the applicants' capacity relating to the Social and

Environmental Policy and to the Gender Policy, which had been approved after the applicants were initially accredited, was examined in full. The focused approach worked well, reducing the workload of the applicants and streamlining the work of the Panel.

The direct access modality, as well as fiduciary standards and working methods of the Accreditation Panel, have inspired other environmental and climate-related funds. In 2010, the Global Environmental Facility's pilot project, which resulted in accreditation of eight GEF agencies, borrowed extensively from the Adaptation Fund's approach. In 2016, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) concluded it could rely on the accreditation policies, processes and practices of the Adaptation Fund. On this basis, it allowed applicants accredited by the Adaptation Fund to use a fast-track approach for accreditation with the GCF.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

In its first decade, the Adaptation Fund accredited 43 entities (25 national, 12 multilateral and 6 regional) and re-accredited a number of those. Since then, the Green Climate Fund has accredited around 20 of these entities—most, if not all, through the fast track accreditation process.

These 43 entities are responsible for the past and ongoing implementation of projects, as well as bringing new proposals forward for final approval by the Adaptation Fund Board. Each entity should be congratulated for having achieved accreditation. It's a mark of excellence. Many of these entities acquired that status because of improvements made during the accreditation process. However, neither the accredited entities, the Accreditation Panel nor the Adaptation Fund can rest on their laurels. The job is far from over.

Here are some of the challenges.

Developing and executing projects under direct access:

Accreditation is only the first step. Next is formulating effective projects. A disproportionate number of projects have passed through the more conventional systems run by multilateral development institutions. National and regional implementing entities sometimes find it hard to compete, but that can be expected to come with time. The Adaptation Fund Board has addressed the issue by reserving a percentage of available funding to direct access institutions. Nevertheless, direct access needs to be further encouraged.

Encouraging ownership through better access: The Adaptation Fund through the Accreditation Panel and the Secretariat has explained and promoted the accreditation process through its readiness activities. Yet there are 150 countries eligible to receive funding from the Adaptation Fund, and only 25 NIEs, and the number of new applicants is relatively small.

Countries with limited English language ability have greater difficulty when applying for accreditation and demonstrating their fiduciary abilities. Most Small Island Developing States (SIDS) do not have sufficient competencies or resources to go through the complex and time-intensive accreditation process.

Regional organizations can fill the gap for a cluster of SIDS or a group of specific countries. It is not quite the full and direct country ownership that the Adaptation Fund wishes to achieve, but it is a good alternative and brings expertise to certain regions in the world. However, so far only a few regional implementing entities have been accredited.

Streamlining the accreditation process: Most applicants provide between 100-200 documents. Based on additional requests for information, this number can grow by another 100. Several documents run into hundreds of pages. To open access to smaller entities, the Adaptation Fund has adopted an alternative, streamlined accreditation process that is individualized and has accredited three NIEs to date under that modality.



⌘ Former Accreditation Panel members.

The accreditation process could be further streamlined by reducing costs and speeding up the process for applicants.

Reduce costs. Preparing an application requires a wide range of documents. Most applicants require external assistance to get this done. If the applicant works in a language other than English there is also a significant translation cost. Greater reliance on the due diligence of other donors could reduce the amount of evidence required by the applicant and streamline the accreditation work.

There might be room to shorten timelines by concentrating on the key principles in seeking to accelerate the review process.

The seminars and workshops organized by the Adaptation Fund Secretariat have been excellent forums to receive feedback on the accreditation process and share lessons learned. The Secretariat with the Adaptation Panel needs to more fully capture this feedback, analyze the comments and create an evolving lesson learned document. Surveys could be useful in achieving this.

While the Adaptation Fund has set the trend for other funds to follow, it can still become even more accessible and efficient. A well-developed framework should guard against the accreditation process from being too cumbersome, costly and time consuming. This will allow the Adaptation Fund to maintain its leading position in providing direct access for climate finance.

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The Adaptation Fund through the Accreditation Panel and the Secretariat has explained and promoted the accreditation process through its readiness activities.

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Civil Society Leading Steps to Achieve Adaptation to Climate Change for the Most Vulnerable



JEAN PAUL BRICE AFFANA

Policy Advisor

Climate Finance and Development,

Germanwatch, on behalf of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network (AFN)

From the outset of its creation, the Adaptation Fund has identified multi-stakeholder engagement as a critical step to consider when enhancing the capacity of the most vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change impacts.

Citizens' views and ideas form a strong force to address the biggest resilience needs and have the power to influence policy decisions on adaptation with profound effects. Enabling a meaningful role by non-state actors for long-term resilience has become a strong focus for the Fund over the past years. The Fund has always provided adequate space and an enabling environment for civil society organizations (CSOs) to take active part in its processes and activities at various levels.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSE TO ADAPTATION NEEDS

Well before the first Adaptation Fund project started in the Senegalese communities of Saly, Joal and Rufisque to help them adapt to rising sea levels, the Fund had encouraged governments and implementing actors to support civil society involvement in the implementation of adaptation projects. This opportunity for an inclusive, participatory and equitable process soon led to the creation of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network (AFN). Initiated by Germanwatch in 2010, the Network aims at providing capacity support to a number of CSOs across developing countries, and to independently

monitor the execution of projects funded by the Adaptation Fund to ensure accountability.

Beyond national level engagement, AFN members contribute to policy discussions and decisions on adaptation financing, especially at the Adaptation Fund Board level. The *CSO Dialogue* held during Board meetings is a perfect example of such contributions. Since the first one was held at the 12th Board meeting in 2010, a total of 18 dialogues have been organised by the Network with full support from the Adaptation Fund and its Board.

With its growing membership, including a large variety of community-based organisations, the AFN cultivates public understanding on the importance of adaptation. Looking back at the AFN's achievements in enhancing effective civil society participation in Adaptation Fund activities and processes, it is clear that all this would not have been possible without the fruitful and constructive collaboration between the Network and the Fund's Board and Secretariat. For instance, AFN members frequently use publications from the Fund for guiding local workshops and public consultations that they organize. This helps in raising awareness among the local population on climate change adaptation and building

knowledge. Upon request by the Adaptation Fund, Network members further often provide insights from civil society on policy matters, frameworks, processes, and on funding proposals prior to Board meetings. Such opportunities promote the role of civil society within the global adaptation and climate finance architecture.

CITIZEN-LED MONITORING AS A KEY STEP FOR SUCCESSFUL ADAPTATION PROJECTS

A key level of action from the AFN happens within countries where Adaptation Fund-funded projects are being implemented. There, AFN partners conduct trainings for citizens and local actors on monitoring and tracking progress of projects to ensure that the critical voice of civil society helps to reach transparency, accountability and successful implementation. While scarce resources are a key constraint for the AFN, significant milestones have been reached thanks to the Fund's efforts to provide participation and capacity development opportunities to civil society. The participation of CSO representatives in a climate finance readiness workshop in Morocco organized by the Adaptation Fund in September 2016 for the Middle East and North Africa region is just one example, among many others. Network members across the regions have, on several occasions, benefited from technical expertise of the Fund's Secretariat and Board members during local events and activities, such as in the creation phase of the AFN Regional Hubs.

The Network's achievements demonstrate that it contributes to supporting the Fund's focus on the most vulnerable, and that civil society's critical voice has improved the transparency of Adaptation Fund projects. But the Fund has also contributed to strengthening the role of the AFN as a relevant partner to accompany projects and national processes with a critical, constructive and objective opinion. For example, the AFN's partner in Jordan, the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS), has well-established relationships with the government, civil society and the local communities in the country, making it easier to engage local stakeholders in the Fund's activities. In Rwanda, the Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR) has also increased the Fund's reputation and effectiveness at the national level through its affiliation with the AFN, and delivered a number of trainings for local stakeholders.

The AFN is very grateful for the support the Adaptation Fund has provided to its members towards advancing the adaptation agenda with concrete insights from civil society. Pursuing this promising collaboration in the future is important to hold governments and implementing entities accountable, while at the same time helping to increase the transparency of the Adaptation Fund processes through civil society as an independent watchdog.

The Adaptation Fund NGO Network (AFN) was initiated and is coordinated by Germanwatch. The network has members worldwide and provides direct support to 10 CSOs. The AFN has been supported since its inception by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), and is currently entering its third phase of implementation.



⌘ AF NGO Network staff. Photo by Laurinne Chessié



GERMANY

Top Adaptation Fund Contributor



DR. KARSTEN SACH

Director General

Climate Policy, European and International Policy

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Germany

Congratulations to the Adaptation Fund! Its 10th anniversary is a wonderful occasion to look back at its achievements and lessons learned as well as thank those who have contributed to its blossoming: strategic negotiators, the dedicated team in the secretariat, committed Board Members, supportive donors, thorough implementers and a vibrant civil society in the countries and on the global level—all supported the Adaptation Fund in delivering on its core mandate helping the most vulnerable to adapt to the severe impacts of climate change.

The establishment of the Adaptation Fund had already been decided at COP 7 in Marrakech (2001). In Bali at COP13 in 2007, we decided that the Fund would work alongside the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Washington, DC. In 2008, we set up the Adaptation Fund Board, whose seats and meeting place were granted to be in Bonn and confirmed by German law. It took us until 2008 to decide at COP 14 in Poznan on the operational terms of the Fund. I had the privilege to be involved in negotiating the terms and to co-chair quite some part of it. Those involved knew that we were conquering new territory and are still proud of what we achieved.

Despite heated discussions in the early years about governance and safeguards, the Adaptation Fund became a true climate finance idea accelerator and pioneered instruments and procedures such as direct access, National Implementing Entity (NIE) accreditation and climate finance capacity building. It was the first finance mechanism exclusively dedicated to implementing concrete adaptation projects on the ground and has stayed as a powerful reminder

of the necessity to engage with the most vulnerable. The Board—working in fair partnership, focusing on results—was in charge to develop the right frameworks and policies for project selection and the approval process. Many of the experiences we collected in setting up this Fund were useful throughout my whole career in establishing new climate finance flagship initiatives and institutions, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The Adaptation Fund clearly demonstrated to be innovative over time: It uses internationally generated financial resources to fund concrete projects. The connection with the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) through the share of proceeds was crucial in a way that it linked international cooperation on mitigation with our efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Through its direct access modality, the Fund was and still is instrumental in building up national capacities for implementing entities in line with the principle of country ownership. Today, we know that for climate finance to be transformational, it needs to deliver on

scale and help establish capacity in recipients' countries to include adaptation in national planning and budgeting.

The Fund is at a crossroads within the [UN climate] negotiations right now: In Paris it was decided that it "may", while in Marrakech it was decided that it "should" serve the Paris Agreement. No need to say that the Fund already serves the purpose of the agreement—what remains to be done, is to make it fit for an enhanced climate finance architecture under the Paris Agreement. I am optimistic that parties will come to a decision in 2018 that sets out a clear vision and path for the Adaptation Fund's future.

This year in Bonn, I will join the ranks of those emphasizing that the Fund is dear to their heart and therefore look forward to celebrating its 10th anniversary.



⌘ 14th AF Board Meeting, June 20-22, 2011 Bonn, Germany



⌘ AFB Side Event in Bonn, Germany, Adaptation Fund





SWEDEN

An Adaptation Fund Contributor Toward a More Sustainable World



ISABELLA LÖVIN

Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister
Sweden

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. It poses a serious threat that risks undermining decades of development progress around the world. The Swedish Government has made combating climate change a top priority. We believe that the challenges we face require collective responses and action, both at home and abroad.

Sweden aims to become the world's first fossil-free welfare nation. Climate change adaptation has long been high on our international development cooperation agenda—through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), multilateral development cooperation and, in particular, through our long-standing support to the Adaptation Fund. I am proud of Sweden's investments in developing countries and future generations. Sweden also encourages other donors to live up to the commitments made in Paris.

The Adaptation Fund plays an important role in the international climate finance architecture. By enhancing vulnerable countries' access to small-scale adaptation finance and spearheading the direct access modality, it has contributed to building resilience, institutional capacity and country ownership. This innovative way of working has also proved valuable for the Green Climate Fund, which has been able to build on the work of the Adaptation Fund and fast-track the accreditation of a number of national and regional implementing entities.

In addition to protecting against the devastating effects of climate change, adaptation actions offer many opportunities to advance quality of life, improve livelihoods for vulnerable communities and enhance the resilience of life-supporting

natural systems. This is particularly evident in community- and ecosystem-based adaptation. While a cement barrier may in some cases be an effective flood prevention measure, other measures such as planting mangroves provide not only storm protection but valuable co-benefits such as climate change mitigation, improved fisheries and protection of biodiversity. Such positive synergies should be promoted whenever possible.

For Sweden's feminist Government, gender equality is at the core of effective interventions and sustainable development. The Adaptation Fund has made systematic efforts to mainstream gender into project design and implementation, and we are confident that these efforts will be further enhanced by its newly adopted gender policy and action plan.

Sweden believes that the Adaptation Fund—with its client-oriented approach, swift project review cycle, professional and experienced secretariat staff, and established policies and procedures—is well placed to support concrete adaptation activities and thereby contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Adaptation Fund and to contributing to its efforts for a more sustainable world. Happy 10th anniversary!

«« Then-Swedish Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Jonas Hafström, speaking at a May 22, 2013 seminar organized by the Adaptation Fund at the House of Sweden in Washington, D.C., which is also the site of the Swedish embassy. The seminar focused on supporting climate change adaptation.



10 Years of Active Civil Society Engagement in the Adaptation Fund



CHRISTOPH BALS
Policy Director
Germanwatch

When in 2001 during COP7 (7th Session of the Conference of Parties) in Marrakech the decision to create the Adaptation Fund was taken, I stood in the negotiations plenary, applauding. Under the motto “Observing. Analysing. Acting.,” Germanwatch has been advocating for global equity and the preservation of livelihoods since the first UN climate summit in the early ‘90s.

A fund which would finance concrete adaptation projects in developing countries focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable to climate change—this was a great success back then.

Since then Germanwatch has been hot on the heels of the Adaptation Fund, observing and analysing its guidelines and processes closely, as well as interfering as an active civil society observer to the Fund when necessary.

With its unique features, the Adaptation Fund has been a success story ever since, living up to the expectations raised by its creation [and subsequent launching in 2007 after follow-up decisions establishing its structure and processes at COP13 in Bali]. As a pioneer of direct Access, the Fund has played a key role in strengthening and building institutional capacities of national institutions in developing countries, thereby promoting ownership for the climate process in the Global South. The exclusive mandate and institutional setup to pursue and administer innovative sources of finance was a breakthrough. For the first time ever in international law, polluters were called upon to contribute to supporting the people affected—in this case by climate

change. But unfortunately, monetizing Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) from mitigation projects under the Clean Development Mechanism dried up. Hence, there is an ever growing need for the Adaptation Fund to explore new and additional options of financing.

Germanwatch also appreciates how the Fund evolved into becoming a role model in terms of ensuring transparency of its processes and establishing mechanisms for active stakeholder engagement. As a civil society observer organization, Germanwatch was able to attend every Board meeting since the Fund’s governing body convened for the first time in 2008. During almost 30 Board meetings, Germanwatch followed closely the Board’s discussions on the Fund’s policies and guidelines, entered into formal and informal dialogue with the Board’s members and was given the opportunity to propose suggestions and recommendations. Nowadays, the so called “*Civil Society Dialogue*” is an inherent component on the Adaptation Fund Board meeting’s agenda. This format of Board members actively engaging in a formal dialogue with civil society is an unprecedented best practice among climate finance institutions. Furthermore, the transparent manner in which concrete projects and

programmes are developed in the Fund is also noteworthy. The Fund makes all project proposals under consideration by the Board available for public comment and review, giving individuals and organizations the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations. Germanwatch is confident that these mechanisms for increased civil society participation will continue and even further improve in the future and therefore serve other Funds—like the Green Climate Fund (GCF)—as a guiding example.

The Adaptation Fund has been a success story in international climate negotiations so far. It is a well-functioning institution which has vast experience in implementing concrete small-scale adaptation projects with a focus on the most vulnerable people and communities. Other institutions (such as the Green Climate Fund) will most likely not be able to cover this important niche in the international climate finance architecture in the near future. This is why 15 years later at the same place in Marrakech during COP22, I was again applauding when the decision was taken that the Adaptation Fund should serve the Paris Agreement.

The Adaptation Fund covers an *essential niche* in the international adaptation finance landscape, which at the moment cannot be covered by any other institution. Parties have to make sure to cover for the current revenue gap the Fund is facing—at least until a new innovative mechanism for resource mobilization for the Fund has been established and been proven that it is working.

Germanwatch will continue to fulfil its role as an active civil society observer organization, voicing the interests of the most vulnerable to climate change and facilitating active engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Global South. At the same time, Germanwatch will complement the Fund's efforts to build [national] capacities [that incorporate] the Fund's processes and include national and local stakeholders into discussions on the Fund and its projects—since ultimately the focus on the needs of the most vulnerable is what gives the Fund its increased bottom-up legitimacy.

Julia Grimm, Project Coordinator of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network, and David Eckstein, Policy Advisor of Climate Finance and Investments at Germanwatch, both contributed to this report



⌘ COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco, Adaptation Fund





MARCIA LEVAGGI, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ARGENTINA

Adaptation Fund Builds Momentum through Innovative Approaches to Climate Finance and Concrete, Scalable Adaptation Projects



MARCIA LEVAGGI

Director General, Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Argentina;
Former Manager, Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, 2009–2016

The 10th anniversary of the Adaptation Fund constitutes an opportunity to celebrate its achievements and also take stock on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for this still young and innovative fund. In particular, the negotiation of the Paris work programme to fully operationalize the Paris Agreement should clearly consolidate the Fund's role in the global climate finance architecture.

The Adaptation Fund is already contributing to advancing the Paris Agreement's provisions on adaptation, finance and capacity building through its operations. The necessary policies and procedures for the allocation of climate adaptation finance are in place for the Fund and fully applicable; including an environmental and social policy that promotes gender equality, vulnerable groups, human rights and conservation principles; a comprehensive risk management framework and an ad hoc complaint handling mechanism; as well as a gender policy and action plan.

The Adaptation Fund has often been identified with 'direct access' within the climate finance landscape; in particular for the provision of funding for small-scale replicable and scalable concrete adaptation projects to the most vulnerable communities in developing countries. The Fund's operating modalities are essentially transparent, country-driven, human-rights based, and gender responsive. The Fund's pioneering direct access modality, which enhances country ownership and builds institutional capacity in developing countries, represents about 36 percent of the Fund's current

project portfolio. That is unique in climate finance nowadays.

The Fund currently has 43 implementing entities accredited, including 25 national implementing entities (NIEs) under direct access, with 40% of those in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). A streamlined accreditation process for small entities also responds to the specific circumstances of small countries, with the Micronesia Conservation Trust and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management of the Cook Islands being the first NIEs to receive accreditations of this kind (Armenia's Environmental Project Implementation Unit followed suit in November 2016).

Demand for accreditation and funding keeps growing steadily. Through the accreditation process many NIEs have enhanced their systems and skills to manage climate adaptation finance. This ability to directly engage with countries is also supported by the Adaptation Fund's climate finance readiness programme, which effectively underpins direct access.

Seeing the vibrant community of NIEs thriving has been most rewarding. I have had the opportunity to directly witness the amazing support to the most vulnerable communities provided by the Center for Ecological Monitoring (CSE) in fighting coastal erosion in Senegal and by the Agency for Agricultural Development (ADA) in building resilience to drought in oasis zones of Morocco. In my own country, Argentina, the Unit for Rural Change (UCAR) is completing a project that enhances adaptive capacity and builds resilience of highly vulnerable small-scale agricultural producers in the northeastern part of the country. Moreover, these three NIEs and others have benefited from fast-track accreditation by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) thanks to their previous accreditation with the Adaptation Fund.

Later on, the GCF Board approved funding for projects submitted by CSE (US\$ 7.6 million to increase ecosystem and community resilience by restoring productive bases of salinized lands) and ADA (US\$ 39.3 million for development of Argan Orchards), hence demonstrating the key role these institutions are playing as catalysts of climate finance in their respective countries—thanks to early recognition, readiness and project support, and trust from the Adaptation Fund.

The Adaptation Fund has been associated with innovative approaches to finance since its creation, in particular with a levy on the carbon price for the Kyoto Protocol carbon market mechanisms as a revenue source. Thus, the Fund has in place the systems and the required expertise to continue monetizing carbon assets. The similar sustainable development mechanisms called for under Article 6.2 and 6.4 of the Paris Agreement may offer an opportunity for the Adaptation Fund to offer its expertise and experience in this area in the future. The Fund has weathered the downfall of carbon prices since 2011 with creativity and the consistent support of some contributors. This is a collective achievement of the Board, civil society and secretariat. In the near term, however, the lack of predictable and sustainable flows of resources could threaten the continuity of the Fund's essential work.

But the Paris Agreement placed adaptation as a key component of the global response to climate change, alongside mitigation and finance. It also expressed the aim to achieve a balance of scaled-up mitigation and adaptation financial resources, and recognized the need for public and grant-based resources for adaptation. The Adaptation Fund is therefore an important instrument for advancing the Paris Agreement. The 10th anniversary of the Adaptation Fund is a milestone to build momentum in this process.





⌘ Then-Manager of the Adaptation Fund, Marcia Levaggi (pictured left), and Adaptation Officer Daouda Ndiaye (not pictured), visit Senegal in Nov. 2014, to view Adaptation Fund-financed resilience activities in Senegal's coastal zone.



10 Years with the Adaptation Fund – A View from the World Bank as Trustee



JONATHAN CALDICOTT

Senior Financial Officer
Development Finance
The World Bank Group

The establishment of the Adaptation Fund included an invitation to the World Bank to serve as trustee on an interim basis, thus beginning a relationship that now spans 10 years.

At the World Bank, we did not take this invitation lightly, and sought guidance twice from our Board of Directors on the challenges and opportunities it could entail. This was because there were a few aspects that represented uncharted territory for the World Bank.

First, we would need to set up a trust fund to receive funds not from traditional sovereign contributors, but from proceeds from the sale of carbon credits. These sales would also be done by the World Bank in the secondary carbon markets—an activity we had never done before. Before we could do this, however, we needed to sort out tricky legal questions related to things like who owned the credits sitting in the Adaptation Fund's account at the Clean Development Mechanism and how to transfer them to buyers. Then we needed to put in place procedures to sell them that would provide the maximum benefit for the Adaptation Fund while protecting all parties from the risks inherent in such a nascent market. Finally, we needed to develop a way to transfer the funds we generated not just to traditional Bank clients, other multilateral development banks and UN Agencies, but directly to national entities under the direct access approach. The details on how direct access would be implemented had yet to be decided by the Adaptation Fund Board, but it was clear the World Bank would be asked to transfer funds to entities to whom we had never transferred funds before. We would have no role in selecting or vetting them, and would have no contractual relationship with them. This required a fair bit of work, but in the end we were successful in making direct access happen, while enabling the

Adaptation Fund to benefit from the World Bank's established procedures and systems for trust fund management, efficient investment, and transparent reporting.

One of my favorite memories from Adaptation Fund Board meetings was in one of the early years when a group of students paid a visit to the Board members in Bonn, Germany and presented them with a large, heavy bag full of coins they had collected. As they handed it over to me, I wondered how on earth I would get this back to Washington, DC and into the World Bank's Treasury—that on any given day manages tens of billions of dollars in contributions—but received by wire transfer, not by burlap sack. It was all part of a day's work for the trustee.

While we have been able to raise almost US\$ 200 million in carbon markets for the Adaptation Fund, the high prices in carbon markets did not last long. The World Bank is now focused on helping the Adaptation Fund bring in traditional contributions, receiving an additional US\$ 440 million this way so far, and earning almost US\$ 10 million in investment income for the Adaptation Fund. We are making more and more direct cash transfers to national, regional and multilateral implementers as the Adaptation Fund's projects mature. While the Adaptation Fund may be smaller than other climate funds we support, help from the World Bank to collect funds from new and different sources has enabled the Adaptation Fund to ultimately play a significant role in countries' efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change.





10 YEARS OF INNOVATION, ACTION & LEARNING BENEFICIARY CAPSULES

⌘ AF project in Honduras installed innovative rooftop rainwater harvesting systems that reduce soil infiltration and mudslide risks, and direct water to storage tank for use in bathrooms, cleaning and gardens at General School San Martin.



UNIT FOR RURAL CHANGE (UCAR) – ARGENTINA

Unit for Rural Change (UCAR): Building Resilience of Small-Scale Agriculture Producers

In Argentina, UCAR is working on several fronts to enhance the adaptive capacity and increase the resilience of small-scale agriculture producers in the country's northeast region.

Among results to date, 960 households, along with 619 students and teachers in 10 schools, have better access to water; a pilot insurance program for horticulture has covered 581 families; 55 structures have been erected to protect crops; 84 farming families and 450 students and teachers in two schools have learned new agricultural practices; and new meteorological stations have been set up to measure weather variables such as temperature, humidity, rainfall, soil temperature, atmospheric pressure and wind.



⌘ *Adaptation Fund project implemented by Unidad para el Cambio Rural (UCAR) to increase the adaptive capacity and build climate resilience of small-scale family agricultural producers in the face of climate change in Argentina.*



⌘ *Field Monitoring Mission in Argentina, Adaptation Fund*



Increasing Climate Resilience in Small-Scale Farmers through Integrated Adaptation

Through an integrated adaptation approach, a project in South Africa funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by the South African National Biodiversity Institute is reducing climate vulnerability and increasing the resilience and adaptive capacity among small-scale farmers that are threatened by climate variability and change.

Among the project beneficiaries is Mrs. Lungeleni Sibiya, a small-scale farmer from Swayimane who cultivates root vegetables such as beans, mealies, potatoes and amadumbe (taro). Recent changes in rainfall intensities have affected her yield and production of beans and amadumbe. Through the introduction of new small-scale farming techniques by the uMngeni Resilience Project, she has increased her maize and sweet potato production. This has helped feed her family by making more income through the selling of excess produce.

Meanwhile, Mr. Winnett Sibongile Dihadla had been planting mealies (maize) and potatoes in Swayimane using inappropriate planting methods such as densely sowing his maize seedlings after preparing the soil. But after working closely with the uMngeni Resilience Project's agricultural extension officers, he learned about new more sustainable small-scale farming techniques. This has substantially increased the maize produce that feeds his family while adding income through selling the excess produce.



≡ Mrs Lungeleni Sibiya. She is a small scale farmer at Swayimani.

“

Introduction of new small-scale farming techniques has helped small farmers increase maize and sweet potato production.

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«« With changing rainfall patterns in Swayimane, Mr Joseph Ncube has learnt of the opportunities provided in night mist to help grow his crops. Photo by Mrs Christine Cuenod, UKZN Friends of Agriculture



Helping Smallholders Improve Crop Production

Miss Matu Gwala, a small-scale farmer in the village of Swayimane in KwaZulu Natal province in South Africa, plants and sells vegetables, including spinach, green pepper, sweet potatoes, mealies (maize) and amadumbe (taro).

But in recent years, her crop production has fallen due to unpredictable and heavy rainfalls, drought spells and pest problems. With support from SANBI's uMngeni Resilience Project, Miss Gwala started receiving valuable information on small-scale farming techniques, as well as maize seeds to improve her crop production. This has improved her ability to earn more money to pay for her children's school fees.

Meanwhile, with changing rainfall patterns in Swayimane, **Mr. Joseph Ncube** has learned of the opportunities provided in night mist to help grow his crops. Through interacting closely with the uMngeni Resilience Project team, his maize and vegetable garden has helped him increase both maize and beans production. The project has also helped him save money from buying seeds for his vegetable garden.



≡ A different SANBI project in Mopani in another area of South Africa to provide small grants to empower rural farmers to adapt to climate change.



Enhancing Resilience through Climate-Resilient Farming Techniques

An innovative small grants facility (SGF) project in South Africa implemented by the South African national Biodiversity Institute is empowering local farmers to adapt to climate change.

The first Adaptation Fund ‘Enhanced Direct Access’ project, SGF empowers national implementing entities like SANBI with autonomy to identify and fund local adaptation projects with Adaptation Fund support.

For example, Maans Boyes, a livestock farmer belonging to the local Biodiversity and Red Meat Cooperative which has partnered with Gondwana Alive (NGO), had been negatively affected by climate change impacts. Through the SGF project, he has received livestock that are better adapted to heat and drought. These include indigenous Meatmaster sheep and speckled goat rams that were introduced into his flock in November 2016. Mr Boyes indicated that the new livestock has started cross-breeding to introduce a new generation of hardier and drought-resilient livestock.

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Maans Boyes, a livestock farmer in South Africa, has received climate-resilient livestock through the project that are better adapted to heat and drought.

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⌘ Mrs. Katrina Schwartz, a farmer in the Northern Cape who had been impacted by climate change through the loss of livestock due to heat stress, has managed to diversify her income and become more resilient through an SGF project that promotes savings and credit groups. Photo by Rouchette Daniels (Conservation South Africa)



Building Resilience to Climate Change and Variability in Vulnerable Smallholders

In the Uruguay town of Aiguá, in the center of its vulnerable landscape unit Sierras del Este, two women smallholder farmers belonging to different groups of agronomists presented micro-project proposals through the agricultural cooperative, CALAI.

Adaptation Fund Grant Financing	US\$ 9.9 million
National Implementing Entity	Agencia Nacional de Investigacion e Innovacion
Executing Entity	Uruguay Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

“For me, climate change has represented heavy, prolonged droughts, and long, very cold and dry winters,» said Marta Martínez. «It has affected especially cattle, mostly because we had no grass and had to give feed to animals. To adapt to these changes, I decided to use the rational grazing, I began to divide my land, and from two plots I did six plots. This allows me to have grass in any season. If there is a prolonged drought, I have one or two plots with good pasture. I feel better now, and this also calms the cattle, it allows me to do all work alone and with no surprises, as grass is always available. I presented a proposal to this Project in order to make these investments for fencing to divide the plot and also to take water to each plot, since I, as a smallholder farmer, would not have been able to do it by myself. The Project also helps you socially, you make friends with the training. This also allows you to have groups of technicians to help you, for example, in planning, and I believe that we are now more prepared for the future. I want my system to be productive, sustainable and resilient.”

Meanwhile for Margarita García, “climate change means drought, very hot weather in summer with strong sunshine, unbearable for animals and for everything, and extremely cold weather in winter. Climate change has affected me with drought, lack of grass, and also some lack of water. In the last severe drought, 12 cows died because they had no pasture and because I had no shelter for them. To face droughts, I

needed more water and more grass, had to build farm ponds, then fenced them so that cattle would not enter and get them dirty, and installed a trough. I also planted lotus to have better food for cows. I also have sheep, which were killed and eaten by wild boars in the night, so I had to install an electric fence to stop them. Now when I go to the field I am reassured because all the sheep are there, not as in the past. Regarding beef cattle, I now have a shelter for those, so the truth is that I feel happier. My dream is having a cottage in the countryside, and living there. I am on the right path to achieve this, but I need support.”



⌘ The AF project in Uruguay offers small grants to local producers to enhance water and land management.



Using a “Box Hand” Community Lending Model for Adaptation Finance

“Box hand” in Antigua and Barbuda is an informal community lending model where members of a group pay into a “box”, and the members take turns to receive the full hand.

Jennie is a “Box Holder”—the trustworthy person responsible for managing a box. Jennie is an immigrant woman from Guyana who was a police officer before migrating to Antigua. She has been a box holder for the past 10 years, and has had successes and challenges. Through this process, Jennie has learned to build up trust among women, hearing of their desires to buy land, own homes, educate their children. The practice is also adapted to real life issues like emergencies, death, sickness, and utility disconnections.

With a telephone call, Jennie can request a member to wait for their hand to allow another person to attend to their pressing needs. Through Jennie’s leadership, her groups’ box hands have helped dreams to be realized. Antigua and Barbuda’s Adaptation Fund project is working with box hand holders to finance adaptation and build the resilience of vulnerable communities.



⌘ Consultation on the Box Hand held at the Department of Environment Conference Room.



COOK ISLANDS

Protecting Coastlines and Turtle Nesting Sites in the Cook Islands

With support from the Adaptation Fund, the Cook Islands is strengthening its vulnerable coastlines on the spectacular low lying atoll of Penrhyn to protect the community from the increased intensity and frequency of king tides, tidal surges and natural disasters due to climate change.

Designed by the students of Te Moa a Rongonui School and Dr. Michael White from the Hakono Hararanga Incorporated, the project encourages youth and communities to replant 10,000 native trees over the next two years. This is urgent because Penrhyn Pa Enea is one of the very few turtle nesting sites in the whole of the Cook Islands. The trees protect both the coastline and nesting sites for turtles from natural disasters due to climate change.

The four project sites are located on Motu (Islet), Ava Rima, Tini Manu, Motu Kasi and Tevete. In February 2017, the observatory building was completed, blessed and handed over to the Penrhyn community. The observatory allows students and the community to learn more about turtles and their habitat.

Now in its final phase, the Te Pitaka project will focus on the re-planting of 1 km of native trees (Tamanu, Coconut Trees, Toa, Ngangie) to protect turtle nesting sites and the coastline of the Motu (Islet).



⌘ TePitaka project photo from SRIC-CC

The Strengthening the Resilience of the Cook Islands to Climate Change Programme (SRIC-CC), is implemented by Climate Change Cook Islands, a division within the Office of the Prime Minister and supported by the United Nations Development Programme. With financial support from the Adaptation Fund (AF), the SRIC-CC Programme and communities in the Pa Enea are addressing environmental risks through community-based approaches and community-driven adaptation. The SRIC-CC Programme works with more than 200 individuals on community-based resilience initiatives to enhance water and food security across the 11 Pa Enea (outer islands) of the Cook Islands.

COOK ISLANDS

Life Jackets in Paradise

The 70 residents of the stunning atoll of Palmerston Island in the Cook Islands urgently identified the need for life jackets to protect the community from the increased intensity and frequency of king tides, tidal surges and natural disasters due to climate change.

With no airport and limited visiting cargo ships, the isolated paradise of Palmerston Island comes at a price due to its location. The passage to access ships for the much-needed supplies, for example, is treacherous. Despite these challenges, the community has managed to live on the island it calls home for more than 150 years. Yet climate change has made the dangerous passage even more life-threatening, even to those who have spent their lives mastering its tides and currents.

More frequent natural disasters due to climate change have forced inhabitants of Palmerston to improvise. They climb trees, and tie themselves to its trunks. They also lash their boats from the lagoon to trees to keep them safe. But these are dangerous, short-term solutions that also do nothing to protect their livelihoods.

With financial support from the Adaptation Fund, Climate Change Cook Islands—a division within the Office of the Prime Minister and supported by the UN Development Programme—has been working to address these challenges. The Strengthening the Resilience of the Cook Islands to Climate Change Programme (SRIC-CC) works with more than 200 individuals on community-based resilience initiatives to enhance water and food security across the 11 Pa Enua (outer islands) of the Cook Islands.

The SRIC-CC Programme and communities in the Pa Enua address environmental risks through community-based approaches and community-driven adaptation. In Palmerston, for example, people quickly identified the need for life jackets for all residents. In addition to making residents feel less vulnerable on the water, the project is also strengthening livelihoods. In so doing, it is helping protect a way of life on a small island paradise.



⌘ Distributing 'Life Jackets' on Palmerston Island 22 November 2016.

COOK ISLANDS

A Labor of Love

In the Cook Islands, young farmers of Mangaia have learned how to plant organically and are leading the way in planting produce such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and carrots that was typically imported. They are harvesting for the local market, from farm to table.



⌘ Rouru Papatua, a young Farmer, of Mangaia.

In the early hours of morning, Rourumaru (Rouru) Papatua begins work on the family taro plantation or on her own vegetable plantations on Mangaia, the second largest of the Cook Islands. After harvesting taro, she peels and cooks the root vegetable, mashes it to a pulp and then wraps it in banana leaves. This island delicacy, called “tiromi”, is a lot of work to prepare, but it’s a labor of love. Rouru is proud to be a young woman farmer keeping her cultural planting/cooking traditions alive. She sells her tiromi at the market in Mangaia on Fridays. “My goal is to be a productive and successful farmer. I want to be able to help my family and community. I want to show that a woman can do anything no matter what as long as you are passionate about what you do,” she says.

Project beneficiary Desiree Harry said it was challenging at first since women weren’t typically encouraged to plant previously. “I feel that because I am a young woman, I am underestimated and it challenges me to do better,” she said. “I can do anything that a young man does in agriculture or anywhere.”

“

I feel that because I am a young woman, I am underestimated and it challenges me to do better. I can do anything that a young man does in agriculture or anywhere.

—ROURUMARU (ROURU) PAPTUA
Mangaian Farmer

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Rouru Papatua is part of the Phase 2 Young Farmers project that is rolling out in Mangaia supported by the Strengthening the Resilience of the Cook Islands to Climate Change Programme (SRIC-CC). SRIC-CC is implemented by Climate Change Cook Islands, a division within the Office of the Prime Minister and supported by the United Nations Development Programme. With financial support from the Adaptation Fund, the SRIC-CC Programme and communities in the Pa Enua are addressing environmental risks through community-based approaches and community-driven adaptation. The SRIC-CC Programme works with more than 200 individuals on community-based resilience initiatives to enhance water and food security across the 11 Pa Enua (outer islands) of the Cook Islands.



Stakeholder Consultation Key to Successfully Developing Water Management Project in Panama

The approval of a US\$ 9.9 million Adaptation Fund project in March 2017 developed by NATURA Foundation will build adaptation capacity among vulnerable communities in Panama to strengthen water resources management and food security.

The integrity of the project was strengthened through an inclusive stakeholder consultation process, which included governmental institutions and local beneficiaries at public meetings during the development of the project proposal.

“We live in an area of high irrigation, a region that is highly vulnerable to flooding and landslides,” said Damaris Sánchez, of FUNDICCEP in the Chiriquí Viejo Watershed, during an interview at a public consultation meeting. “We are surrounded by rivers and areas with bad agricultural practices that cause erosion of high slopes that facilitate at any moment a slip. We have already had losses of life due to this type of natural phenomena and losses in our production. Within this framework, we see that it is important that early warning systems be formed. But that communities, as local entities and as the first affected and also as first responders to an event of this nature, are prepared with training, equipment and an organization that allows them to efficiently attend any type of emergency and not disassociate from the support and participation of state institutions that have a responsibility to this issue. It is imperative that communities have greater participation with the necessary training and information to be able to implement more effective, efficient responses in a timely basis or to take preventive measures. Taking efficient action to any phenomena that can happen at any moment is of the utmost importance.”

“

It is imperative that communities have greater participation with the necessary training and information to be able to implement more effective, efficient responses on a timely basis or to take preventive measures. Taking efficient action to any phenomena that can happen at any moment is of the utmost importance.

—DAMARIS SÁNCHEZ
FUNDICCEP

”



Alton Hall, Motivated Young Farmer

For several years on any given weekday, Alton Hall would rise before the crack of dawn to climb the steep inclines to farm a nearly two-acre plot in the hills of Seville, St. Ann on Jamaica's north coast. Alton did his best to eke out a living for his young daughter and highly supportive wife.

For him, the arrival of the Government of Jamaica/Adaptation Fund Programme-sponsored Farmer Field School implemented by the Rural Agricultural Development Authority was a lifeline. The new knowledge, techniques and best practices in land use management taught by the Programme helped him to transform once parched and fallow fields to lush, green cultivation that fetch competitive prices at the farm gate and in the market.



⌘ Alton Hall and family. Photo by PIOJ



⌘ Alton Hall and family. Photo by PIOJ

“

The Government of Jamaica/Adaptation Fund programme is a good programme. I encourage it. I love it, because this is something we as farmers needed for years now! It helped us a lot as young farmers...there are not a lot of farmers who can buy a bag of fertilizer or a tin of onions, so this programme has been a help to us.

—ALTON HALL

one of the shining examples of Jamaica's 'Youth in Agriculture' Programme, who quickly realized and grasped the multiple opportunities offered by the Government of Jamaica/Adaptation Fund Programme (GOJ/AFP).

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Yvonne ‘Donna’ Budraham, Enterprising Woman Farmer

Yvonne ‘Donna’ Budraham started out as a hotel worker in Jamaica’s tourism industry upon graduation from high school. She worked long and hard hours, and longed for the day when she would be able to spend more time with her children.

“

They started training sessions with us...they taught us about insects and how they affected the onions, Irish potatoes and other crops, what chemicals to use, what to look out for, and how to monitor the field in a ‘W’ format or an ‘X-format’. I get better production and more products because of the training.

—YVONNE ‘DONNA’ BUDRAHAM

”

As fate would have it, she opted to resign her job to take care of an ailing daughter, and nurse her back to health. Faced with the prospect of no income, she threw herself into her childhood passion for agriculture.

Working a small plot on the foothills of Liberty, St. Ann overlooking the Caribbean, it wasn’t until the agricultural extension officers under the Government of Jamaica/ Adaptation Fund Programme turned up that she learned how to care for the land to achieve greater yields.

Today, she employs five workmen seasonally to handle the planting and bumper harvests and reports, “tripled and quadrupled” crop yields.



≡ Yvonne ‘Donna’ Budraham.





Abdylvahyp Halimberdiev, Farmer in Nohur Region

With Adaptation Fund finance, residents of three communities in Turkmenistan—stretching across desert, oasis and dry mountains—are working to increase resilience to climate change by implementing water efficiency and irrigation measures, and developing water user associations benefiting over 30,000 farmers.

Preserving and restoring ecosystems taking expected climate change risks into account, with the ultimate purpose of ensuring the well-being of communities, is a priority for the Government of Turkmenistan. To achieve this, the project is working to strengthen water management practices at both local and national levels in response to climate change-induced water scarcity.

“Improvement of irrigation techniques and promotion of new innovative technologies should be continued in areas such as Nohur, where farmers mostly depend on water mudflows,

temporary and permanent springs and streams and water pumped from the ground wells, some of which need reconstruction,” said Abdylvahyp Halimberdiev, a farmer in the Nohur region that benefited from the Adaptation Fund-financed UNDP-supported Addressing Climate Change Risks to Farming Systems in Turkmenistan at the National and Community Level project.



⌘ Promoting climate-resilient farming in Turkmenistan. Photo by UNDP

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Communities are working to increase climate resilience by implementing water efficiency and irrigation measures and developing water user associations benefiting over 30,000 farmers.

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World Bank in the Monte Patagones Dry Lands, Argentina, to Increase Climate Resilience and Sustainable Land Management

Main Issue	wind and water erosion, soil degradation, drought and reduction of area covered with woody/perennial species
Main Adaptation Measures	soil fixation through pasture recovery and deepening of the soil profile by using soil decompressor and natural fertilization through perennial leguminous plants



⌘ Roberto Miller, Argentine farmer on an AF-funded project.

“The Adaptation Fund project with the support from the Government allowed me to use a new tool to improve soil quality,” said Roberto Miller, a farmer in the semi-arid Northern Patagonia region. “After six months’ application of the soil decompressor we detected progress in soil recovery. The lowlands had been affected by the erosion, and could not be cultivated. With the new tool these areas are back in production. Now we use a perennial pastures approach, to maintain soil quality and ensure growth and improvement in roots structure. The results of the project are visible. I can now increase the planted area while the risk of erosion will be avoided for years.”

“

The results of the project are visible. I can now increase the planted area while the risk of erosion will be avoided for years.

—ROBERTO MILLER

Farmer in semi-arid Northern Patagonia region

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Adapting to Climate Variability Between Pampa and Patagonia, Argentina

Main Issue	wind and water erosion, soil degradation and drought in Levalle dry area.
Main Adaptation Measures	soil fixation, sustainable livestock management and recovery of natural grassland.

“My grandfather used to produce wheat here, but the soil affected by the wind and droughts started to erode,” said Gabriel Demarchi, a farmer in the village of Levalle. “Rains deepened the erosion, washing off the top layers of soil. After consultation with the Government experts, my father began planting perennial pastures and stocking forage to prevent further erosion. We stopped plowing soil and soil quality improved. In 2008 there was a catastrophic drought. The pastures dried out, but natural pastures withstood. This proved to us the value of natural pastures and demonstrated that they are adaptive to dry weather. Now we raise livestock. With the Adaptation Fund Project, we are testing closure-systems in order to improve the quality of the natural grassland. That allows us to adapt naturally to the changing environmental conditions, improve the soil’s capacity to recover and, in turn, guarantee fodder for the animals both in quantity and quality.”

“

With the Adaptation Fund Project, we are testing closure-systems in order to improve the quality of the natural grassland. That allows us to adapt naturally to the changing environmental conditions, improve the soil’s capacity to recover and, in turn, guarantee fodder for the animals both in quantity and quality.

—GABRIEL DEMARCHI

Farmer in the village of Levalle

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Farming in Monte Patagones, Argentina

Main Issue	wind/water erosion—soil degradation—drought
Main Adaptation Measures	soil fixation, sustainable livestock management, closures and silvopastoral management, access to water

“I am Mateo Perez, the third generation working on this property. Years ago, the land had been deforested because it was believed that the field yielded better (results). As a result, a large land area was eroded. The situation was exacerbated by the drought. The farms in this region are isolated, with a long range of woodlands in between them. With the Adaptation Fund project and the Government support we can share our experience and support each other. We are going to work on smaller plots and mix them with pastures. We will access water using solar pumps. Furthermore, focusing on silvopastoral management, we will enhance natural grasslands within the woodlands.



⌘ Mateo Perez

“

With the Adaptation Fund project and the Government support we can share our experience and support each other.

—MATEO PEREZ

Third generation working on property

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Small-Scale Farming in the Irrigation Valley of Patagones, Argentina, Implemented by the World Bank

MAIN ISSUE: soil degradation—salinization

MAIN ADAPTATION MEASURES: improvement of irrigation efficiency—recovery of soil salinization—crop management—risk diversification, installation of water reservoirs and shelterbelts

“We produce zucchini, chard, carrot, tomato, and other vegetables,” said Anses Justo, a farmer from northern Patagonia. “Our problem is the small amount of water we receive by irrigation-quota, which limits our choice of production. The Government experts help us by studying soil salinity and re-planning our fields. The Adaptation Fund Project introduced us to parameterized irrigation that increased the water efficiency, allowed us to correctly dose the phytosanitary products, plan the different cultivation areas with precision and protect the soils of the salinization; even revert it. Coating of irrigation ditches and installing small water reservoirs will allow us to diversify the risk by incorporating biodiversity strips, apiarian production and shelterbelts by deep root plants.”



⌘ Anses Justo

“

The Adaptation Fund Project introduced us to parameterized irrigation that increased the water efficiency, allowed us to correctly dose the phytosanitary products, plan the different cultivation areas with precision and protect the soils of the salinization; even revert it.

—ANSES JUSTO

Farmer from Northern Patagonia region

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The Marine Conservation Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP)

The Marine Conservation Climate Adaptation project (MCCAP), is a five-year project, funded by the Adaptation Fund and is being implemented by the World Bank in Belize since July 2015.

The primary objective of the project is to implement priority based ecosystem- based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System. With a focus to improve the protection regime of marine and coastal ecosystems, activities include the realignment of zones and increase in replenishment zones of three marine protected areas (MPAs) namely Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve and South Water Caye Marine Reserve. MCCAP currently collaborates with the 3 MPA managers and supports enforcement patrols in these areas. Six coral nursery tables have been planted in the two MPAs to foster coral reef repopulation. One of the strengths of the project is working with twelve fishing communities that are affected users of three MPAs with the expansion of their replenishment zones. Users will not only be affected by this expansion but also must adapt to the effects of climate change in relation to their fisheries resources. The fishers that are users of these MPAs are being engaged, whereby they have been invited to apply for grants to engage in sub-project activities related to Tourism, Fisheries and Agriculture. Fishers of these communities have expressed their interest in diversifying into seaweed farming and deep slope fishing. Other fishers are interested in going into agriculture diversification, and MCCAP will provide technical assistance for them to farm climate change resilient crops that will not require too much water for growth. The MCCAP project is also involving four northern communities in providing them with skills set training in Food Preparation, Cosmetology, Computer Service Repairs and Electrical Installation in accredited vocational institutions recognized by the government of Belize; 53% of the trainees are women. Similar trainings will also be conducted in the southern communities of Belize where Garifuna, identified as indigenous peoples, are located.

Chunox St. Viator High school and Agriculture Natural Resources and Institute, who has student enrollment from surrounding fishing villages are being engaged in climate change adaptation. They were exposed to marine and forest ecology and are given support by developing community projects based on climate change adaptation. MCCAP recognizes that for these communities to build resilience to climate change effects, youths must be engaged on climate change awareness, households in skills training activities and fishers in alternative livelihoods sub-projects.



⌘ Agriculture and Natural Resources and Institute students in a rainforest ecology field trip at Cockscomb Basin. Photo by Sandra Grant



Using Local Tools and Traditions to Build Climate Resilience

More than 90% of Egypt is desert and the agricultural land base totals about 3.5 million hectares— just 3.5% of the total land area.

The Adaptation Fund project “Building resilient food security systems to benefit the Southern Egypt region” has engaged stakeholders across the country. Such close collaboration has promoted adoption of new techniques, as well as rescheduling of irrigation, use of heat-tolerant crop varieties and changing of sowing dates in wheat production. Pictured left, project holders in Negoe’ Kebly, Esna district of Luxor governorate are estimating wheat yield.

The project requires changing centuries-old customs and livelihoods. As part of this process, the project has incorporated local cultures, traditions and norms to communicate messages about climate change adaptation. Pictured below, an audience in El Sawalem, Tahta district in Sohaq governate takes in a play called “Mesqa Improvement”, which uses humor to raise awareness.



⌘ Photo by Mr. Mohamed Ali



Learning Adaptation Techniques to Reduce Climate Change Impacts

The “Building resilient food security systems to benefit the Southern Egypt region” Adaptation Fund project takes an integrated approach to adaptation. Among its components, it builds adaptive capacity at national and community levels to provide food-insecure people with the knowledge, skills and tools to build their own climate resilience.

It also offers training to key groups, and established climate information centers in each village. Pictured left, a group of agriculture students at Aswan University gather at a climate information center to learn adaptation techniques that can reduce impacts of climate change.

The project has engaged stakeholders across the country. Such close collaboration has helped ensure learning and replication of best practices and skills development. Pictured below left, a field training session in Nazza Elbaharia, Gehina district, Soha governorate.



⌘ Photo by Eng. Hossam Anwar



⌘ Monument unveiled to commemorate improvement of Geady Mesqa in Benban Bahary, Daraw district, Aswan governorate. Photo by Mrs. Amaal Mahmoud



Building Resilient Food Security Systems in Southern Egypt

Through the “Building resilient food security systems to benefit the Southern Egypt region” project funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by the World Food Programme, communities now plan the type of crops and the sowing and harvesting periods based on climate information.

Early adopters and opinion formers were the first to share their success stories with other community members, thus leading to scale-up and replication of activities and ideas. Workers are improving Abu Abed Mesqa in Maharza, Abu Tesht district, Qena governorate.

“

Early adopters and opinion formers in Egypt were the first to share climate change adaptation success stories, leading to scaling up and replication of activities and ideas.

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⌘ Greenhouse gases and climate change creates one of the important factors threatening Erzurumda, Turkey.
Photo by Ihsan Ilze, Adaptation Fund 2012 Photo Contest

Production Date: October 2017

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As the Adaptation Fund commemorates the important milestone of the 10th anniversary of the launching of its operations, it has solidified a truly valuable role in the international climate finance landscape.

The Fund has gained wide support and momentum for the heart of its work—funding groundbreaking, concrete, localized projects that help the most vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt and build resilience to climate change.

It is approaching 70 approved projects serving 5.4 million direct beneficiaries to date. Furthermore, the Fund shares its innovations, lessons and best practices so that these projects can be replicated or scaled up by others, and that is already happening in several countries including Senegal, Morocco and Pakistan.

The Adaptation Fund's pioneering Direct Access modality continues to serve as a model in empowering developing countries to build their own capacities to adapt to climate change. Since the Fund accredited its first national implementing entity (NIE) in Senegal in 2010 to design adaptation projects and receive climate finance directly, it has grown to accredit 25 NIEs across the globe with the capability to implement effective actions.

Other innovations such as its Streamlined Accreditation Process to open doors to climate finance for smaller entities including those from vulnerable small island states, and its Funding Window for Regional Projects to address climate issues that cross borders, are further evidence of the Fund's nimbleness and ability to adapt to countries' adaptation needs.

The Fund's progressive Environmental, Social and Gender Policies have also been praised for their attention to human rights, marginalized groups, gender equality and

biodiversity conservation in concrete adaptation actions on the ground.

Ever since the Adaptation Fund was created through a decision by the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2001 in Morocco, and launched after being operationalized and its Board established in follow-up decisions at CMP 3 in 2007 in Indonesia, it has proven to be effective, efficient and relevant and to function at a high level.

Today, the Adaptation Fund is in record demand and growing rapidly. Decisions at the UN climate change conferences in Paris and Morocco over the last couple of years to include the Fund in language toward serving the landmark Paris Agreement, as well as generous donations from a growing range of contributors, have signaled strong support from developed and developing countries alike.

The inclusive and country-driven nature of the Fund's work allows its nearly 45 implementing partners, dedicated Board and Secretariat, and the countries, beneficiaries, and civil society all to collaborate to make it such an effective organization. We thank them all for their continued partnership.

With rising seas, floods, droughts, and storm intensity occurring across the globe, the Adaptation Fund is pioneering Innovation, Action and Learning that is needed as much today as ever.



ADAPTATION FUND



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