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## Adaptation Fund Readiness Webinar #6:

### Mainstreaming of Environmental, Social, and Gender Issues in Adaptation Projects and Programmes

Thursday, April 19, 2018

9:00 - 10:40 am Eastern Standard Time (New York, GMT/ UTC -5:00)

via Webex

#### Introduction

The sixth Adaptation Fund (the Fund) webinar for its accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs) took place on Thursday, April 19, 2018 as part of the Fund's Readiness Programme for Climate Finance. The webinar, which was hosted by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat), discussed the mainstreaming of environmental and social safeguards, and gender issues in adaptation projects and programmes. This follows the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) of the Fund's gender policy (GP) in March 2016, and the subsequent updating of the Fund's environmental and social policy (ESP) also in March 2016.

The webinar discussion articulated why compliance with the ESP and GP is important for project/programme outcomes and impacts. The webinar also tackled the process and procedure of how NIEs should complete Part II Section K and Part III Section C of the Fund's project proposal template, which deal with identification and assessment of environmental and social risks as well as gender issues, and also with the management of such risks and issues during project/programme implementation. Representatives from two NIEs - Ms. Marianella Feoli from Fundecooperación (Costa Rica) and Ms. Shelia McDonald-Miller and Ms. Le-Anne Roper from the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), shared their experiences on how they have approached risk identification and assessment at during project development guided by the Fund's ESP and GP, and how they were managing identified risks and mainstreaming gender considerations during the implementation of their projects.

#### Webinar Proceedings

The Webinar began with an Introduction from the secretariat by **Mr. Farayi Madziwa - Readiness Programme Coordinator**. This was followed by a presentation on completing Part II, Section K and Part III, Section C of the Request for Funding project template (the project template) by Dr. Dirk Lamberts.

#### **Dr. Dirk Lamberts - Environmental and social safeguards expert at the secretariat**

- Dirk discussed the importance of the Fund's ESP and GP in the programming of adaptation finance and how to complete Part II, Section K of the project template at the concept stage of the proposal, as well as expectations from the secretariat when proponents complete Part III, Section C of the project template, including an



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explanation of how the two sections are linked. The presentation was especially designed to address comments that emerged from the NIE pre-webinar survey regarding ESP and GP compliance. It included details on the 15 ESP principles, when and how they can be triggered, how to identify risks, how to appropriately categorize risk, when is an unidentified subprojects (USP) approach justified, and how to present adequate information for ESP compliance in the case of USPs.

- This session was followed by a brief presentation by **Dr. Daouda Ndiaye – Sr. Climate Change Specialist at the secretariat**, on planned and on-going improvements of the ESP and gender compliance sections of the project template and the project performance report (PPR) template. Daouda acknowledged the challenges faced by NIEs and other implementing entities in getting proposals approved due to issues of compliance with the ESP and completing ESP and GP related sections in the project template. He informed participants that the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) was working on improving the guidance to implementing entities to enhance clarity on how to demonstrate compliance, particularly related to Part II, Section K and Part III, Section C of the project template. In terms of reporting, the secretariat was also in the process of updating the PPR template so that implementing entities would be able to keep better track of their performance in addressing environmental and social risks and gender issues in projects/programmes. Daouda concluded by informing participants that the secretariat was also exploring ways to provide more sessions and training workshops to ensure that all NIES have adequate awareness and capacity to address environmental and social risks as well as gender issues in adaptation projects and programmes.

The session was followed by NIEs sharing their experience in mainstreaming environmental and social safeguards (ESS) and gender into project development.

### Fundecooperación experience

- **Mrs. Marianella Feoli from Fundecooperación of Costa Rica** explained that the programme in Costa Rica had three main areas of work – agriculture (agro-eco zones and farming practices), Water resources (rainwater collection) and Financial insurance. She highlighted the importance of facilitating a process on how to identify the risk, and mentioned that they drew lessons from The South African national Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), which is the NIE from South Africa, through South-South cooperation on a procedure for implementing the Fund's ESP in the context of Costa Rica. Marianella explained that SANBI had shared their risk dashboard (a risk identification dashboard to improve ESS risk identification) from which, Fundecooperación proceeded to create their own guidelines and approach to the 15 principles of the ESP. Fundecooperación went through each of the principles with each of their executing entities for the programme.
- Fundecooperación's approach to the ESP was to create their own guidelines to go through the 15 principles with each of the executing entities (30 projects). The excel tool (risk identification dashboard) shared by SANBI helped facilitate a step by step



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process to help Fundecooperación's executing entities (EEs) respond to specific questions for risk identification. After this process, EEs went back to their project areas to conduct stakeholder-mapping exercises, to hold workshops, and to go through the tool with the communities. The workshops helped identify the risks and confirmed positive impacts with the stakeholders through an iterative process in which there was sustained communication with local stakeholders.

- Key Risks identified and challenges - The main risk identified during the implementation of Fundecooperación's programme were on compliance with the law due to changes in the country's labor legislation and confusing requirements in the national water management policy. The project was focused on rainwater harvesting and since water is considered a public good, the NIE had to go through various procedures to comply with the law and implement activities. However, Fundecooperación used this opportunity to work with the local authorities with respect to various procedures for compliance with law.
- Another challenge that the entity has been focused on is the low participation of women in the agricultural sector. Efforts have since been focused on involving not just women but also family as a unit into the implementation of the activities. Other actions have been focused on workshops on the national labor policy, human rights (understanding and taking action on specific human rights issues) and steps to increase the participation of women and families as part of training and implementation actions.
- Impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Fundecooperación has prepared a publication on the implications of the programme in Costa Rica on meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the country's National Development Plans, National Adaptation Plans and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The publication presents how each of the project activities and components have had positive impacts on national policy and international goals. It also portrays a multidimensional focus and the direct/indirect impacts on the SDGs.

### PIOJ experience

- **Ms. Shelia McDonald-Miller & Ms. Le-Anne Roper from PIOJ of Jamaica explained that** the PIOJ was accredited in 2010 and prior to that, had been required to follow the rules and guidelines that exist nationally. The original project concept and proposal had been developed with this in mind. PIOJ ensured that a gender specialist that was on board was engaged to ensure that the project was gender sensitive. When PIOJ developed the ESS, the documents referred to were – the AF ESP and the World Bank Safeguards document. Prior to the finalization of ESS, PIOJ had a policy statement that was developed and disclosed on their website. It was also one of the criteria that PIOJ met prior to re-accreditation (2015-2016).
- Capacity building through accreditation – Shelia and Le-Anne highlighted that accreditation with the Adaptation Fund had helped build capacity with respect to ESS. PIOJ developed a policy and a training manual, and has since tried to incorporate the



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ESS in the project processes of the NIE. This is also used to be more deliberate in assessing the impact of projects and programmes, going forward.

- Implications of material change on ESP compliance – The presenters informed participants about the change the PIOJ had made to the original project/programme (Component 1) due to a change in the focus of the project which led to new activities. PIOJ had to update the proposal based on the changes in project activities. They conducted assessments to comply with the Fund's newly approved ESP. Activities to effect the changes included focus group discussions and community consultations with beneficiaries in the affected communities. Where gaps were identified, steps were undertaken to fill the gaps. Shelia and Le-Anne explained that this was an iterative process, which also involved discussions with the secretariat.
- Lessons from PIOJ and approach to ESS - Shelia and Le-Anne advised other NIEs to start the process of identifying risks as early as possible, even at the design phase. They informed participants that PIOJ evaluated each project activity against the Fund's ESP to determine risk. If a risk was identified, the level of severity was determined followed by inherent and non-inherent risks and impacts on the project. Based on this a template was developed to categorize risks to determine relevant mitigation measures. Severity of the identified risks helped guide frequency of engagement with partners, how often to consult with communities and requirements for risk mitigation measures etc.
- Shelia and Le-Anne also informed participants that PIOJ had agreed to use independent technical expert panels as some activities could have involved serious environmental concerns and might have been multidimensional. This helped ensure that management and mitigation measures were adequate. The NIE's Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) was developed with this guidance. Quarterly reviews of ESMPs by the steering committee/project oversight committee are conducted. PIOJ also mainstreamed the ESP and GP through interactive sessions and training with diverse participants (male and female, elders and youth). Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with EEs were amended to include ESMPs and guide project implementation arrangements.

### Q&A

- Q (Sheila – PIOJ) to Fundcooperación – What was the responsiveness of partners for ESP compliance?
- A (Carolina – Fundcooperación)- There were many EEs for the Costa Rica project and different times of project start, which was intensive work. The EEs had to go back to the community and to stakeholders and had to confirm the support of stakeholders and all organizations involved. We learnt that there is need for active communication channels to promote SDGs with all stakeholders, and at the local level to communicate positive impacts and to mitigate negative impacts.



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The Q&A was followed by a demonstration by [Caitlin Smith](#) from the [World Resources Institute \(WRI\)](#) on how to log on to the [Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities \(CPDAE\)](#) website and chat room.

The webinar concluded with the secretariat encouraging all participants to continue the dialogue and discussion on CPDAE, and informed them that Dirk and secretariat staff would be available on CPDAE to respond to any questions, guidance or issues of clarity on the Fund's ESP and GP and mainstreaming environmental and social safeguards as well as gender issues in adaptation projects and programmes.