Annual Climate Finance Readiness Seminar for Accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs)

5-9 August 2019

The Royalton Hotel, Antigua & Barbuda

Report

Introduction:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) co-hosted with Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment (DoE), the sixth annual Climate Finance Readiness Seminar for its accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs), from 5-9 August 2019, in Antigua and Barbuda. The five-day seminar was attended by representatives from over 20 NIEs, including the Technical Evaluation Reference Group (AF-TERG) which was newly established by the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) to carry out independent evaluation functions. The objective of the seminar was to facilitate a forum where the NIEs could share experiences and lessons learned, especially on the themes of gender and innovation in adaptation. The meeting also served to further learning through the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities (CPDAE).

In addition to participating in interactive sessions throughout the seminar, attendees had the opportunity to hold one-on-one clinic sessions with staff from the secretariat and visited several project sites in Antigua, namely a 3-km urban and semi-urban waterway that was being upgraded with a drainage system to meet projected climate change impacts of flooding; homes in McKinnon's watershed which were benefiting from revolving loans from an Adaptation Fund funded project in order to meet new adaptation guidelines established in the building codes and construction plans to become more resilient to flooding, hurricanes, and higher temperatures; as well as a climate-resilient church that was adapted to serve as a storm shelter.

Day 1 – Monday, 5 August 2019

Welcome and Introduction

The seminar began with welcome remarks and an introduction by Mikko Ollikainen, Manager of the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, who thanked the seminar's co-hosts, Antigua and Barbuda's DoE, for their warm hospitality. Mikko highlighted that the seminar was fittingly taking place in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. He mentioned the Adaptation Fund's (the Fund) 10 million USD project implemented by the DoE on the island; the Fund's growing Community of Practice of NIEs and direct access entities under the Green Climate Fund (GCF); the seminar's focus on the themes of gender and innovation; the AF-TERG, which has been newly established to carry out the Fund's independent evaluation functions; and the recent accreditation of Zimbabwe and Tuvalu. He also pointed out that the Fund had received a record 268 million USD in new proposals at the 33rd Board meeting held in March 2019, which broke the previous record set in October 2018, and that the Board had held an additional meeting in June 2019 that further advanced the Fund's necessary procedural arrangements to ensure it serves the Paris Agreement smoothly. Finally, he explained that the Fund had broken its single-year resource mobilization record during COP24, raising 129 million USD in new pledges.

Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, Chief Environmental Officer at the DoE, also gave welcoming remarks and explained the significance of the Carnival of emancipation that would be taking place on the first two days of the seminar and invited all participants to join the celebrations. She lamented the fact that certain adaptation projects are not deemed "bankable" by other donors and praised the Fund for financing projects that were unique and respectful of local needs and capacities and highlighted the importance of including local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), small players and local knowledge in projects and programmes. She also mentioned 2017's Hurricane Irma which devasted

Barbuda and explained that the Fund's project in Antigua and Barbuda included the construction of roads resilient and resistant to hurricanes with 180 mile per hour winds, by burying utility lines and changing the type of water pipes used. She cautioned over the overemphasis on women and girls when addressing the topic of gender and explained that in the Caribbean, it was the men who were struggling and being left out of projects. Finally, she added that the region was getting ready for the hurricane season, and that Antigua and Barbuda would use all its technology, spirit and drive to adapt to the storms, with men and women both included.

Session 1: Updates from the Adaptation Fund

This was a presentation by Mikko Ollikainen on recent developments at the Fund including the implementation of the medium-term strategy (MTS). He discussed the latest developments from the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB50) and the Fund serving the Paris Agreement; the outcome of part B of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) 33rd meeting held on the margins of the SB50 sessions; and gave an update on the implementation of the MTS, including the funding windows under development that would be available to NIEs in the near future.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Question: South-South Cooperation (SSC) Grants were mentioned during your presentation, but not regional grants, are they the same?

Response: We have readiness grants and learning grants. SSC grants are meant to build on knowledge. We also have Technical Assistance Grants for the environmental and social policy and gender policy (TA-ESGP). Regionally, we have SSC grants for accreditation, which may take place regionally, and as Ms. Diann Black-Layne mentioned that the DoE is supporting Maldives, this provides a great example of SSC in different regions.

Question: For scaling-up grants and learning grants, the limits are not clear, is it 1.5 million USD?

Response: Up to 100,000 USD per project/programme is available for project scale-up grants and up to 150,000 USD per NIE for learning grants.

Question: Presently, the Fund is in a transition, between the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). In order to make the Fund durable, what role is there for implementing entities (IE)?

Response: These matters related to new funding mechanisms are being negotiated by Parties, and these negotiations will take their time and due course. They are important for the Fund, especially how they affect NIEs, and will become clearer with time. IEs are encouraged to continue working with the Fund as they have done before, actively plan for the coming years and continue their good work with projects.

Question: There is a discussion about increasing the country cap (10 million USD), is there a specific number you're looking at?

Response: We are looking at different options, our recommendation to the Board is 20 million USD, it is the subject of ongoing discussions. Additional funding would enable the same magnitude of projects. Ambassador Diann Black-Layne added that the DoE was happy to work with other entities interested in learning about Direct Access, which she said her country greatly benefited from. She added that in her opinion, the best way to leverage NGOs is enhanced Direct Access. Mikko Ollikainen added that he encouraged NIEs to discuss with Ambassador Black-Layne implementing enhanced Direct Access with Adaptation Fund funding. It is a very new area he added, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was the first to benefit from such access, back in 2014, followed by NIEs in Costa Rica and Micronesia, among other countries. Whilst the process can be time-consuming, there is a lot of potential in enhanced Direct Access.

Question: When will the Knowledge Management (KM) training start?

Response: There will be one course consisting of two modules – one on Accreditation and one on the environmental and social policy (ESP) and gender policy (GP) in project design and implementation. There will be a formal launch of the course in September 2019.

Session 2: AF Technical Evaluation Reference Group (AF-TERG)

In this session, Eva Lithman provided an overview of the AF-TERG and its role vis-à-vis the Fund, while focusing on best practices in evaluations. She outlined the brief history of the Fund's evaluation function and explained the mandate and responsibilities of the AF-TERG. Dennis Bours then introduced all the AF-TERG members present: Mr. Andy Rowe, Mr. Claudio Rafael Volonte, Ms. Nancy May MacPherson, Ms. Anh Mai Bui and Mr. Mutizwa Mukute. The latter couldn't be present at the seminar but sent an introductory paragraph for Dennis Bours to share with the audience.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Question: Are you planning to chair some audit on impact evaluation? Or help with five-year reviews?

Response: We are here to learn about the Fund and work with NIEs. Our evaluations are long-term impact evaluations and look at the bigger picture of the Fund's performance. We also look at impact evaluation for the future. We want to be innovative about the evaluation process. We will have time to establish relations with NIEs and understand them. Impact evaluation carries a lot of weight and controversy. You cannot wait until you close the project. You need evaluation proactively. Evaluation has usually been reserved to human systems, so it needs to adapt to human and natural systems. Not just single systems.

Question: What is evaluation exactly? If it is not an audit, then what is the exact mission and purpose of evaluation?

Response: Evaluation has three roles: the actual evaluation before and after projects; an advisory role (guidance to NIEs for final evaluations); and learning for future projects. Whether or not we will contribute to guidance on projects hasn't been decided yet. If we cannot prove that we are useful, how do we approach this? What measures make sense to NIEs and people? We bring a strong conviction, and you the NIEs should hold us accountable about efficiency.

Session 3: Capacity development on Gender

This session focused on the topic of gender and the Fund's goal of mainstreaming gender considerations into climate change adaptation and promoting the universal goal of gender equality, by adopting and implementing its GP and Action Plan which the AFB approved in March 2016.

Presentation 3.A: AF gender policy updates and overview of implementation status

Young Hee Lee, Operations Analyst at the Fund, gave a presentation on the Fund's GP and its implementation status since 2016, and the role of IEs in achieving the goal of gender mainstreaming in adaptation projects and programmes. Her presentation focused on issues raised by NIEs, such as the nexus between gender mainstreaming efforts and climate change adaptation; the Fund's GP and Action Plan, and gender equality as a cross-cutting theme of the Fund's MTS; IEs' role in achieving the goals of the Fund's GP and contributing to global gender mainstreaming efforts in climate change adaptation; and the Fund's efforts to help IEs strengthen their capacity on gender, through accreditation, readiness, KM and project development.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Comment: Every slide of the presentation has a picture of a woman. This is what we want to highlight, there is too much emphasis on girls and women, but when designing a project for adaptation, how can we engage boys and men further? The slides should have pictures of everybody.

Comment: I share your point of view, we always talk about women, girls and youth, especially in Africa. Women should be empowered. The empowerment of women includes several elements: education (not schools necessarily, this can be informal; activities that generate revenue (for women); land tenure and property rights - we must allow women to access lands; and access to finance.

Comment: We need to put more focus, or equal focus, on men as well. Women have progressed a lot, men are left out and becoming vulnerable, like women, we need balance, or else men will become vulnerable. The most vulnerable people are old and disabled people, as well as young people, we need social amenities for all.

Comment: In Argentina, we have studies about tenure and men and women. In the north-east and north-west, land is in the hands of men at a rate of 95%, because of inheritance. And in response to Ambassador Black-Layne, our approach is different in a project, we need to formulate adaptation to climate change that benefits everyone, men and women. The gender perspective is meant to ensure that women have the same access as men. A practical example from our project about access to water in the north-west of my country: men need water to increase agricultural productivity, women are invisible. There is too much water for productivity, and not enough for human consumption. Why not ask women what they need? Women prefer access to water for human consumption, or else they walk several kilometers to get water (3-4 hours). I insist that adaptation projects be beneficial to all, guaranteeing women have the same access as men.

Response: A staff from the secretariat responded that gender is not only a women's issue. When the secretariat drafts policy and action, the principle is that gender is not just women, but also men. Gender interventions are not unilateral and general, they are not top down, but bottom up, based on NIE assessments identifying gender gaps in project planning and design. The pictures give a wrong perception, both women and men are considered. It could be norms, laws, factors that explain gender gaps, historically.

Presentation 3.B: AF perspectives: Gender considerations during project development and proposal submission

Saliha Dobardzic, Senior Climate Change Specialist at the Fund, gave a presentation describing the proposal submission and approval process as well as timelines, with an emphasis on gender considerations during proposal development. She also discussed the issues raised by NIEs which included: requests for an insight of development project proposal for Adaptation Funding; calls for proposals concept development timeline and project development processes; and understanding the project approval process and cycle (two-step and one-step approval processes).

Plenary discussions Q&A

Question: It is very challenging to integrate gender. In the project formulation phase, we address gender and gender gaps, and while designing projects, we integrate gender, but you are saying that we should do this in parallel? How do we handle this challenge?

Response: It depends on the project, the context, the project hypothesis, it is very context-dependent, so I cannot answer these questions generally. Most decision makers have a perspective which may not include all vulnerable people. So, it is important to identify beforehand all stakeholders and potential problems, from different perspectives, and what needs to be addressed. You can then design a project which responds to these problems.

Panel 3.B.i: NIE experiences: Gender considerations during project development and proposal submission

In a panel discussion, the DoE of Antigua and Barbuda outlined its integrated approach to adaptation in the McKinnon's watershed, discussing the threat of flooding; the loan program for vulnerable households to adapt to the impacts of climate change; community buildings and storm shelters; providing grants to upgrade buildings; and collaboration with local NGOs.

The speaker from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) of Cook Islands explained that they were accredited in 2016 and outlined actions for resilient livelihoods that were undertaken during their first Adaptation Fund-funded project: strengthening of national and local capacity for local decision-making in climate change disasters; enhancement of climate-resilient water management within communities; and the establishment of knowledge platforms for resilient agriculture.

Discussion Question and Answer (Q&A) session

Question: How did you address/what was your approach to address the adaptation reasoning section of the project proposal template and the distinction between adaptation and business as usual development activities?

Response by DoE: In relation to adaptation reasoning, it was somewhat difficult because we were working in a low-income area, with developmental issues. We had to work with other government entities to gather information on extreme weather events, flooding etc. The project addresses issues of drainage, exacerbated by extreme weather events. We also worked with community members in the area to address various issues.

Response by MFEM: Our project was a former United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, aiming to increasing resilience to climate change, given that our communities in Cook Islands are quite vulnerable to sea level rise, droughts and other climate change impacts.

Question: Have you conducted gender assessment before project formulation, and if so, what were the challenges that the entity had faced?

Response by DoE: When upgrading the waterways, gender came into consideration. Because the area close by is poor, there is no investment in that area to keep up with the interventions, so it is a challenge to get community members to participate. In terms of loans, there is a difference between men and women accessing loans. Access to regular loans becomes quite challenging. There was a data gap as well, you really want something documented. We worked with the Directorate of Gender Affairs, and the statistics department, and we applied for readiness grants, to conduct a baseline gender assessment.

Response by MFEM: There were consultations during the implementation process, but prior to 2012, there was not much understanding of gender issues to incorporate in projects. MFEM started considering gender at that point.

Question: How did you integrate gender considerations into the development of your proposal, and what were some of the gender specific issues you had to address?

Response by DoE: In terms of how we integrated gender, we had different focus groups, like disability groups, to find out what their concerns were, such as raising rents after improving buildings. So, we had to negotiate with land owners, with clauses which prevented raising rents. Shelter was also important: shelters are churches and schools and community centers, which are not always accessible to people with disabilities. We designed the project to include everyone. The key gender issues were that there were a lot of single women female households, involved in the informal sector with small businesses, and they can't get a loan at the bank like men can. The loans would only reach a limited amount of people. Projects implemented by the government are uninteresting for people, they are deemed too political, so it was important to have solid stakeholder involvement.

Response by MFEM: From our consultations in our shrimp project, we found that there was inequality in technical areas, which are male-dominated, so we were looking to incorporate women in these technical areas. Women do the planting, passed on from mother to daughter, but men couldn't plant, there was no access for men to tenure, so if they were single, they would have no access to land to plant for their livelihoods. The project was meant to incorporate everyone.

Question: How many times did you resubmit your proposal to the Adaptation Fund Board before it was approved? What were some of the challenges you faced in getting the proposal approved and how did

<u>you address these, and the observations made by the Board on the proposal before the project could be approved?</u>

<u>Response by DoE:</u> Twice, the first submission had a problem with the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), the data it contained was incomplete.

<u>Response by MFEM:</u> Twice as well. We had the same issues (as the DoE), we needed a more comprehensive ESP plan.

Ambassador Diann Black-Layne added that very early on, social and gender issues had completely restructured the project by the DoE and took up 2/3 of the budget, improving the quality of the project. 80 % of applications were women, so we had to make sure we mobilize men as well, they were not applying although they had their own land.

<u>Question:</u> For NIEs, we have a GP and an ESP, but what about our relations with other funds? How do we harmonize these policies?

<u>Response:</u> The Fund's policies can be used as a framework to be replicated in other projects. But each situation is different.

<u>What advice would you give to NIEs going through the project development stage and for proposal submission?</u>

- Have a good engagement plan, and an NGO that you can work with. We saw the importance of relationships and a strong project team.
- Apply for technical assistance grants (TAG), to build capacity within the team and the NIE.
- Community, social and financial inclusion is important to build confidence and trust with beneficiaries. Train stakeholders and include both men and women beneficiaries in the training. This also builds unity within the community and encourages them to work together as one.
- You need a dedicated team, for projects and guidelines.
- In cases where you do not have capacity, it is useful to hire consultants. Also, it is important to a have strong relationship with the secretariat, to answer all your questions.
- Preparatory work, with science, data, interviews, and identifying different needs, is fundamental.

Presentation 3.C: AF perspectives: Gender considerations in environmental & social risk identification, screening and implementation of the environmental and social policy and gender policy

Dirk Lamberts discussed what NIEs should consider regarding application of the Fund's ESP and GP when preparing a project concept and fully developed project proposal. He addressed several issues raised by NIEs, including the responsibilities between the Fund and NIEs towards environmental, social and gender safeguards; how ESP and gender-related issues should be addressed and when; how NIEs should address the ESP and GP when it concerns unidentified sub-projects; an insight into the development of project proposal for funding; and lessons learned from NIE's implementation of environmental, social and gender policies and safeguards.

Plenary discussions Q&A

<u>Comment:</u> The Fund has approved a grant for an implementing entity to devise its own ESP and GP, with a consultant. Don't shy away from it. Micronesia applied for a technical assistance grant for the ESP and for the GP and devised its own ESP and GP.

<u>Comment</u>: Gender mainstreaming is about a power imbalance. That might mean doing damage to rectify this, because it is a fight, a struggle. There may be power imbalances that people need to change to improve people's lives.

Participants then attended local celebrations to mark emancipation from slavery in Antigua and Barbuda.

<u>Day 2 – Tuesday, 6 August 2019</u>

Panel 3.C.i: NIE experiences: Gender considerations in environmental & social risk identification, screening and implementation of the Fund's environmental and social policy and gender policy

This was a panel discussion with selected panelists from NIEs, where they shared lessons learned on environmental, social and gender-related risk identification, screening and management.

South Africa's SANBI described two Adaptation Fund projects, a small grants facility and an Umgeni catchment project.

Morocco's *Agence pour le Développement Agricole* (ADA) described an Adaptation Fund project to rehabilitate ancestral irrigation systems and improve revenue for vulnerable populations.

The Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (PROFONANPE) described a project for ecosystem adaptation to climate change to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities.

Discussion Question and Answer (Q&A) session

<u>Question: How did you decide which principles of the Adaptation Fund environmental and social policy had risks or had no risks during project development and which stakeholders were involved? How did you identify the appropriate stakeholders to involve?</u>

<u>Response by SANBI:</u> We had two projects funded by the Adaptation Fund, so the process was different. ESP was included in the project development phase for the Umgeni catchment project, and there were different organizations involved that were engaging stakeholders. The risk management activities were included in the project. South Africa's national environmental legislation imposed the necessity of an assessment with consultants.

<u>Response by ADA:</u> It was dependent on the specific activities of the project. We look at specific risks from construction, involuntary resettlement, inheritance, physical and cultural assets, but these risks have been avoided, as there is a law that protects oases, so in this case these ecosystems were not threatened. We have a new entity that was created to protect oases, which coordinates with the ministries of water and agriculture and other stakeholders, for risk identification.

Response by PROFONANPE: We did an analysis of the project components versus risks as stated in the project template of the Fund. We worked with a marine research center in Peru, to see how we could mitigate impacts. We applied safeguards of the World Bank, through consultants, as we did not have that capacity internally. In our first proposal with the Fund, these principles were not operational yet. Nonetheless, the Fund asked us to integrate these principles, but we did not have the funding or capacity, it was a challenge, but it created capacity within our organization.

Question: How are the identified risks being managed during project implementation and how did you incorporate gender into your risk management approach? Please also give examples of some of the gender-related issues you had to consider or address?

Response by SANBI: For the Umgeni catchment project, an ESP dashboard was developed and used to track gender involvement. An annual assessment of ESP is done, and activities are incorporated in the next implementation period. Each reporting cycle includes ESP risks. For gender, we agreed that there would be gender-disaggregated activities. The project proposal submitted had to aim to benefit women at 50% (of the beneficiaries), and include other marginalized groups, such as people with disabilities.

Response by ADA: Women have an important role in the development of oases. They are the most vulnerable to climate change and live in / near the oases, while men migrate to cities. Women stay with children, so we looked to integrate women from the beginning, as well as members of NGOs representing the network of oases. For the first time, we initiated a call for project applications, and we had a small fund to reward the best project. More than 80% of the project activities benefit women, specifically by enhancing the value of the agricultural products they produce, such as dates, date syrup, handicrafts made with natural materials, but also ecotourism services.

In terms of risks, there were several from the beginning. It was difficult to integrate women in the project, men spoke on behalf of women, and women were not used to speaking, especially in public, they were more timid, but now they have been empowered and defend the project, they are even asking for more financing to extend the project to other areas. They have truly become ambassadors of the project.

Response by PROFONANPE: In the first year of implementation, we conducted a detailed analysis, which takes time, all referenced by documents regulated by the government, with terms of reference (TORs) for services, an emphasis on gender, and ESP safeguards. There were institutional changes, to integrate each new employee to be part of the project, and TORs for goods and services based on gender and safeguards. In the second year, we added two members, one safeguards specialist and one gender specialist. We placed a special emphasis on vulnerable people, the youth, women with babies, old people. There must be a consideration of cultural diversity, in relation to women, men, boys, vulnerable people, and this has become the norm for all projects

Question: In what way have you used the Adaptation Fund readiness grant for the environmental and social policy or the gender policy to help your NIE address environmental and social safeguards and gender considerations? What products did you produce from the grants and how are you using them to support project development?

Response by SANBI: SANBI applied for a TAG to develop an ESP dashboard and document, with all fifteen principles included. We are currently applying this dashboard in the project, although the dashboard maybe too extreme in certain cases, too strict and unenforceable. The dashboard is available on our website.

Response by ADA: Through accreditation with the GCF, we were asked to develop an ESP and GP. Thanks to the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) we were able to develop this policy, in addition to a readiness grant from the Fund to update our policy to correspond to GCF and Adaptation Fund standards.

Response by PROFONANPE: In 2016, we applied for a TA-ESGP readiness grant through the GIZ and the Adaptation Fund, to develop our institutional GP. The readiness grants empowered our team and increased capacity in safeguards. We prepared a manual and published it on our website in English and Spanish. We conducted a readiness workshop for our staff. The two complementary funds helped us move forward into implementation.

The panelists were then asked to address the risks encountered during their projects.

Response by SANBI: Some activities are affected by gender roles. Livestock in South Africa is male-dominated, while crop farming is female dominated. All projects are required to be inclusive of everyone.

Response by ADA: During the ESIA, we developed an environmental and social management plan, that identified risks and their mitigative actions. The quality of the material used during the project is of the highest quality, subject to certain criteria, such as the sulfate and sulfur concentration, the organic matters used, etc. Engineers monitor these activities. We did not identify new risks that had not been identified at the beginning. But to our surprise, we had great involvement of our partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders who were not interested at the beginning but later became very interested in the project.

Response by PROFONANPE: Extractive activities in Peru are male-dominated, there is important female involvement, but at the second phase, as men extract and give to women the products. Women then sell these products in the second phase. During the design of the project, we proposed adaptation measures.

Question: Have you experienced unidentified sub-projects (USPs) during project development? If so, how have you dealt with the application of the Fund's environmental and social policy and gender policy for such USPs?

Response by SANBI: We used component 1 of the project to identify relevant risks, ensure gender participation and stakeholders engagement.

Response by ADA: There were none such risks, only strong implication and involvement from our partners.

Response by PROFONANPE: We don't have a project yet, only an environmental and social management plan. Our pilot project is proof that there could be replication.

Plenary discussions Q&A

<u>Comment:</u> We have a team of 6,7 experts in safeguards of the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, etc. This allowed us to apply safeguards during the project formulation phase. We applied the ESP and GP before the Fund had such a policy.

<u>Comment:</u> We are managing six Adaptation Fund projects, a big program. Regarding the policy, we hired outside consultants, the focus of this policy didn't matter in terms of males or females, the focus was on giving them diversified activities. Based on this we were able to finalize our policy.

<u>Comment:</u> Using the World Bank framework, through a GCF program we are implementing our policy to be ready when the second Adaptation Fund project is operational.

<u>Comment:</u> We have an agency that is mandated to protect all environmental activities and ensure the ESP and GP is respected and carried out.

Emerson Resende from the GCF intervened on behalf of his organization:

We approved an updated policy on gender, which went through a very thorough review with Canadian and Egyptian board members. We have a readiness program, with 1 million USD per country per year for a number of activities. We provide 1-time grants for up to 3 million USD. Gender is a very important consideration. We are in the process of hiring a consultant to help the fund in terms of capacity building, incorporating gender in line with the fund, and making sure outcomes are verified. We have approved, in less than four years: 111 projects, worth 5 billion USD, in 99 countries, 71 % of which have sex-desegregated targets against indicators. We have complementarity and coherence with the Adaptation Fund, an open line, and we are looking to scale up successful Adaptation Fund projects. Our policies are very similar to those of the Adaptation Fund.

<u>Question:</u> Have you found any tension between applying the ESP and GP and the concept of innovation? Do these policies constrain innovation?

<u>Response by SANBI:</u> The ESP and GP has helped manage risks, before the project is even submitted, considering imagined risks as well.

<u>Response by ADA:</u> I will share with you a little anecdote in project formulation with the Fund secretariat: our project has minimal impacts, so we felt that there was no need for an ESIA, because agricultural projects have few impacts. Daouda Ndiaye called me and said that there must be an ESIA, at 7 or 8 pm the day before the deadline, and I really wanted the project to be approved. Now I always do the ESIA and learned my lesson, I thank Daouda and thank the Fund for this lesson and good luck, because the Fund opened our door to other funds, like the GCF, and helped us join a family.

<u>Response by PROFONANPE:</u> Our principal problem was budget-related, our project budget was approved for certain components; new activities of mitigation need creativity to be fulfilled.

Mikko Ollikainen responded by explaining that when talking about innovation, the risks are related to project success, not risks to the livelihoods of people, i.e. risks to the project model not people.

Question from AF-TERG member: What is the hardest part of your work? To save people or to do no harm? The question is for Dirk Lamberts, across your whole body of work, and for the NIEs.

Response: Translating ESP into a language where a person in the community understands it, and developing plans to satisfy their conditions, not scare them away.

Response: ESP and GP is a requirement of international funding, it is a work in progress to respect and incorporate these principles into the organization. It is important to have a team that ensures this work. Especially when you go to provinces, there is always a surprise with experts and technicians, to integrate these. Gender always requires a bit more work.

Response (Dirk Lamberts): I'm pleased with what we're hearing. I joined the Fund a few months after the ESP and GP was approved. There was difficulty, how do we show what human rights are? This was a process of capacity building within both the Fund and the NIEs, and now we have quite a performing mechanism, it was quite innovative when adopted, non-prescriptive with risks identified and managed, but evidence-based for identifying risks, and with safeguards commensurate with risks identified. That is very encouraging, to see it adopted, institutionalized. It is a process of trial and error, as mentioned by the NIEs. It is a struggle to apply these safeguards. The greatest challenge is how NIEs will work with Executing Entities (EE) to make these sure these safeguards are applied effectively. That is the next phase. It is encouraging to see the leverage these policies have had. They help expand capacity and opportunity. The main issue is working with EEs, stakeholders and beneficiaries to see how these safeguards are put into practice. The ESP and GP is only 9 pages long, that's the beauty of it, it does not prescribe how it will be applied.

Question: In our country, there is already legislation that requires the application of these principles before the project. But the fifteen principles of the Fund do not always concur with our national legislation. Sometimes these principles are rejected. What can be done (question addressed to Dirk Lamberts)?

Response (Dirk Lamberts): Complying with national requirements and those of the Fund can be challenging. National systems are often different from Fund policies. Our policies are straightforward; one of the requirements is to respect national requirements. In general, if you carry out Fund policies and requirements, you will have covered all or most of the national requirements.

Response (Alyssa Gomes): You set the stage for by complying with the ESP and GP, by handling risk management, anticipated risks, vulnerable groups, and developing the ESP and GP for all levels and projects. The secretariat has developed two new requirements in project monitoring: ESP and GP risks, and unidentified sub-projects.

Question: What advice would you give to NIEs going through the project development stage and for proposal submission?

Response by SANBI: Maintain constant correspondence with the secretariat to make sure you are aligned with their policies, and to monitor your progress and compliance.

Response by ADA: We might have formalized policies, but we must go to the field to invite stakeholders and simplify principles for technicians and EEs in the field. The EEs' implementation fee is important, as well as the mid-term evaluation (MTE).

Response by PROFONANPE: To identify risks, you need people with that capacity, with internal principles in place, more than just a technical team.

Presentation 3.D: AF project reporting requirements: Project reporting and mainstreaming gender during project implementation

Alyssa Gomes, Projects Consultant at the Fund, gave a presentation which focused on concrete projects with an emphasis on reporting on gender aspects and included responses to issues raised in the pre-seminar survey, namely adding a column to the ratings tab where the expected progress for the end of the following year is forecast; and adding an ESP tab, where relevant activities are against the principles.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Question: The table you presented is very educational. Can the entities respect this table with their capacity? It can be difficult with our capacity to apply this. My question is about gender, subject of the day. You talked about discrimination, please elaborate.

Response: We have readiness grants for capacity building. The results tracker has two aspects: the total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries. You can then distinguish what percentage are women and youth. When the secretariat prepares the annual performance report (APR), it does not just look at women and men who benefited from intervention, but by region as well. This comes up in the annual performance reports, not just women but also men as well.

Farayi Madziwa, Readiness Programme Officer, gave a presentation which focused on reporting requirements for readiness grants, including project performance reporting.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Question: How do you define project completion? Is it financial or is there other criteria?

Response: That is largely based on the entity, which must inform us what it considers completed, we don't restrict them with a specific definition. It can be operational or financial, but they must let us know. As long as they haven't finished, they must tell us through the monitoring report, if there is a need for an extension, and they need to justify and inform us.

Question: What is the process to include more activities in the grants? Do we need to send you this information, or should it only appear in the report?

Response: It depends, at what point do you want to add more activities? Either way, you must inform us. If the change affects 30% or more of the budget, even in readiness grants, it is considerable. So, it depends on the extent of the changes. If it is considerable, it would have to be taken to the Board.

Question: This question is for NIEs. You have many reporting requirements, how many other donors do you have? In terms of reporting requirements.

Response: As many as necessary. The World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, GIZ, etc. Each donor has his own reporting requirements, although they are similar.

Question: How do you deal with this? How does the secretariat help you to avoid repetition? Do you have a common data set?

Response: We have one team per donor, with different ways to work, different reports, we don't have one job, but as many jobs as there are donors.

Question: This question is for the secretariat. Have you found a way of consolidating your knowledge?

Comment (AF-TERG): Many institutions are asking similar questions. Applications are being sent to many funds. There is little coordination between funds, particularly in climate change, there should only be one definition across funds of the benefits for people for instance.

Response: The secretariat constantly considers whether it is simplifying this process enough so that it is not overly burdensome for NIEs. Ideally, we would harmonize the concepts, and not have different definitions, say for households, or beneficiaries. We are not there yet; we hope to get there in the future, to simplify life for NIEs. We will need a global coordination mechanism, we don't have that yet. Until we do, the Board wants to ensure that the funds are spent effectively and efficiently. There are other criteria like learning, KM, etc. it is not as simple and straightforward as it seems. We have a KM program, and we're happy to have Emerson Resende from the GCF here, we are coordinating with the GCF, but for the Board to agree on coordination it takes time.

Panel 3.D.i: NIE experiences with Adaptation Fund project reporting and mainstreaming gender during project implementation (identifying indicators and methods of verification)

This was a discussion with selected panelists from two NIEs, Chile's *Agencia chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo* (AGCID) and Kenya's National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), who shared their knowledge and experience on identifying appropriate indicators to measure project performance, and how to establish appropriate methods of verification to assess the indicators project development and proposal submission.

Discussion Question and Answer (Q&A) session

Question: How did you decide on what exactly to monitor and the scope of information needs?

Response by AGCID: Based on the social and environmental management plan, coupled with some determinants of adaptive capacity, relevant indicators were monitored such as physical and cultural heritage; roles and decision-making; work and social security; tenure and income from crops; access to basic services; and natural resources among others. This information is being collected through semi-structured interviews and an annual survey.

Response by NEMA: Program objectives, outputs, a specific need drove us to our information, which would help us identify the indicators. The Fund's project outcomes 1-6 were respected, using the Fund's indicators methodology. Our indicators were both qualitative and quantitative.

Question: What approach did you use to identify the appropriate indicators for your project? How did you factor in gender issues in this approach?

Response by AGCID: In the genesis of the project only broad categories were defined in which agronomic, physical, social, economic and environmental indicators should be constructed. Based on these categories, tools were built with a qualitative-quantitative approach, in order to triangulate project information. The gender approach has also been done from this perspective, combining tools aimed at obtaining information based on the subjective construction of gender and its relation to climate change, together with statistical data disaggregated by gender, which provide a framework regarding access that men and women have to physical heritage, natural resources, information, income, social security, participation and community involvement, and training in climate change.

Response by NEMA: We have a gendered approach when designing projects and selecting EEs, we wanted gender parity. There had to be regional balancing. Gender considerations for the EE were a must. Affirmative action was applied in interventions; we selected women groups, by women and for women. We asked: how many women and men are participating? How active are both genders in the program? Access to benefits and participation are the two most important components.

Question: Have you faced any issues gathering data and information from executing entities to assess the indicators? How have you overcome these issues?

Response by AGCID: Indeed, there have been some problems regarding the collection of information, mainly because there was no data on certain topics (gender for example). This issue has been resolved by designing tools and platforms that have allowed us to obtain data necessary for the monitoring process and for decision making.

Response by NEMA: When implementing our gender analysis report and action plan, we failed to realize that gender issues needed better attention, to improve the quality and impact of our program, which had not been fully owned by the EE, we needed capacity-building and awareness raising to mainstream gender. There is a certain lack of commitment on data collection. The gender baseline is not well gender-disaggregated. If you fail in the baseline, it is difficult later. At program level, we are overzealous. We can report on outcomes but not on gender issues. To overcome this, we have developed an important template. To report on indicators, we have quarterly workshops, a platform to discuss the quarterly reports, for peer review. We now have reports on gender matters, as an improvement. We report better, with a very clear agenda. It is a work in progress and we are heading there.

Question: How have you ensured that your means of verification are gender-sensitive?

Response by AGCID: Recently, a baseline has begun to be constructed that yields diagnostic information regarding gender, because the means of verification of the project have not been gender-sensitive for the most part. An effort has been made to have a greater number of women beneficiaries and to encourage their participation in the training of the project, which has been reflected in the means of verification such as letters of commitment of beneficiaries with rainwater harvesting systems and greenhouses or attendance lists for workshops and courses.

Response by NEMA: We have a set of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) tools, such as oral interviews. In the morning hours, women are busy. In the drought season, you will find that women are at home, men are looking for water for their pastures. We ensure that all the data is gender-desegregated. We spend time in the field, to see if women are participating, accessing the benefits, for both genders.

Question: How are you using the data and information you are gathering through your monitoring and verification process? What has been the impact of this on gender issues internal and external to the project?

Response by AGCID: As already mentioned, this year we have been able to generate different tools that have allowed the project to have the necessary information to make decisions and plan for appropriate strategies to accompany the beneficiaries. For example, one of the established goals is to provide an increase of 1000 USD per family for greenhouse production. The information provided by the tools that produced this data allowed us to know that there were several factors that were influencing production such as gender, age, soil conditions, health conditions, family support among others and, therefore, had a direct impact on the income obtained. In this way, work is being done to generate new strategies which can consider these factors and promote better performance. The information that is being collected has also allowed us to know what roles men and women play in tenure, who participates in what, who makes the decisions at home and on the property.

Response by NEMA: Every time we do M&E, it allows us to continuously improve the program, every feedback we get leads to a more successful implementation of the program. As far as lessons learned, they feed into the program's KM spectrum. We can correctly avoid mistakes, it is a continuous process of learning, to see what works, what doesn't etc.

Question: What advice would you give to NIEs going through the process of developing project indicators and means of verification?

Response by AGCID: Develop relevant indicators to measure progress in your project; use a qualitative-quantitative approach because some information is difficult to measure and process with numbers; understand that gender is a subjective construction, not a natural state of affairs; develop a baseline and seek out, process and store data about your project properly.

Response by NEMA: Take note of the challenge of disaggregated data on gender. This challenge can be addressed at the time of preparing the design of the project, where we come up with clear performance indicators. How many are we focusing on? We should always focus on certain elements that we have addressed. We set our indicators and establish our targets; we do that early on, so that we have all the data when we do our project monitoring and performance report.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Comment: All this reporting, what is the sense of it? The numbers don't mean anything. Some findings cannot be quantified in numbers. We are too fixated on numbers, it is important to have both quantitative and qualitative data. There are indicators of change in knowledge, perceptions that are not measurable.

Response (Cristina Dengel): We are taking note of this asphyxiation of over-reporting by numbers. The project performance report (PPR) has lessons learned for qualitative impressions and experiences of adaptive management. We have publications to extract these lessons learned, all qualitative and not numerical.

Comment (AF-TERG): You should expect innovative ways to capture data. We have some confusing interest in data and knowledge; the Fund has accountability and requires certain types of information. Some of it is in data forms you fill out; that is not necessarily what evaluation means. We can't ask for more, because you provide a lot already. We seek key bits of information. The telling of the story of success, like little story boxes. We should be focusing on success. That should be enriched with technical information, and the difference it makes. There are places to tell richer stories to enhance the data.

Panel 3.D.iii: NIE experiences: Project reporting and mainstreaming gender during project implementation (managing project performance post mid-term Evaluation)

This was a discussion with Argentina's DIPROSE and Antigua and Barbuda's DoE. The DIPROSE representative described their project with the Fund, which started in 2013 and ended in 2018. They are now in the final auditing phase. The project led to four publications of lessons learned. The project's objective was to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of farmers in the north-east of Argentina, targeting the double vulnerability (social and physical) of these communities. The average rainfall of the past 50 years has remained constant; however, nowadays one-year worth of rainfall can flood the area in one day, followed by droughts. The project had the following components: adaptation for agriculturalists through improved access to water; risk management through better insurance; optimization of crops (greenhouses, enhancing agricultural techniques); and the installation of weather stations and early warning systems in the area.

Antigua and Barbuda's DoE described their project objectives: to reduce the vulnerability of the community to flooding and the impacts of climate change. The project isn't complete yet, so the representative would be drawing from lessons learned from other projects. The project has three components: implementing concrete adaptation action to support natural drainage; concessional loans through a revolving fund to help people adapt their homes to climate change impacts; enhancing the adaptive capacity of local NGOs and communities.

Discussion Question and Answer (Q&A) session

Question: What approach did you use to undertake mid-term evaluation of the project? What stakeholders were involved and how did you address gender issues during stakeholder consultations?

Response by DIPROSE: We used the Fund's MTE template. This is a classic MTE: an evaluation matrix that looks at pertinence, efficiency, efficacy and sustainability. How did we manage the issues of gender? Our project did not have an *ex-ante* analysis of gender, neither did we use gender-disaggregated data at the beginning of the project. We needed to develop gender indicators specific to our project. We tried to involve national and local stakeholders, as well as technicians and farmers.

Response by DoE: We were also looking at the Fund's evaluation framework. We will hire an independent evaluator for our MTE, as we have in other projects. The evaluation will assess all the stakeholders involved in the project using the Fund's framework, looking at all aspects of the projects (timeline, budget, stakeholders etc.) Part of our assessment criteria includes consideration for gender.

Question: How has the mid-term evaluation outcome/results impacted project implementation? Have there been any change in targets, adjustment of indicators or other project aspects in order to achieve the set project objectives? Please explain.

Response by DIPROSE: We hired a focal point for gender, to ensure that this issue would be seriously considered. In hindsight, this was a good decision. We gave priority to the component of access to water, which we identified early on as having been neglected. After interviews with men and women, we realized that there were different uses of water according to gender, and we thus reoriented our project in this direction.

Response by DoE: By October of this year, we hope to have completed our MTE. The MTE is critical for the management of the project. We have sufficiently well-trained staff at the DoE to address gender issues, we do not need external help (consultants). Based on our M&E of our current Adaptation Fund project, carried out by our core team, we have not seen a need to change our targets or indicators, we are on track to meet the objectives of our three components. Our MTE should validate our M&E activities.

Question: Have the MTE had any impact on gender considerations and how are they addressed for the project? How, and why or why not?

Response by DIPROSE: The MTE has no impact on our gender considerations. We had already identified gender issues before the MTE, through our institutions processes which had anticipated these genders issues.

Question: Considering the results of your mid-term evaluation, if you could go back in time, what would you change about your project preparation, design and development process? Why?

Response by DIPROSE: It is necessary to have an *ex-ante* evaluation of gender, or else, you are walking blindly. Additionally, it is important to use criteria and indicators that are gender-sensitive. Our indicators were not sufficiently gender-sensitive, so we decided to modify them, although there were bureaucratic obstacles to such change.

Response by DoE: The DoE is bound by law to have environmental and social safeguards, which guide our activities in all our projects. We then combine this with donor requirements, bridging the two. We wouldn't do things differently, but simply enhance our lessons learned.

Question: Can you give any advice and suggestions reflecting on the institutional arrangement of lessons learned? Could this be embedded into MTEs?

Response: We have a good M&E system which allowed us to identify weaknesses in our project and adapt accordingly. You then need the will and determination to carry out changes, and it is not always easy, in the face of bureaucratic obstacles.

Question (for the secretariat): Can an IE become an EE?

Response: Yes, but the circumstances need to be justified. The EE fee is then capped at 1.5%.

Question: What take home message would you give to NIEs going through or yet to go through the mid-term evaluation process?

Response by DIPROSE: No project is neutral. If you don't consider gender sensibilities and apply precautionary measures in terms of gender, you will only reinforce gender inequality.

Response by DoE: Getting good baseline data at the beginning of the project is important for the MTE. In the project design, have someone dedicated to capturing the process of getting things done, as this will later be reflected in the MTE. If not, your MTE will not answer the right questions.

Participants then attended local celebrations to mark emancipation from slavery in Antigua and Barbuda.

Day 3 – Wednesday, 7 August 2019

Panel 3.D.iv: NIE experiences: Project reporting and mainstreaming gender during project closure (Terminal evaluation and measuring project impact)

This was a final discussion under the gender theme. The purpose of the panel discussion was to stimulate thinking about post-project closure activities and sharing knowledge and experience on terminal evaluation, which can be used to measure project impact and consider related matters, such as project scale-up.

Senegal's *Centre de Suivi Écologique* (CSE) provided an overview of their project of adaptation to coastal erosion, a project completed in 2015, which also involved capacity building and awareness-raising about climate change, and legislation to protect coastal areas.

Discussion Question and Answer (Q&A) session

Question: How did you conduct the evaluation process and how long did it take to complete the evaluation process? (mention any institutional arrangements you put in place/resources used to support the evaluation process e.g., where there any specific tools developed or used; what was the size of budget involved, and which external stakeholders were involved, including any gender aspects?)

Response: We did the final evaluation in 2015 as soon as the project ended. It was a new process for us, because we had to develop TORs within the CSE, and involve the Designated Authority (DA). We had to recruit independent and international consultants. Our budget was limited, so it was difficult to hire outside consultants. A South African consultancy accepted to work with us, to evaluate the technical aspects of the project. We also hired a national consultant, and a civil engineer to look at our coastal installations meant to prevent erosion. They worked for 20 days, spread out over two months, including ten days in the field in three project sites, conducting interviews and focus groups, as well as bilateral meetings with stakeholders, and had access to all our documentation regarding the project, including Adaptation Fund documentation. The consultants asked the following questions: was the project beneficial for the beneficiaries? Were the project objectives met? Were the coastal installations going to be degraded in the future?

We looked at other big organizations to understand how their worked. Sometimes we disagreed with our consultants, so we demonstrated to the consultants our "management response", which is the way we work and what we think of the evaluation.

Question: Describe two main findings of the terminal evaluation and explain how these findings will be used/have been used, either for the current project or other activities?

Response: We looked at the quality of the project, its performance, the acceptability of its components, its institutional framework, all evaluated by the evaluators, with feedback from beneficiaries. Globally, three main points stood out: the limited budget, which prevent the consultants from fully carrying out their work; the baseline, as the indicators were mostly connected to the activities, and not the actual baseline and 'state of affairs' before the project; the duration of the project, which should have lasted two years, but was extended for an additional two years, as the coastal installations required more international expertise and planning. There were also political considerations, namely a change of ministry, which delayed the project. Also, when we started the project, mid-term and final evaluations were not required by the Fund yet.

Post-project monitoring is very important, to ensure proper maintenance of the project after its completion. Also, the involvement of the youth is important, through education about climate change in schools, because children are the future.

Question: Considering the results of the terminal evaluation, if you could go back in time, what would you do differently to address gender issues in climate change resilience projects?

Response: The gender aspect hadn't been fully developed at the time of the project inception, neither with the Fund nor within the CSE. We are now more capable of integrating gender issues. We have a gender focal point, although that person needs capacity building. In our current projects with the Fund and the GCF, we try to pro-actively approach gender issues.

Gender is at the project level, but also at the level of institutions. At this level, we are adding women to decision-making processes. We are integrating gender to all project phases, mainstreaming gender into our decision-making. This goes beyond our project with the Fund and concerns all our projects with all donors.

Question: Explain how you are capturing, managing and disseminating knowledge gained from the evaluation process. Explain how gender issues are being factored into these processes.

Although we didn't have a strategic document concerning gender at that time, we did try to integrate all groups from the beginning. Also, we tried to hire local labor, to give everyone a fair opportunity.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Question: Can you please describe the project extension that you were given?

Response: Coastal erosion was an urgent issue in Senegal. Soon after CSE's accreditation, we started designing a coastal erosion project. There were certain elements that were out of our control: politics, technical aspects, international consultants etc. That's why we needed an extension. The final evaluation had to be carried out, with or without the extension. This was agreed from the start.

For the TORs, we sought advice from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to understand how to elaborate these terms. We shared these TORs with the Fund, which wasn't an obligation, but rather an effort at transparency on our behalf.

Question: How would you have elaborated the TORs differently?

Response: It really is context-specific and project-specific. TORs are so detailed and exhaustive, they touch on every aspect of the project, so the they must be reflective of the project.

Question: There were discrepancies with the evaluation, according to your discussion. How did you manage these discrepancies?

Response: The evaluator first did his field work, then the "office" work, before submitting his first draft. We provided feedback, and actually disagreed on certain of his recommendations. The evaluator was adamant and insisted on defending his recommendations. These may have been "Adaptation Fund friendly" but were not appropriate for the project. Also, the evaluator suggested a post-project financing mechanism, but the Adaptation Fund had a different system in place. So, we disagreed, and insisted in our management response to him.

Question: What are key factors, resources and tools that NIEs going through or that are yet to go through the terminal evaluation process need to consider making this process more successful?

A good evaluation of the budget and the financial aspects is very important. Also, transparency, working with all stakeholders, and receiving feedback. Target stakeholders, integrate them, or else there will be bias. An international consultant doesn't know the local situation, the local stakeholders, that was our responsibility.

Discussion 3.D.ii: Project reporting and mainstreaming gender during project implementation (AF-TERG guidance on identifying indicators and methods of verification)

The AF-TERG discussed the questions they received in response to a survey they had sent to NIEs before the seminar.

Discussion

Comment: We are very happy to see that the Fund is modernizing M&E practices within the projects; we see that as an opportunity for us to contribute. M&E happens at four different levels: The Fund, the strategy, the project and the constituents. We see ourselves as at the same level as NIEs, at the level of projects and the constituents that we serve. We want to make sure this function is non-prescriptive; we want a framework and an approach that creates room to consider each country's reality. We want to maximize adaptive management, to collect data beyond periodic surveys and short-term consultant assignments. We are looking forward to being part of this process with the Fund along with the other NIEs and creating a modern 21st century M&E practice.

Comment: How can you innovate in M&E practices, so that they are non-prescriptive? We want to reach the overarching goal, without prescribed, fit-for-all approaches, but rather looking at impacts and reach.

Comment: We focused on bottlenecks often encountered: TORs, how we work with consultants, basically how to make the process faster and easier. The lack of prior experience was discussed at our table as a major hindrance. Better, closer guidance from the start of the project is desired. Practical advice can help move the process forward and can help connect with project beneficiaries who don't understand these complex, top-down project ideas. Finding ways to engage with the broader Community of Practice is also desired.

Comment: We took a different approach in our discussion. We focused on concrete problems that we have experienced during the mid-term and final evaluations. The lack of consultants with expertise in climate change and adaptation who can work within our timeframe and budget is a major obstacle for many of us. Maybe the AF-TERG can help us with ideas in terms of budgeting, the nature of the project, the implementing fee of the entity, etc. We also spoke about a set of tools that would give minimum requirements when formulating a project, perhaps provided by the Fund or the AF-TERG. Also, we discussed how to measure resilience.

Comment: We focused on CSE's difficulties during its project. We are asking the AF-TERG to evaluate the TORs of the project. We are interested in the AF-TERG's evaluation of the project components and indicators, as well the financial aspect of the project. There are projects which require international expertise to be evaluated, but this comes at a cost. So maybe the AF-TERG can help with this, act as an intermediary.

Presentation 4.A: AF project component on KM and expectations

This presentation focused on KM throughout the project cycle. Cristina Dengel, Knowledge Management Officer at the Fund, presented KM as a mandatory component of the Fund's projects and explained expectations from the Fund. She provided clarification on how this component is distinct from expectations from the Learning Grants.

Panel 4.B: NIEs share experiences – Knowledge management processes at the project and institutional level (KM processes; data knowledge platforms; and information management and reporting formats)

In this panel discussion, the panelists shared their experience in KM including knowledge platforms, information management, and knowledge reporting formats.

Costa Rica's *Fundecooperacion* project focuses on three specific areas: agriculture, protected areas, and water, aiming for resilience in the three sectors, with an added focus on capacity-building. This project was approved in 2014 and began in 2015. It is the first project in Costa Rica to focus exclusively on climate change, it has been followed and supported at the national level. This project has led to the implementation of other adaptation projects.

Micronesia's MCT explained that the MCT was a Direct access entity under the Fund, one year into implementation of their first project, a small grants facility, focused on sub-granting to community organizations and municipal governments, for them to implement actions under management plans for marine protected areas to enhance resilience of the coastal environment and improve food security.

India's NABARD explained that NABARD is an NIE of the Fund since July 2012, implementing six projects. India has a big population and a huge coastline, he added. In addition to the six AF projects, NABARD has two GCF projects, to address all the country's development issues.

Discussion Question and Answer (Q&A) session

Question: What are your project learning objectives? Describe the process or approach you followed to develop the learning objectives and learning indicators.

Response by *Fundecooperacion:* Capacity-building is one of three components of our project. We want our project to demonstrate good practices in adaptation, so the rest of the country follows. Based on this project, the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) of Costa Rica was developed. We want to improve the adaptive capacity of farmers, communities and institutions. The capacity-building component has two focus areas: a macro focus, generating knowledge at the national level that can help shape public policy; and at the local level, the level of fishermen, farmers, communities. We've been following experiences and interventions in adaptation, to improve knowledge about adaptation. The products that we have generated are manuals, public policies, laws, finance mechanisms, knowledge generation mechanisms and information exchanges, information for policymakers and early warning systems, among others.

Response by MCT: In Micronesia and other SIDs, the objective is to empower and enhance people's ability for adaptation. The problem in Micronesia is that it is not all in one place. We have a traditional culture, with a strong knowledge-sharing mechanism, but an informal one. We are trying to formalize this knowledge, for instance using simple technologies such as WhatsApp. The effects of climate change are felt every day, my own home is flooded more often than in the past. We have food security issues; our trees are not producing food as often as they should. We have a culture centered around food, with celebrations and festivals, so climate change affects our culture too. People are already adapting, out of pure necessity, and sharing knowledge. But we are looking at more formal ways of sharing our knowledge. When we first submitted our project concept, we didn't have a KM component at all. Our KM component was embedded (informally) within our project, through meetings with communities, but we are now formalizing KM. The learning component of our project is about bridging the gap between public policy at the national, local and donor levels. Our project is a protected area network, but the laws and fishing bans are hard to enforce, as communities are not always aware of this information. Communities are aware of climate change, but not scientifically. They already apply eco-based solutions, but again, with no scientific knowledge. Donors sometimes suggest seawalls or other infrastructure measures, which are not always appreciated by communities. Micronesia is a small - island state, or a large ocean state as we prefer, and the MCT is a regional organization working in 5 jurisdictions, with several languages and cultures, as Micronesia is very spread out, so KM is difficult to organize. We are the smallest entity in the world to be accredited with both the GCF and the Adaptation Fund. The accreditation process helped us formalize our knowledge, develop a website and a complaints mechanism.

Response by NABARD: Our objectives are tied to the eight missions of the Government of India. One of these missions is to address climate change. First and foremost, we want to protect the environment. Secondly, we identified climate hotspots for intervention. Thirdly, we looked at social issues, especially vulnerability. Our fourth objective was gender. In terms of indicators, we looked at water springs and their rejuvenation, water-harvesting, diversification of crops, mangroves and their restoration. We have a rainfed-agriculture project, working with small famers. For them, crop diversification was a good indicator of the project's success.

Question: Do you have a knowledge management strategy in place at the institutional level? What are the target audiences for your knowledge products and how were these audiences identified?

Response by *Fundecooperacion:* The *Fundecooperacion* has 25 years of existence, and we have always strived to become a reference point in terms of sustainable development and climate change. We have focused on several aspects of KM: enriching national knowledge about sustainable development and climate change; becoming an organization that advances action on climate change; and generating KM and developing experience on climate change issues. Our KM strategy has allowed us to incorporate knowledge generated by other NIEs. Our audience is internal, such as our personnel; we target our EEs, who are on the ground; we also target the public, institutions and different ministries (agriculture, environment).

Response by MCT: To apply for a small grants facility in our project, a community must have a protected area management plan, with actions to implement. So that is our first audience. We also target children, fishermen and their families, traditional leaders and local and national policy makers.

Response by NABARD: Yes, at two levels, at the national level, and at the local / regional level, targeting seven sectors (water security, forest biodiversity and ecosystems, climate resilient agriculture, livestock, coastal resources development, facility development and renewable energies). We have an overall KM strategy, with specific objectives within the strategy. We focus on our EEs, NGOs, community representatives, the farming community, women, watershed communities, the joint forest-management communities, a very broad set of stakeholders.

Question: What tools do you use to gather information; and to validate the information?

Response by *Fundecooperacion:* The most important objective for us has been to demonstrate our impact on the ground. We have been generating knowledge, such as case studies, videos, sharing of experiences etc.

Response by MCT: Our struggle is the distance, and the ability of distant communities to report and contribute in a way that suits us. We have been running a small grants facility for about 10-12 years, prior to our accreditation with the Fund. Our team travels a lot throughout the region, according to the project needs, and gathers information that way.

Response by NABARD: We gather information through our internal surveys, we also have plans at the district level; we have consultations with target groups, vulnerable groups etc. We also coordinate with other agencies who collect information, we use their feedback in our processes.

Question: What products or tools and platforms do you use to report on the knowledge you have gained and to disseminate the knowledge, that is, what means of dissemination do you use? Why did you choose these specific platforms and tools?

Response by *Fundecooperacion:* There are technical and financial reports, case studies, videos, spaces for knowledge exchange, workshops for ESP, gender, public-private partnerships etc. We are working on a project with a community in the south of the country, for which we won an award for social innovation, and much of our communication goes through WhatsApp, which is the simplest and most cost-effective way to communicate. We also use social media, Facebook etc., which are fairly accessible in most rural areas.

Response by MCT: We do technical reporting, in addition to informal community meetings. We do story boxes and narratives as well, they are easier to share with communities, through Facebook for instance, which is very popular in Micronesia. Also, 1-minute, short videos are popular, but word of mouth is still an important mechanism, and that includes community meetings, events and celebrations. Everyone knows who MCT is, and they follow our project. We don't do pamphlets, as they may be wasteful. When a project milestone is reached, it always involves a community meal to celebrate, and we've been sharing these experiences with donors and inviting other traditional leaders form other communities. We do a lot of learning and sharing with other communities, but the distance is a problem.

Response by NABARD: We also do case studies and audiovisuals. In our scenario, we have documented sixteen successful videos documentaries, all climate change interventions, which are available on our knowledge portal. NABARD has developed its own center of climate change, which contains a learning lab where information is disseminated to stakeholders. When we conduct our mid-term review and final review of our project, a lot of information is generated and disseminated to stakeholders.

Response by *Fundecooperacion:* I wanted to add that we share a lot information through the Community of Practice. We don't always have the solution to every problem, so the Community of Practice can sometimes help us find solutions. SANBI for instance shared with us their ESP, as they had a similar project to ours.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Question: Can you tell us a little more about the forums, or safe spaces, that you provide? And how do you validate the knowledge that you share?

Response by *Fundecooperacion*: We don't work by ourselves, but with 40 EEs, and we have technical support from the government, the Ministry of Agriculture for instance. Our approaches are derived from national strategies, in agriculture, adaptation etc. We have also carried out analyses of the economic aspect of adaptation practices, because replication depends on the economic impact.

Response by MCT: The sub-grantees have tools and indicators to report to us: water tests, fisheries tests, surveys in markets to assess fish populations etc.

Response by NABARD: We have a monitoring and review committee on climate change at the national level, and state-level steering committees (NABARD).

Question: How can we validate and share all the information you just shared with the Community of Practice?

Response by *Fundecooperacion*: When the representative from SANBI mentioned the ESP toolkit, that's when I approached that person to help our NIE. Each member must be aware of his / her organization's agenda and needs (*Fundecooperacion*).

Response by MCT: Generating spaces to share, like the country exchange in Chile and the Community of Practice meeting in Durban, is helpful. My parents always complain that I travel too much and emit a lot of CO_2, but the biggest environmental agreements are reached face-to-face (Micronesia).

Comment: To reach indigenous communities, we hired the services of an interpreter, rather than a translator, who can understand and reach these communities.

Question: I am happy to hear that the Adaptation Fund project set the stage for the climate change adaptation dialogue in Costa Rica. Has the information been shared regionally? Did you incorporate regional knowledge into your project?

Response by *Fundecooperacion*: We did not use regional information. We focused on local realities, but we have been sharing the results of our programme regionally. For instance, a tariff on water resources implemented in Costa Rica has been promoted and shared regionally. We also shared our national insurance program for farmers, an insurance policy that rewards good environmental practices. Additionally, our forest-fire prevention tool, generated through the project, has been promoted with a few neighboring countries, a south-south triangular cooperation.

Question: Of all the knowledge products you are producing for the project, which one would you say has been the most effective in realizing the knowledge management objective of the project, and why?

Response by *Fundecooperacion:* Introducing adaptation into national public policy has allowed for replicability and sustainability, and mobilized financial mechanisms that were not available before. Our project with the Fund has also validated technologies at the local level, as well as the cost and economic impact of these interventions. We had an objective to reach at least 100 small farmers, and we have now reached more than 400 of these farmers, and this has been thanks to the validation of generated information.

Response by MCT: It is a difficult question to answer. We are looking at the long-term benefits of the project, step-by-step, to implement lasting positive change. Our Adaptation Fund project is a piece of the path forward, and we will coordinate with other donors as well to continue our long-term work.

Response by NABARD: The dedicated center for climate change that we have setup has been most helpful, it has a database, a knowledge portal, it deals with policies, etc.

Comment: It is very exciting to see the number and variety of knowledge products that are being generated, and the effectiveness of the means of communication that you have been using. I encourage you all to answer the yearly survey to collect information about knowledge products and fill out the information forms sent to you four times per year, to contribute to our quarterly news bulletin consisting of knowledge products.

Presentation 5.B: Readiness, Learning and Innovation grants under the MTS

These were stationary presentations on the application process and project review criteria for (i) project scale-up grants (ii) learning grants, and (iii) innovation grants under the MTS. Saliha Dobardzic focused on the innovation grants; Cristina Dengel on the learning grants; and Farayi Madziwa on the scale-up grants.

Discussion Question and Answer (Q&A) session

Saliha Dobardzic, innovation grants

Comment: We would like to access all the information in one place.

Response: Our website is one place, but we can certainly consolidate information.

Question: Can an innovation grant be used to assist countries without an NIE? As an RIE for instance?

Response: For countries that don't have an NIE, there will be a multilateral IE aggregate which will dole out small grants to non-NIE entities. It hasn't been launched yet.

Question: What does the Fund consider as innovation? Social, technological?

Response: The Fund is quite open; innovation can be social, technological, the most important thing is that it contributes to adaptation and is new. Assessing the proposal is context-specific. It could be lots of different things, and we don't want to be prescriptive, as that goes against innovation. We are willing to take on a bit of risk with the innovation grants.

Cristina Dengel, learning grants

Question: In case the conditions are appropriate, can we apply for a grant for a project that is completed? A project that is past its mid-term and final evaluation?

Response: Yes.

Question: There is a lot of information on the Fund's website. It would beneficial to have a summarized page with all this information. Sometimes there are many links, and you must click on many different pages. A guide with all the information in one place would help.

Response: We are considering summarizing and consolidating the information about the different grants.

Comment: We need a summarized page with all the grants, to know where to start and where to end. We spend a lot of time and energy applying for these grants, we need more simplified content. For instance, the timelines and deadlines need to be more flexible and communicated earlier to NIEs, as you require a lot of information in the learning grant. Two weeks is not enough.

Response: This is well noted, and we will work to send the information earlier and give NIEs more time.

Comment: Were there any learning grants allocated to NIEs for e-learning?

Response: E-learning is eligible for financing from learning grants. This has not happened yet, although we did receive one such proposal, but it was not endorsed.

Farayi Madziwa, scale-up grants

Question: In case the country cap is lifted to 20 million USD, will it be possible to seek financing from the Adaptation Fund to scale-up a project and combine that with other donors' financing (co-financing, public or private), such as the GCF?

Response: The current documents are prepared with consideration of the current cap. If the current cap changes, the Board would have to consider co-financing. You can include co-financing from different sources, but the scaled-up project would not be the responsibility of the Adaptation Fund. Co-financing is not a requirement, but it is possible. The component financed by the Adaptation Fund must show the expected outputs.

Response: You can use your scale-up grant to plan for scale-up through Adaptation Fund or through another fund, or both. We don't require co-financing, it is not mandatory, it can be included.

Comment: We really want to thank you, the Adaptation Fund, for the scaling-up and learning grants, they come in very handy. But sometimes, the deadlines are hard to respect, for political reasons.

Response: In terms of the DA endorsement letter, entities would need to stick to the deadlines, they apply to everyone, the deadlines will not shift, to be fair to everyone and have full transparency. I encourage you to communicate with the secretariat to discuss any issues that could be slowing you down.

Question: To access the scale-up grant, does your project have to be approved by another donor?

Response: The condition to get the scale-up grant is not that the project must be approved for funding by another donor. You don't need to have the project completed to access the scale-up grant either. You must first and foremost justify why you want to scale-up your project, which elements to scale-up. This must be evidence-based.

Panel 5.C: NIE experiences scaling-up adaptation interventions

This was a panel discussion in which the panelists shared NIE lessons learned in scaling-up Adaptation Fund-funded projects. Panelists also addressed the following issues raised by NIEs in the surveys: details of adaptation interventions of one continent which have been upscaled in another continent and positively benefitted the local population; and scaling up opportunities, use of tools/technology for KM and dissemination

SANBI is implementing two Adaptation Fund projects: a small grants facility project, and the Umgeni catchment project.

CSE's project of coastal adaptation to the effects of climate change was the first Adaptation Fund-financed project.

Discussion Question and Answer (Q&A) session

Question: Why did you decide to scale-up this project? What was your objective for scaling-up?

Response by SANBI: Our scale-up project hasn't started yet. Our rationale for scaling up is the huge inequality in the country, and the prevalent poverty. One of our national strategic objectives is to stabilize the small-scale farming sector to improve economic development. We have submitted a concept to the GCF for Direct Access to that effect. We are waiting for the Fund's project to end before initiating scale-up activities.

Response by CSE: Senegal has more than 700 km of coastline. The Adaptation Fund project was a first step in demonstrating how the coastline can be protected. The need is there, and the results of the project led the Senegalese government to replicate these activities in other areas. But resource mobilization is a challenge. Also, the vulnerability of the tourism sector is an important consideration. Protecting the coastline is also benefiting the tourism sector.

Question: Did you have to re-design any of the project activities that you wanted to scale-up and did you have to undergo another project formulation process or undertake certain assessments or studies before scaling-up e.g., feasibility assessment, vulnerability assessment, environmental and social assessments etc? How and from where did you secure the resources and funds for these processes?

Response by SANBI: We intend to upscale our project to two additional provinces and one additional location in the province where the project is implemented. In terms of assessment, we don't think there will be more assessments, but we are waiting to hear from the GCF. An additional component of upscaling will be incorporating the farmers support into the national Department of Agriculture and capacity building processes, and maybe this component will require a baseline assessment.

Response by CSE: An important financing effort was underway, to scale-up the initial project. We worked with other organizations, such as the Ministry of Tourism, hotels, local communes, to design a plan to protect the coastline. We divided the coastline into areas, and then identified the areas most at risk, to organize interventions.

Question: How many alternative sources of funding for implementation of the scaled-up project did you consider and why did you settle for the option you finally chose at the end?

Response by SANBI: SANBI applied for a readiness grant from the GCF, which allowed us to launch a regional call for expressions of interest for EEs that met the criteria of SANBI.

Response by CSE: The World Bank, with co-financing from the Senegalese Government, is the main source of funding of this scaled-up project. The African Development Bank is also involved in addressing Senegal's coastal erosion threat.

Question: What advice can you share in terms of the development and implementation of a scale-up strategy or development of a proposal for funding scaled-up activities?

Response by SANBI: Capture lessons learned and internalize them for future scaling-up projects.

Response by CSE: The project and its process take time. It important to design a plan that is sustainable and durable. The financial preparations are crucial, to sustain the project. Also, the engagement of the stakeholders, especially the State, is very important. The State has more latitude and capacity than CSE and can help maintain the project.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Question: Was there resistance from stakeholders?

Response: There was no resistance, but rather technical obstacles. Local stakeholders do not have access to technical data and technical know-how. Also, we had to urge international consultants to produce data and information and share it with us.

Session 6: Readiness and capacity building support

Presentation: FY 20 readiness and capacity building support outlook (activities and grants)

This was a presentation about the Fund's readiness program throughout the 2020 fiscal year. Farayi Madziwa presented the Fund's readiness activities and grants for the current financial year and addressed the following issues raised by NIEs in the surveys: the readiness support that will help fasten the accreditation process when an entity expresses interest and applies for accreditation; awareness that post-accreditation, the NIE has to set up an operational unit for project development, which causes significant delays; the capacity of EEs; and funding to assist NIE's to develop concept notes and project proposals.

Plenary discussions Q&A

Comment: The role of intermediaries is very important, at various stages of the project (proposal, accreditation). The challenge for us is to hire international consultants. For instance, we have a readiness grant from the GCF, but we hire intermediaries to help us with the grant, as our government system is often not efficient enough. We would like to have the same with the Adaptation Fund.

Response: The readiness package has a structure that allows intermediaries and is tailored to provide support to entities that are not yet accredited with the Adaptation Fund.

Comment: If the 10 million USD cap has been reached, is it possible to apply for the Project Formulation Assistance (PFA) and Project Formulation Grants (PFG)?

Response: If you have already reached your 10 million USD cap, you can still access the PFA and PFG because these grants are per project and not per country, and those two grants are tied to the submission of project proposals. So that means that you have passed your project preparation and development phases and you are at the project implementation phase, so you can access these grants if your country become eligible to submit a proposal for another project. The short answer is that you have to wait.

Question: The innovation grant seems bigger and more complex to prepare; does it qualify for the PFA and PFG grants to help build the proposal for innovation?

Response: The small grants for innovation don't. The regular-sized ones may, but this has not been decided yet, and will be decided when they are closer to launching.

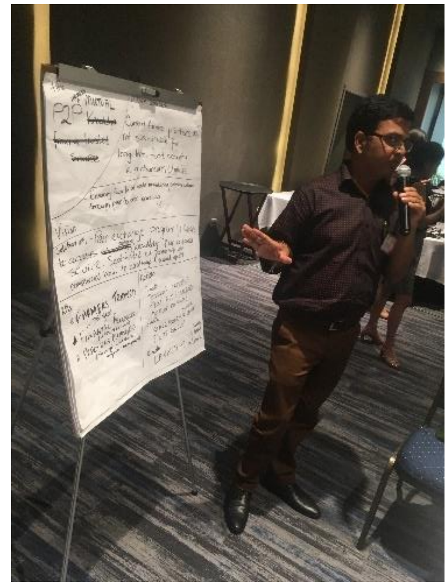
Comment: There is a package of varied grants that the Adaptation Fund offers. It is our responsibility as NIEs to benefit from these grants, in a logical way that fits each entity's specific context. A strategic planning document over a 2-year period offers guidance to NIEs about which direction they wish to take. This is just a recommendation that I am making.

Response: Thank you for the suggestion. The Board decided on the way the grants are delivered at the moment and depend mostly on demand from entities. We take note of your recommendation.

Day 4 – Thursday, 8 August 2019

Session 8 – Innovation Day

Neil Walmsley presented an overview of Climate-KIC's work and approach. This included several interactive exercises with participants; an overview of the different definitions and types of innovation; Climate-KIC's work with entrepreneurs in the Caribbean region; and an exercise on innovative solutions to problem-solving.



Participants were then split into four groups, and tasked to discuss and reflect upon major problems, or obstacles, that they encounter in their projects.

Group 1 reflected on the lack of effective channels to deliver useful information to small producers, raising the following points:

- The importance of providing access to climate information for smallholder farmers.
- A solution would be to develop an information distribution platform, using updated climate data and sharing this on mobile applications, the Internet, radio etc.

Group 2 reflected on the fact that communities receive inadequate income from unsustainable livelihoods, raising the following points:

- The importance of engaging stakeholders along the value chain.
- Solutions would be to conduct gap analyses and feasibility assessments, and mobilize the community and stakeholders.

Group 3 reflected on the lack of available financing for the promotion of technologies, raising the following points:

- The importance of ensuring access to climate adaptation finance and technology for smallholder farmers.
- A solution would be to attract financing by developing bankable adaptation projects.

Group 4 reflected on the fact that current farming practices are not sustainable for long-term food security in a changing climate, raising the following points:

- The importance of ensuring food for all while maintaining ecological balance through peer-to-peer learning.
- A solution would be a peer exchange program for farmers to access tailored knowledge from a trusted source.

Session 9: Community of Practice for Direct access Entities (CPDAE)

This session was moderated by the Chair of the CPDAE, Claudia Godfrey Ruiz (PROFONANPE) and a member of the CPDAE Committee, Aissata Boubou Sall from CSE.

The CPDAE provided feedback on developments, including the development of the governance charter; the development of the Action Plan; an explanation of how to join the Community; plans to invite GCF-only accredited direct access entities into the Community; “low hanging fruit” activities in the Action Plan that will begin implementation quickly; plans for a COP 25 side-event; and immediate next steps for the committee.

Plenary discussions Q&A

<u>Comment:</u> I think the survey should serve as an inventory of what NIEs have achieved, such as ESP and GP, accreditation, project experience etc.

<u>Question:</u> In Durban, the CPDAE validated the chart and Action Plan of the Community. But I haven’t seen these documents yet. Why haven’t they been shared with the members? We need these documents, especially the letter of designation, to carry out our work. Only two of the six members of the Committee are present here, so this request is for the members present here. We encourage your work, but we need more information and updates about your work.

<u>Response:</u> We are looking to be as inclusive as possible, but the six members of the Committee sometimes struggle to coordinate, with time differences, language differences, different internal processes, but we are very committed to the Community and promise to send these documents soon.

<u>Comment:</u> We are the spokespersons of our countries, of our beneficiaries who need financing, and this platform could play an important role in climate negotiations. We need to support the Community and the Committee members.

<u>Comment:</u> Regarding the sharing of documents, there are three bodies managing the Community of Practice: the GCF, the Adaptation fund, and the Committee. So, each body must clear documents that will be shared externally, and there are specific procedures for each body. There will be a letter that will be sent to senior management for all the Adaptation Fund NIEs and the GCF Direct Access entities, a letter jointly signed by the manager of the Adaptation Fund and the director of the GCF explaining that both funds are fully committed to the Community of Practice and its Action Plan.

<u>**Day 5 – Friday, 9 August 2019**</u>

Day 5 was dedicated to the visit of several of the project sites near McKinnon’s watershed.

1- Reservoir compound

We first visited a reservoir compound which is to be reconverted into a national heritage site and a commercial area. The following explanations (direct quote) from the project manager were given to the group:

“A reservoir compound, built in 1890, and commissioned in 1893, contains a holding tank which supplied all the water needs of the people in the local community, holding 110 000 gallons, but the community has expanded dramatically. The project manager started by fixing the holding tank, with the help of engineers, to make sure the facility wasn’t leaking or crumbling. It used to have a dome-shaped roof, according to their research, so it was restored that way. The plan is to continue to rehabilitate the holding tank and to apply to the Development Control

Authority and national parks to have this site designated a national heritage site. After this designation, the redevelopment of the park can continue, with high quality restaurants, with a beautiful sea view through this natural terrain, with water falls and water features. The catchment here had a concrete slab that captured rainwater and led it to a reservoir. We don't believe that the village will need this area, so we have decided to use this area of the restaurant and invite villages to setup small business in this area. The "shakshak" tree to my right: we hosted a flamboyant festival here in June, when the trees are in full bloom, with music and celebrations, and we would like to continue this annually. We are victims of the giant African snail infestation, and we must collect and treat them every day with salt water solutions. Do not walk on them, as they will lay all their eggs. The salt does the same too, so we put them in containers, and then apply the salt".

2- Urban drainage and waterways, homes near McKinnon's watershed.

Participants visited a neighborhood on the outskirts of St. John's near McKinnon's watershed, where the DoE is implementing concrete adaptation actions that support natural and physical drainage systems along the 3-km urban and semi-urban waterways to meet projected climate change, extreme hydro-meteorological events and disease vectors. These interventions will use a variety of approaches including ecosystem-based adaptation, such as wetland restoration, to address disease vectors, and engineering solutions, such as drainage and retention ponds, to build resilience to the latest climate change projections.

The project also involves disbursing concessional loans through a revolving fund mechanism to vulnerable households and businesses to meet new adaptation guidelines and standards for built infrastructure to withstand extreme climate variability. These interventions include for example water harvesting, hurricane shutters, mosquito screens, water storage, and other adaptation measures.

3- Local church and shelter (direct quotes from the DoE)

"People naturally gravitate towards churches when there is a disaster; we saw it in 2017 during hurricane Irma. So, this project has a lot of potential."

Comment: In the Dominican Republic, just like in Antigua and Barbuda, we are in the line of sight of hurricanes. I would like to make three recommendations: you need an early warning system; you need an evacuation route, as there are always people who resist going to shelters; and this leads to a third point, which is to have members of the community who are ready to assist others in times of need.

Response: This shelter must to apply to become an official recognized shelter. The church facilities would have to have a disaster management committee in place that would tie into the national disaster coordination which feeds into the disaster management committee. So, the church would be part of a national network of early warning systems, police and ambulances services, and the national emergency services tied to the government. We must form an internal team that switches into shelter mode, working with the district representative from the national office of disasters. We need to train to become recognized.

Question: How big is the community that you are serving, how many people are there? And how big are the community reservoirs? Do you exploit groundwater, through boreholes and wells?

Response: This area is connected to the national water network, but the intention is to have water in times of disaster. In Antigua, 90% of the water must come from desalination, and the central desalination plants send us water. But the tanks can help to store emergency waters for times of need.

Question: what is the size of the tanks outside? I think that the water harvesting area is big, so you could install more tanks for water harvesting. And in case the water tanks fill up, how do you avoid flooding and outpouring, after strong rains for instance.

Response: The gardens around absorb the water, the plants and trees. We have about 2000 gallons in total, but the project will expand this capacity, to close to 10 000 gallons, to suit the size of the shelter and maximize the space that we have. Currently we have temporary tanks, outside, that can store 1000 gallons each. The finished product will be much bigger.

4- Church and shelter

"This church has been upgraded and currently serves as a shelter during hurricanes. We intend to address the roof leaks, and the structural strength of the roof."

Question: What is the capacity of the building?

Response: About 50 people, in the short term. The size is of 3000 to 4000 square feet.

Question: As an engineer, I think that you must perform a vulnerability analysis, to see if the building, that is 30 years old, would resist a hurricane, especially if you intend to offer shelter to 30-50 people. Also, you need a hurricane-resistant type of roof. Additionally, you need to assess the foundations and columns, to make sure a hurricane-heavy roof could be supported.

Response: The government public works departments, the construction and engineering department, do their assessments to make sure they are structurally solid. The Department Control Authority also looks at drawings and assesses the building. We also have our own engineer who performs a third assessment.

A 30-year-old building is not necessarily an old building. 30 years is less than half the lifespan of a building. There haven't been any vulnerability studies, but we have analyzed the building's structure and solidity. The type of roof that would be installed would be a light roof, so no additional weight would be added to the structure.

Question: Does your construction code include climate resiliency? Including windows?

Response: At the Organization of Caribbean States, which we belong to, there are codes of climate resilience, and that's where we are working towards, we have training and certification that should guarantee that. We have windows that are subject to speed velocity tests in Miami, of about 150miles/ hours windspeeds. The windows are made of laminated glass.

Question: Did you do community consultations?

Response: The communities here in the McKinnon area that are vulnerable do need assistance for shelter, we know these communities. People naturally go to churches and shelters, and some of them are not recognized but they still go, so we need to upgrade them.

Annex 1: List of Participants

No.	COUNTRY	NAME	TITLE
National Implementing Entities (NIES)			
1	Antigua and Barbuda (DoE)	Diann Black Layne	Chief Environment Officer
2	Antigua and Barbuda (DoE)	Joan Sampson	Project Coordinator - Adaptation Fund
3	Antigua and Barbuda (DoE)	Simone Dias	Technical Consultatn
4	Antigua and Barbuda (DoE)	Rashauna Adams-Matthew	Project Consultant (ESS and Gender)
5	Antigua and Barbuda (DoE)	Daryl George	Senior Environment Officer
6	Antigua and Barbuda (DoE)	Sharon Dalso	Consultant
7	Antigua and Barbuda (DoE)	Nicketa Black	Intern
8	Antigua and Barbuda (DoE)	Martin Barriteau	Regional Projects Coordinator
9	Argentina (UCAR)	Mr. Jorge Arias Almonacid	Member of the Coordination
10	Armenia (EPIU)	Mr. Meruzhan Galstyan	Director
11	Belize (PACT)	Ms. Nayari Diaz-Perez	Executive Director
12	Belize (PACT)	Ms. Denaie M. Swasey	Technical Officer
13	Benin (FNEC)	Mr. Mathieu Biaou	Director or Mobilization of Financial resources and Focal Point of Adaptation Fund at FNEC
14	Chile (AGCI)	Ms. Violeta Leiva Milanca	Program Manager
15	Cook Islands (MFEM)	Mr. Mani Mate	National Programme Manager
16	Costa Rica (Fundecooperacion)	Ms. Carolina Reyes Rivero	Program coordinator
17	Domican Republic (IDDI)	Ms. Arcadia Francisco Baquero	Director of Construction Department
18	Ethiopia (MOFEC)	Mr. Zerihun Getu Mekuria	CRGE Facility Coordinator
19	India (NABARD)	Dr. Surendra Babu	Deputy General Manager, Farm Sector Policy Department
20	Jamaica (PIOJ)	Ms. Shelia McDonald-Miller	Programme Manager
21	Kenya (NEMA)	Ms. Anne M. Gateru	Programme Officer
22	Micronesia (MCT)	Ms. Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio	Conservation Program Manager

23	Morocco (ADA)	Ms. Meyrem Andaloussi	Head of Environment Service
24	Namibia (DFRN)	Mr. Martin Schneider	Executive Director
25	Niger (BAGRI)	Mr. Abdoulaye Djadah	General Manager
26	Panama (FUNDACION NATURA)	Ms. Vilna Cuellar Mondragon	Project Manager
27	Panama (FUNDACION NATURA)	Ms. Rosa Gertz	
28	Peru (PROFONANPE)	Ms. Claudia Godfery	Development and Supervision Director
29	Senegal (CSE)	Ms. Aissata Boubou Sall	Head of Climate Finance Unit
30	South Africa (SANBI)	Ms. Makganthe Maleka	Grants Coordinator
31	Tanzania (NEMC)	Mr. Fredrick F. Mulinda	Environmental Management Officer
32	Uganda (Ministry of Environment and Water)	Mr. Kaweesi James	Assistant Commissioner
Guests (non NIEs)			
33	AF-TERG	Ms. Eva Lithman	AF-TERG Chair
34	AF-TERG	Mr. Dennis Bours	AD-TERG Sec coordinator
35	AF-TERG	Mr. Andy Rowe	AF-TERG Member
36	AF-TERG	Mr. Mutizwa Mukute	AF-TERG Member
37	AF-TERG	Mr. Claudio Rafael Volonte	AF-TERG Member
38	AF-TERG	Ms. Nancy May MacPherson	AF-TERG Member
39	AF-TERG	Ms. Anh Mai Bui	AF-TERG Sec fin/data analyst
40	Caribbean Climate Innovation Center	Mr. Carlinton G. Burrell	Chief Executive Director
41	Climate KiC	Mr. Neil Walmsley	International Business Development & Partnerships Lead
42	Climate KiC	Dr. Julie A. Calkins	Head of Risk & Resilience
43	Climate KiC	Ms. Eleanor G. Saunders	Education Lead
44	GCF	Mr. Emerson Resende	Climate Policy Specialist
Adaptation Fund, GCF, GEF & World Bank			
45	Adaptation Fund	Mr. Mikko Ollikainen	Manager

46	Adaptation Fund	Mr. Farayi Madziwa	Program Officer
47	Adaptation Fund	Ms. Saliha Dobardzic	Sr. Climate Change Specialist
48	Adaptation Fund	Ms. Cristina Dengel	Knowledge Management Officer
49	Adaptation Fund	Ms. Young Lee	Operations Analyst
50	Adaptation Fund	Mr. Matt Pueschel	Communications Officer
51	Adaptation Fund	Ms. Alyssa Gomes	Consultant - Project monitoring
52	Adaptation Fund	Mr. Mourad Shalaby	Consultant - Project monitoring
53	Adaptation Fund	Mr. Dirk Lamberts	Consultant - Env. and Safeguards Specialist
54	Adaptation Fund	Mr. Mark Sugg	Consultant
55	Adaptation Fund	Ms. Alicia Hayman	Consultant - Facilitator