

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR DIRECT ACCESS ENTITIES



5-7 JUNE 2019
Durban, South Africa



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BACKGROUND

This Report documents the first independent meeting of the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities (CPDAE), which was held in Durban, South Africa from the 5th to 7th of June 2019. The event was made possible through funding and support from the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF). The workshop was hosted by one of South Africa's direct access entities (DAE) of the GCF and national implementing entity (NIE) of the AF, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The meeting agenda and the speakers' presentations from the meeting can be accessed at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/news-seminars/>.

The Direct Access Modality has been acknowledged as a best practice approach to enhancing country ownership of projects funded by climate finance and was first operationalized by the AF. The modality has been tested and a community of practice has evolved. Entities have gained experience and learnt lessons from the challenges that have arisen. Sharing these experiences and lessons amongst the community of DAEs is key to enhancing direct access to climate finance and addressing some of the challenges. The CPDAE has therefore emerged as a platform for NIEs and DAEs to share experiences and ideas for mutual learning. Towards this end, a draft charter and work plan were developed and shared amongst accredited NIEs of the AF and DAEs of the GCF to be discussed by the entities at the meeting in Durban.

The two main objectives of the meeting were for the Community of Practice to collectively consider and finalize two documents:

- i) The Draft Charter, outlining the governance framework of the CPDAE, and;
- ii) The Draft Action Plan, based on capacity gaps identified by members of the community and their expectations going forward.

Additionally, the meeting would discuss the structure of the committee for the CPDAE and representation within the committee.

Over 30 participants, representing accredited NIEs and DAEs from both the AF and GCF, were in attendance for the two-day interactive meeting with representatives from the AF, GCF and ACCF as observers. It should be noted that AF, GCF and ACCF representatives were not physically present in the meeting room during the deliberations of the community. They only occasionally provided input to the discussions, upon request by the community to enter the meeting room.



DAY ONE

Opening

The meeting was opened with respective welcoming remarks by representatives from the AF, GCF and ACCF. The CEO of SANBI, and the Deputy Director General of the South African Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (the National Designated Authority for South Africa) also made welcoming remarks as host and on behalf of the government of South Africa respectively.

The speakers stressed the important role of the CPDAE in enabling the exchange of experiences and sharing of knowledge. The speakers expressed that as a collective, the CPDAE had the potential to enhance the capacities of NIEs and DAEs to access climate finance and design and implement high quality projects.

Since early 2014, notably, each of the funders had, through independent initiatives, brought together accredited entities in the climate finance space towards achieving a similar goal. The AF and the GCF both serve the Paris Agreement, which articulates the need to enhance capacity building support for developing countries that is country-driven and that enhances their ability to access climate finance and take effective action. So far, support for NIEs and DAEs has primarily been through workshops and webinars for AF accredited entities and both the AF and GCF view the CPDAE as an additional mechanism to deliver readiness and capacity-building support. Similarly, the GCF has been developing a platform for GCF accredited DAEs to interact and engage with the fund and amongst themselves. The ACCF, in partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI) and several DAEs, has also supported capacity building activities for DAEs. Following a request by DAEs in 2016 the ACCF supported annual workshops of the CPDAE at the side-lines of the COP22 in Marrakech, where the first concept note for the CPDAE was mooted and outlined, and at the COP23 in Bonn, where the governance structure of the community was discussed. The ACCF supported the first activities developed in response to the request from the CPDAE (eg. for a prototype online platform, developed by WRI with funding from the AF, and a GCF direct access training of trainers programme, developed by the AfDB). Additionally, the AfDB provided a platform for side events at COP22 and COP24 to present the community of practice to a broader audience.

The meeting in Durban was therefore a coordinated attempt to consolidate these initiatives to create a cohesive community of NIEs and DAEs in the climate finance space.

The meeting was seminal for the CPDAE, given its intention to finalise the community's governance framework and action plan. The speakers encouraged the community to be candid, critical and ambitious in their engagement with the relevant documents and their envisaging of the CPDAE's future.





Participants from DAEs and funding organisations at the CPDAE in Durban, June 2019.

Photograph source: Mpfunzeni Tshindane

The Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities since inception-An Overview

Aïssata Boubou Sall Sylla from CSE, Senegal, gave an overview of the CPDAE since inception. She explained that during an exchange visit between NEMA, Kenya and CSE, Senegal the idea was mooted to develop a community of practice. She noted that from the perspective of African NIEs and DAEs, the initial intention of the CPDAE had been to create a formal framework for exchanging and sharing of experiences between NIEs and DAEs. This idea also attracted interest from other organisations like the WRI which responded by committing to develop a platform for DAEs in response to the interest expressed. As the idea became popularised, it gained traction and interest from other quarters including the ACCF, which mobilised resources to support the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme.

An ad hoc committee was established at a side event hosted by the WRI in November 2017 at the 23rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 23) in Bonn, Germany to advance the support already provided by AfDB for the development of the community of practice and to open up the community to other regions outside Africa. Parallel discussions on establishing a community of practice were also taking place under the Adaptation Fund. At the fifth annual climate finance readiness seminar for the AF's accredited NIEs, which took place during August 2018 in Washington, DC, the ad hoc committee established at COP 23 was merged and consolidated into a new committee, with the selection of new members. The committee was constituted on the basis of two representatives each from three languages - English, French and Spanish. This committee was responsible for the development of the draft charter and action plan, which would be presented for consideration by members of the CPDAE at the meeting in Durban, South Africa.



Entities identify challenges in Direct Access

Acknowledging, contextualising and sharing the challenges experienced in the implementation of the Direct Access modality is key to identifying priorities that can be addressed through the CPDAE. With the CPDAE envisaged role to build NIE and DAE capacity for Direct Access, it was decided that common challenges experienced within the CPDAE should be clearly identified and formulated in order to inform the proposed action plan.

Participants were divided into three groups, in accordance to preferred language of communication: English, Spanish and French. The groups discussed specific challenges NIEs and DAEs had experienced in:

- i) accessing funds through direct access (accreditation and reaccreditation) and;
- ii) programming climate finance through direct access (project/programme development, proposal submission and approval by AF and GCF, and implementation challenges)

Overall, the entities agreed that their main challenges were related to insufficient internal capacity to satisfy the requirements and the demands for the processes (often happening in parallel) of accreditation, reaccreditation and the programming of climate finance into projects.



Challenges in Accreditation and Reaccreditation

Key challenges identified in the accreditation and reaccreditation process were as follows:

- i. Deficiency in internal human and institutional capacity to meet the requirements for accreditation and reaccreditation. It was noted that both accreditation and reaccreditation are long processes that are capacity intensive and costly for entities.
- ii. Lack of clarity around what documents are required and/or not required, especially related to the fast-tracking accreditation process. Entities also attributed this lack of clarity and associated delays to the constantly changing policies and requirements from funders.
- iii. Language was a key issue raised amongst the French and Spanish groups. Translating national policies and legal documents into English is costly and often multiple iterations are needed when document requirements are unclear.
- iv. Entities have to spend time and money duplicating and adapting existing national laws and government policies into organisational documents to satisfy funding requirements that are not tailored to the local context and type of organisation seeking accreditation. Entities face capacity challenges when tailoring existing national policies and laws into their institutional frameworks and policies to meet accreditation requirements.

Challenges in Programming Climate finance

Challenges identified in project/programme development, proposal submission and approval; and project implementation include:

- i. While the need for local and/or internal capacities for programming climate finance are high, there is generally reluctance/inability to fund such local capacity development. This encourages or appears to preference the hiring of consultants, which is expensive, creates dependency and does not benefit the long-term building of capacity within DAEs. Some areas where entities experience challenges and a need for further capacity for programming climate finance include:
 - GCF/AF Governance, legal commitments, access modalities, accreditation, country engagement and readiness support;
 - GCF's /AF's project cycle (regular project cycle and simplified approval process) and introduction to the project concept note and funding project templates;
 - Process of developing concept notes, the full proposal template, project preparation facility (PPF);
 - Ideal methodologies for mapping climate impact; risk (probability of occurrence of uncertain impacts), options for mitigation/adaptation;
 - Environmental and social safeguards and gender related issues;



- Understanding GCF's/ AF's performance management framework for monitoring and evaluation, developing a logical framework/articulating a theory of change, evaluation methods and measurement;
 - Impact evaluation, control groups, FPIC
- ii. There is a general feeling that guidelines are unclear around the kind of projects that would receive funding, especially given the constantly evolving requirements and priorities at the GCF board level.
 - iii. Often the feedback and decisions from the GCF Board contradict the Secretariat's feedback during project development, which can be very frustrating.
 - iv. There were complaints about late responses to inquiries which remained unanswered, sometimes for weeks, before receiving any reply. These delayed responses invariably increase the length of time for project approvals and implementation. This concern was particularly referred to the GCF.

Overview of CPDAE Charter

Carolina Reyes from Fundecooperación, Costa Rica, presented an overview of the Draft Charter and the background to its development. She explained that the document had been worked on for over two years and had changed a number of times. She also mentioned that the Charter was envisaged to be a living document that would likely evolve with the community, but that there was a need to provide guidelines for engagement, to clarify expectations and to define the purpose of the CPDAE. With this meeting, the intention was to get input from the wider community and finalise the document so that it would have the broad acceptance and approval of the community.

Summary of the feedback on the Draft Charter

Once again, the entities divided according to language groups, in order to discuss and provide feedback on the draft charter, before each group reported back to the plenary session. The groups focussed on discussing the following key elements of the charter:

- The outlined Purpose and Scope of CPDAE
- Key Deliverables of CPDAE
- Membership and Partnership of the CPDAE
- Structure of the CPDAE (i.e. the roles and responsibilities of the DAEs, the CPDAE committee, the AF and GCF and other partners/funders like the ACCF)
- Communication within the CPDAE and externally to AF, GCF and other funders

Aside from changes to the formatting and structure of the document, the following are the summarised outcomes of the group discussions:

- i) A mission statement for the CPDAE was added to the Charter, envisaging “a vibrant community of practice for direct access entities that is capacitated, free-standing, sustainable and impactful”.



- ii) Membership of the CPDAE shall be voluntary. A prospective entity will have to indicate interest via submission of a standard Letter of Commitment to the management Committee which will be acknowledged, and Letter of Acceptance appropriately issued after internal administrative procedure. A standard template of the Letter of Commitment shall be developed by the Committee for adoption by members.
- iii) To ensure seamless coordination and effective interface between and amongst members of the CPDAE and the funders, each entity shall designate and nominate a Focal Point for liaison and coordination of CPDAE activities for continuity.
- iv) The Committee will comprise of two representatives elected from each language group, but shall all come from 6 different countries. A country shall not be allowed to have a consecutive period as a committee member.
- v) The Committee would be responsible for communicating challenges and advocating the interests of the CPDAE members to the AF and GCF and any other potential funders.
- vi) To ensure continuity and retention of institutional memory, election into the Committee will be rotational for each member country's participation but staggered so that each member holds office for a term of two years.
- vii) The Chair will rotate annually, on an expression of interest basis.
- viii) In order to lessen the workload on the Committee, it was suggested that sub-committees should be set up on ad-hoc basis to deal with pressing issues on a need-basis and as the Committee deems appropriate. Given the existing capacity constraints within entities, the sentiment was expressed to not over-burden the committee members.
- ix) Based on the foregoing in item viii) above, the Community expressed an interest in having a full-time paid secretary that would rotate between institutions, with the purpose of coordinating the administrative side of achieving the committee's actions. Even though this idea was suspended for lack of immediate financiers, it was reiterated that nothing forecloses the Committee from revisiting the proposal in the future when the CPDAE is fully consolidated.

Having presented this harmonised version to the participants in plenary, the facilitator called for endorsement of the revised version through a show of hands. Before its adoption a member raised a concern that they did not have the mandate to adopt the charter without appropriate authorisation from their home country, but they could accept the document in principle. Apart from this observation, the Charter was unanimously accepted. The Charter was therefore adopted and approved for the CPDAE. The meeting also agreed that the in-coming Committee would circulate the charter for final input to all DAEs, including those not present at the meeting.

The charter agreed to at the meeting is provided in annex I of this report.



DAY TWO

Overview of CPDAE Action Plan

An overview of the proposed draft action plan was presented by Claudia Godfrey Ruiz from PROFONANPE, Peru. The action plan outlined several activities for the CPDAE to achieve. It prioritised delivering an online platform and hub to provide a customised mechanism for entities to share and exchange knowledge, experience and documents. The plan outlined a capacity building program (called the Training of Trainers Programme) that the ACCF had already procured funding to implement. The action plan also envisaged the regular organisation of workshops and meetings and periodic release of communications bulletins and other communications, including conducting annual CPDAE meetings and other related events.

Using the same approach as with the Charter, participants worked in groups to discuss the draft action plan, and focussed on the following key components:

- Their inputs on activities to be included in the action plan;
- Financing of the Action Plan;
- Monitoring and Reporting of CPDAE activities;
- Measuring progress and the CPDAE action plan.

Summary of the way forward on the CPDAE Action Plan

The following list summarises the key alterations and additions to the final action plan:

- i) There is a need to conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing platforms and/or mechanisms of communication and information exchange so as to have a better understanding of what model has worked in similar circumstances and which models are preferred by the entities.
- ii) On the basis of the assessment produced from i) above, develop and adapt an existing platform for the community to communicate and exchange materials (eg. the WRI/GCF DCAP platform).
- iii) It would be more helpful to use a phased approach for the capacity building and training programme; where the first phase focuses on the capacity needs for developing adaptation and mitigation projects and the second phase focuses on capacity building for monitoring and evaluation.
- iv) Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for assessing the success of the CPDAE.
- v) Upon the selection of a preferred model of engagement amongst members, providing general support to subscribe to a dedicated medium of communication for CPDAE activities including for Committee meetings and to procure translation facilities/services. Further, that the translation services should not be limited to meetings alone but also translation support for locally specified national documents and for guidelines and legal documents.

The action plan agreed to at the meeting is provided in Annex II of this report.



CPDAE Restitution (Election of new CPDAE Committee)

Following adoption of the Charter and Action Plan for the CPDAE and in fulfilment of one of the agenda items for the two-day meeting, a new Committee was elected.

The previous committee had consisted of **Mpfunzeni Tshindane** (SANBI, South Africa) and **Shelia McDonald-Miller** (PIOJ, Jamaica) from the English group, **Carolina Reyes** (Fundcooperacion, Costa Rica) and **Claudia Godfrey Ruiz** (PROFONANPE, Peru) from the Spanish group and **Aïssata Boubou Sall Sylla** (CSE, Senegal) and **Mathieu Biauou** (FNE, Benin) from the French Group.

In accordance with the provision of the newly approved charter, and to ensure continuity and retention of institutional memory, a new committee of six was constituted, with one new and one old member elected from each of the different language groups. The elections were held within the respective groups.

The following were elected members of the new CPDAE Committee:

For the English-speaking group:

1. Farrah Tingling (PACT, Belize),
2. Shelia McDonald-Miller (PIOJ, Jamaica)

For the Spanish-speaking group:

3. Rosa Montanez (Fundacion Natura, Panama),
4. Claudia Godfrey Ruiz (PROFONANPE, Peru)

For the French-speaking group:

5. Komlanvi Moglo (BOAD, Togo)
6. Aïssata Boubou Sall Sylla (CSE, Senegal)

The newly elected Committee members were presented to the meeting and were all congratulated.

Details of the implementation of the work-plan and other activities of the CPDAE shall henceforth be communicated to members by the Committee.

Next steps

Following the election of the new committee, a meeting was convened immediately after the workshop where Claudia Godfrey Ruiz (Peru) was elected Chair and Komlanvi Moglo (Togo) was appointed Vice Chair. The committee then met with representatives from the funding organisations (AF, GCF and ACCF) to determine the next steps moving forward. The following list summarises these steps:

- Committee to finalize charter and action plan after comments from AF and GCF (further editing);
- Committee to request GCF to inform DAEs now invited to the event in Durban about the CPDAE;
- Committee to share the final documents with the community



DAY THREE

Site Visit to the uMngeni Resilience Project

On the third day the CPDAE meeting, attendees visited Swayimane village, one of the sites in the uMngeni Resilience Project (URP). The URP is an AF funded project that is being implemented through SANBI, the South African NIE for the AF. The core project management team consists of Ms Lungi Ndlovu, from the uMgungundlovu District municipality, Associate Professor Tafadzwa Mabaudhi and Professor Albert Modi from the University of KwaZulu Natal.

The workshop attendees were met by the project management team who gave a brief presentation on the project and its four components. This was followed by a tour of some of the project sites, including a briefing on the installed early warning system at a local school. CPDAE members met youth farmers who were being trained in climate resilient agriculture and were working on pilot plots to test the growth of different plant varieties and mulching methods to conserve water. The site visit also included a visit to a weather station that collects data that can be accessed remotely. The field trip ended with meeting small scale farmers, who had been trained through the project. They had prepared lunch with local varieties of vegetables and were selling their produce that, through the project, has been marketed and sold through a local supermarket.



The CPDAE meeting attendees visited the Swayimane area, one of the sites where the uMngeni Resilience Project is being implemented, to see the different adaptation interventions through the project. Photograph source: Michael Jennings



ANNEXES

ANNEX I: CPDAE CHARTER

ANNEX II: CPADE ACTION PLAN

ANNEX III: PARTICIPANTS LIST

	Country	Organisation	Last Name	First Name
1	Antigua and Barbuda	DoE	Adams-Matthew	Rashauna
2	Argentina	UCAR	Castro Rios	Milagros
3	Armenia	EPIU	Babayan	Vahagn
4	Belize	PACT	Tingling	Farrah
5	Benin	FNE	Biaou	Mathieu
6	Bhutan	BTFEC	Wangdi	Thinley
7	Chile	AGCID	Leiva	Violeta
8	Costa Rica	Fundecooperacion	Reyes	Carolina
9	Côte d'Ivoire	AfDB	Kouakou	Emile
10	Côte d'Ivoire	AfDB	Brown	Louise
11	Dominican Republic	IDDI	Cosin	Javier
12	India	NABARD	Kumawat	Bhupendra
13	Korea	GCF	Resende	Emerson
14	Korea	GCF	Lamichhane	Anupa
15	Micronesia	MCT	Andon	Lisa
16	Morocco	CDG Capital	Mikou	Laila
17	Namibia	EIF	Katendo	Yvette Hausiku
18	Namibia	DRFN	Shivute	Bernadette
19	Niger	BAGRI	Baraze	Abdoul Razak
20	Nigeria	Facilitator	Mshelia	Huzi Ishaku
21	Panama	FUNDACION NATURA	Montanez	Rosa
22	Panama	FUNDACION NATURA	Cuellar	Vilna
23	Peru	PROFONANPE	Godfrey Ruiz	Claudia
24	Senegal	CSE	Sall Sylla	Aïssata Boubou
25	South Africa	SANBI	Tshindane	Mpfunzeni
26	South Africa	SANBI	Jennings	Michael
27	South Africa	SANBI	Rampedi	Moshibudi
28	South Africa	Report Writer	van Ryneveld	Tara
29	Tanzania	NEMC	Mulinda	Fredrick
30	Togo	BOAD	Moglo	Komlanvi
31	Uganda	Ministry of Water and Environment	Kaweesi	James
32	USA	World Bank-Adaptation Fund	Madziwa	Farayi

