

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a floral patterned shirt, smiling as she looks into a large, grey, rectangular container. The background is blurred, showing an outdoor setting with wooden structures.

Local Leadership in Adaptation Finance



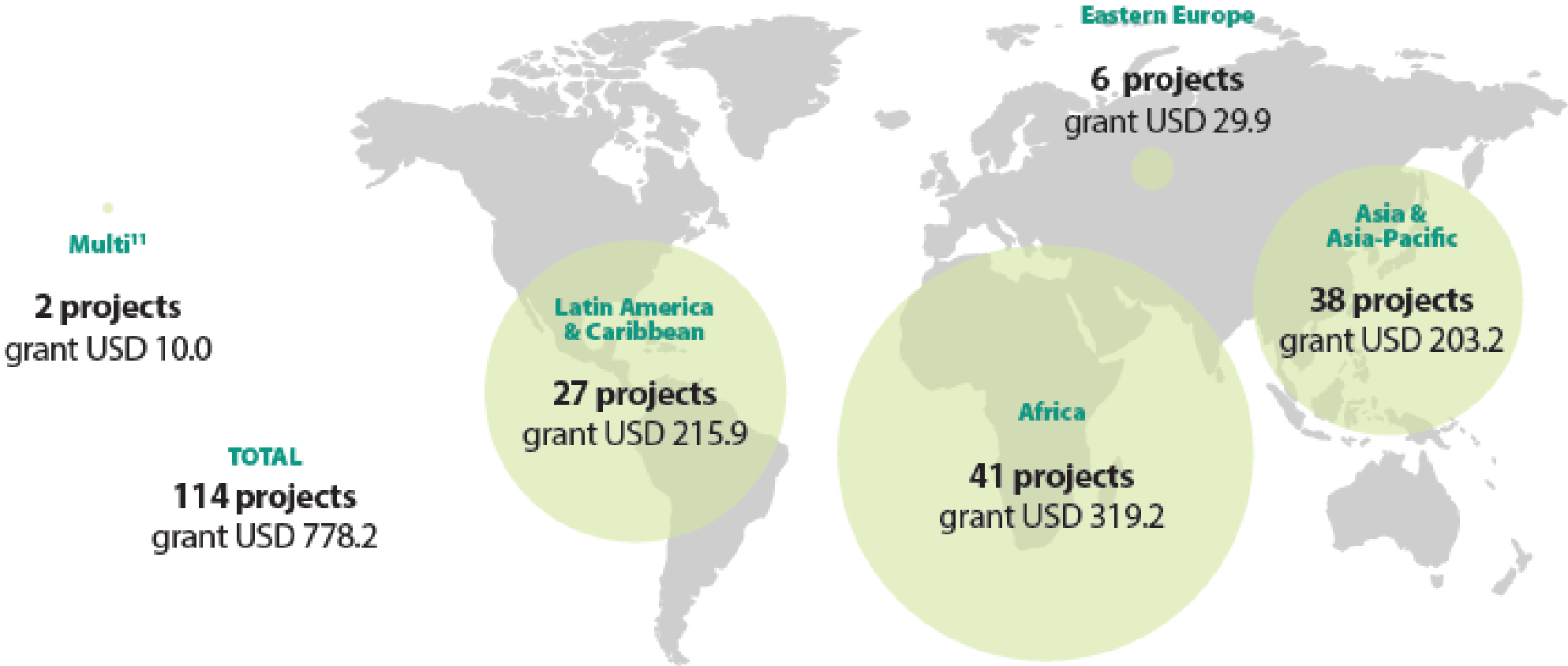
ADAPTATION FUND

Alyssa Gomes, Climate Change Analyst

Beneficiary looks at crickets she has raised. AF project in Cambodia is helping people adapt to climate change and rely less on rain-fed agriculture by supporting alternative livelihoods such as cricket farming.

UNEP

AF Portfolio Investments per Region



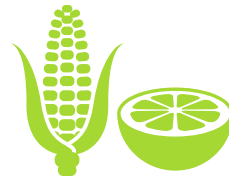
All projects tailored to local adaptation needs and country-driven



- Disaster Risk Reduction
19%



- Food Security
16%



- Agriculture
13%



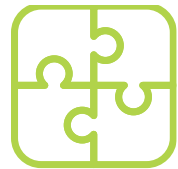
- Water Management
13%



- Coastal management
7%



- Rural Development
12%



- Multi-sector
11%



- Ecosystem-based adaptation
4%



- Urban Development
4%



- Forests
1%

Learning from Locally-led Action in Adaptation Fund Projects and Programmes



- Then study *Local Leadership in Adaptation Finance: Learning from Locally-Led Action in AF Projects and Programmes*, produced by AF contributes toward an ongoing collaboration between the Fund and the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) aimed at furthering urgent, bold and equitable climate action
- Aligned with the Learning and Sharing pillar of the Fund's five-year **Medium-Term Strategy**
- Examined locally-led actions of six AF-funded projects in Cambodia, Costa Rica, Federated States of Micronesia, South Africa, Uganda, and Colombia-Ecuador (regional project)
- Examined **common challenges** and gathered lessons on **what works in practice to best promote locally-led action** in the face of barriers

AF supporting local action since becoming operational in 2010

- Pioneered an institutional design to decentralize decision-making through Direct Access
- Locally-led action through the Direct Access modality enabled the accredited NIEs and executing entities and other partners working with them, to develop and expand their capacities and their abilities
- Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy are a codification of the Fund's approach to ensuring that all activities it funds do no harm and are gender responsive
- ESP and GP policy plays a key role in guiding local inclusion in project formulation and throughout the project cycle throughout all phases of project implementation.
- Readiness efforts enhance capacities of accredited NIEs enabling capacity building of local-level entities
- Adaptation Fund Board approved a streamlined accreditation process, breaking down barriers by unlocking climate finance for smaller entities and countries
- Piloted Enhanced Direct Access, in 2019 the AFB responded to increasing stakeholder interest stakeholders on localizing climate finance by approving a funding window for EDA
- Launched Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)



AF Project in Colombia –Ecuador. Beneficiary - Paterson Arboleda, Agroforestry Engineer, oversees cacao drying in Consejo Bajo Mira y Frontera. WFP

Synthesis of findings

Making the most of opportunities for local leadership

- Capacity assessment is key to establishing strong partnerships
- Involving local government has the potential to empower local leaders to play an important long-term role in adaptation action
- Sensitive and respectful working methods can help to build trust
- Locally-led action may require specific planning efforts to overcome linguistic, geographical and other challenges

Delivering locally-led action in practice

- Instituting simple, flexible procedures is key to effective project management
- Local leaders are well placed to determine appropriate and effective methods for communication and decision-making
- Sensitization on locally-led approaches may increase local ownership and the likelihood of sustaining project outcomes

Promoting locally-led action through long-term institutional growth

- Where national institutions take on key roles in project execution, they can be well placed to take on leadership roles in future adaptation initiatives in a larger scale
- Where NIEs demonstrate their capacities in managing climate finance, they can grow into other high-level strategic roles



AF Project in FSM. Pakin community members install signs to demarcate boundaries of a Marine Protected Area, a key strategy to build community resilience to climate change - credit to Conservation Society of Pohnpei. MCT

Lessons learned

- Supporting locally-led action means **recognizing capacity gaps and being transparent** on support for capacity enhancement
- Integrating such **indigenous knowledge** with existing practices increases the effectiveness of adaptation
- In localizing climate finance, **equitable support** may mean **differentiated support**
- Support that is **tailored across contextual differences** can enable effective local action
- Locally-led action on adaptation action **goes beyond financial management**
- Using **Innovation and flexibility** to protect local level actors from administrative burdens
- Local **peer-to-peer networks** can strengthen project delivery
- Where adaptation can be a challenging concept for local actors, a **focus on a cross-cutting issue** can increase local buy-in





AF Project in Uganda –Women group in Can Omiya Diro Shea nut butter production Alebtong –Otuke district in Upper Nile Water Management Zone. OSS **7**


Thank You



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