



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/EFC.28/Inf.2
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Adaptation Fund Board
Ethics and Finance Committee
Twenty-eight Meeting
Bonn, Germany (Virtually held), 14-15 October 2021

Agenda Item: 5

WORK UPDATE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL EVALUATION REFERENCE GROUP OF THE ADAPTATION FUND (AF-TERG)

Background

1. Having considered the comments and recommendation of the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC), the Board decided at its thirty-first meeting in March 2018:

- a) *To approve the terms of reference of the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund (AF-TERG) as contained in Annex III to the report of the Board (AFB/B.31/8);¹*
- b) *To approve the amendment to the terms of reference of the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) as contained in Annex IV to the report of the Board (AFB/B.31/8);*

[...]

(Decision B.31/25)

2. On June 4, 2020, the Board approved, through inter-sessional decision B.35.a-35.b/29, the strategy and work programme of the AF-TERG contained in Annex 1 of the document AFB/EFC.26.a-26.b/3.² Through intersessional decision B.35.a-35.b/27 the Board approved the proposed two-year budget to cover the costs of the operations of the AF-TERG and its secretariat for fiscal years 2021 (FY21) and 2022 (FY22).³ The AF-TERG strategy and work programme takes a longer-term planning perspective covering FY21 to FY23 for the work items, and FY21 to FY22 budget-wise. The approved multiyear work programme responds to the broad mandate and the three functions of the AF-TERG: evaluation, advisory and oversight.

3. On 23 November 2020, Ms. Debbie Menezes commenced as the new AF-TERG Chair, taking over from AF-TERG member Mr. Mutizwa Mukute who was the acting Chair since the stepping down of Ms. Eva Lithman as AF-TERG Chair on 15 July 2020.

¹ Available at: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/AFB.B.31-final-report.pdf>

² Available at: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/AFB.EFC_.26a-26b.3-AF-TERG-Strategy-and-Work-Programme_final_4May2020.pdf

³ Available at: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/AFB.EFC_.26a-26b.1.Rev_.1_Admin.-budget-FY21.pdf

Introduction

4. The current document presents a work progress update to the EFC that will be complemented with an oral presentation by the Chair of the AF-TERG. Since the last update to the EFC and Board on 17 March 2021 (AFB/EFC.27/Inf.1), the most significant elements of work are as follows:

- (i) **The recently concluded mid-term review (MTR) of the AF Medium-Term Strategy (MTS).** This includes findings and recommendations that pertain to completion of the current MTS as well as to inform the development of the next AF medium-term strategy. (AFB/EFC.28/7).
- (ii) An information update on the development of the **draft Evaluation Policy** which is intended to replace the current Evaluation Framework (AFB/EFC.28/Inf.3).
- (iii) An information update on the on-going **ex-post evaluation** work (AFB/EFC.28/Inf.4).

Strategic Approach

5. The TERG multi-year workplan is in its second year of implementation, and is focused on delivering its evaluation, advisory and oversight functions. In championing the Fund's evaluation function, the AF-TERG's approach to all its work elements remains strongly grounded in the priorities of the Fund, the Board's steer, and relevant guidance from the governing, process management, subsidiary, and constituted bodies of the UNFCCC, and the AF-TERG's work principles. There are several other significant contextual shifts that continue to inform the AF-TERG's approach, including the focus on country-driven action, the growth of the Fund's portfolio, and diversification of types of funding.

6. The AF-TERG's deliberate strategy is to intentionally shape elements of its work programme so that all its evaluative work combines and builds relevant evidence towards the overall performance evaluation of the Adaptation Fund. This critical piece of work is planned to be delivered for the end of FY23, as identified in the AF-TERG's multi-year strategy and work programme. The three documents presented at this EFC meeting are consistent with this approach.

7. An approach of participatory engagement with AF stakeholders continues to inform all aspects of the AF-TERG's work. This includes consultations with the Board, EFC, Implementing Entities, the Adaptation Fund NGO network and the Board secretariat to get their perspectives and to ensure that the AF-TERG's work remains grounded in contextual realities. The AF-TERG has also stepped up its engagement with climate change adaptation and evaluation experts including from other like-minded climate funds, and with the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat.

Progress on current work elements

8. This section covers the work that the AF-TERG has been conducting since June 2020, when the Board approved the AF-TERG strategy and work programme, and more specifically actions that have followed the EFC Board meeting in October 2020 and in March 2021. The current work elements, as visible in Table 1, are those that feature in the approved work programme, that have either carried over from FY21 into FY22, or that have been initiated in FY22.

9. An overview of personnel working on specific work elements is presented in Annex 1. A copy of paragraphs 18 to 29 of the Board approved strategy and work programme can be found in Annex 2.

Table 1: Current work elements and their status

Work Element	Status	Comment
i. Annual Implementation Plan	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12-month annual work plan and budget developed and remains guided by Fund priorities.
ii. Development of AF-TERG Operational Guidance	In progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An organizational development consultant began work in April 2021 to support AF-TERG to strengthen operational modalities and ways of working for strengthening impact and effectiveness. Phase 1 has been completed; and a follow-on Phase 2 to support the implementation of the recommendations will soon begin.
iii. Review / revision of the Evaluation Framework (AFB/EFC.27/7)	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Review of the Fund's current Evaluation Framework was completed in February 2021. Its recommendation for the development of an evaluation policy instrument was approved by the Board in March 2021. A draft Evaluation Policy was subsequently developed, with the support of a representative Advisory Group. This document is now undergoing a robust process of consultation.
iv. Co-learning and Capacity Building	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the Board's encouragement for its members' participation in a new concept of AF-TERG-led Advisory Groups, the first such forum was formed in June 2021. This includes representation from across Implementing Entities, AF-NGO network, the Board, and a member of the Board Secretariat. So far, the AG has met four times and this informal group has added tremendous value to the development of the Evaluation Policy. Further consultations with AF-stakeholders are planned over the next few months, which will inform plans to operationalise the evaluation policy and identify relevant capacity building measures.
v. Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) mid-term review (AFB/EFC.27Inf.2)	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mid-term review has been completed and has identified findings and recommendations for the EFC's

		consideration. The Board Secretariat has also developed a Management response.
vi. Studies and thematic evaluations (1)	Initiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1 identified – Innovation and Risk in Adaptation. This remains in early stages of development. So far, the AF-TERG has conducted consultations with other experts to help scope the work.
vii. Ex-post evaluations	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 (completed) developed specific guidance for AF-ex-post evaluations. This new, innovative approach will enable the AF-TERG to evaluate both project sustainability and the ultimate aim of resilience. The guidance is being field tested through two strategically selected pilots, based on country availability and readiness to engage, in Ecuador and Samoa.
viii. Evaluation Synthesis (AFB/EFC.27/8)	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first synthesis which looked at the quality of 17 AF evaluations was satisfactorily concluded in January 2021. Emerging lessons and recommendations continue to inform AF-TERG work elements. As part of the AF-TERG's collaborative approach, the management response developed by the Board Secretariat has been discussed with the AF-TERG.
ix. Sharing Outreach and Communication on evaluation results	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the development of Terms of Reference, the process for identifying a strategic communications expert is on-going. The work is expected to develop a strategic approach that will help the AF-TERG to strengthen its external outreach and communication. • The AF-TERG Secretariat has been active on social media, with growing presence and interest from internal AF and external stakeholders in the AF-TERG's work.

Emerging findings from on-going work

10. The AF-TERG is pleased to present findings from its key work elements. More details on each of these are contained within the respective documents that have been submitted to the EFC.

(i) *Mid-term review of the MTS*

11. The Mid-term review (MTR) of the Adaptation Fund's first Medium Term Strategy (MTS) (2018-2022) and its Implementation Plan, has concluded. The MTR work was undertaken in two phases: phase 1 synthesized key information and undertook extensive consultations and prepared a document for the EFC March 2021 meeting with preliminary findings and areas of

further exploration; and, phase 2 which included further analysis and extensive consultations with the AFB Secretariat and identified a series of recommendations for the EFC consideration at this meeting.

12. The MTR findings reiterate the strong relevance, niche and ambition of the Adaptation Fund in helping to achieve the pace and scale of climate change adaptation action which gains even more significance in the context of resilient economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The review regards the Fund's MTS as a good fit-for-purpose and forward-looking strategy that is responsive to good practices from the strategy field, to global climate change processes and imperatives for climate change adaptation. The review concluded that the MTS has positioned the Fund well in the overall climate landscape. Overall, the MTR acknowledges that the MTS has achieved significant strides such as funding for adaptation actions and the opening of seven new funding windows for innovation and knowledge sharing, for example. On the other hand, some of the funding targets for these new windows have been uneven. It is also the AF-TERG's view that the implementation plan could be used more effectively to optimize the Fund's synergies and impact across all three pillars. It also notes the constraints posed by resource mobilization challenges.

13. Overall, the MTR provides four recommendations for the current phase of the MTS and two recommendations that could inform the development of the next MTS. In addition to taking note of the Management Response prepared by the Board Secretariat and given the relatively short timeframe for the remainder of the current MTS period, the EFC may wish to consider requesting the Board Secretariat to develop an action plan (in consultation with the AF-TERG) that can respond to the recommendations in the review.

(ii) Progress update on the development of the Evaluation Policy instrument

14. The AF-TERG is pleased to provide a status update on the process of developing the evaluation policy instrument following the Board's decision in April 2021 to request the AF-TERG, in consultation with the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, *to prepare a draft evaluation policy for the Adaptation Fund that would replace the current Evaluation Framework.*" (Decision B.36/32).

15. In this fiscal year, the AF-TERG has developed a draft Evaluation Policy instrument. Although the AF-TERG had originally intended to submit and present to the EFC at the twenty-eighth meeting in October 2021, a draft evaluation policy for Board consideration, the work has been extended. The main reason is that the process has warranted robust and careful consultation which has extended the timetable for submission to the twenty-ninth meeting of the EFC proposed for March 2022. Most significantly, the formation of an Advisory Group with participation from across Fund stakeholder groups, including a Board member, has been a useful testing ground for the direction of the work, its relevance and alignment with the Paris Agreement, and deepening understanding on potential implications of certain evaluation approaches for various constituents of the Fund.

16. The overall proposed approach to the transitioning from the Evaluation Framework to an Adaptation Fund Evaluation Policy is intended to be incremental so that Fund stakeholders can absorb these changes. The Evaluation Policy is also intended to enable IEs to align efforts with their evaluation systems, with national MEL systems, and to identify progress to UNFCCC global

goals on adaptation. Early consultations suggest that this proposed approach is consistent with that adopted by the GCF and other climate funds.

17. The AF-TERG proposes to continue consultations on the draft evaluation policy over the next few weeks, including Implementing Entities, AF-NGO network, the Board Secretariat, and other key stakeholders. After that the AF-TERG will incorporate comments and share a revised draft Evaluation Policy with the Board, the Board Committees, and the AFB Secretariat for review.

(iii) Progress update on the ex-post evaluation

18. In its work programme, the AF-TERG proposed to commission one or two ex post evaluations of strategically selected projects three to five years after their completion. In this fiscal year, the AF-TERG developed comprehensive and innovative framework guidance that will provide a standard for how ex-post evaluations are to be undertaken. The full content was published on the AF-TERG website in September 2021. The AF-TERG is now embarking on piloting the guidance across two projects, so that it can be revised and then used for two evaluations per year from the next fiscal year (FY22). The two pilots have been selected in close collaboration with the respective implementing entities. This work is significant as it will help to provide evidence and answer questions about resilience and sustainability after project closure and will also promote learning on what works and what doesn't work. These insights will become increasingly important as the Fund's portfolio of projects matures so that sustainability actions can be built in.

19. Contextual factors. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges which influences the pace of delivery as well as the way in which work activities are being taken forward. Travel restrictions have continued to prevent field missions and the AF-TERG has not been able to meet in person again this year. Consequently, the AF-TERG has continued to engage through online and virtual forums. AF-TERG members have proactively stepped-up engagement with evaluation units of peer organizations, including within the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and UN organisations.

20. This year, AF-TERG member Mr. Andy Rowe decided to rotate out after serving for two years on the AF-TERG. Consequently, new member – Mr. Carroll Patterson – was identified through a competitive and transparent process and has taken up position on 20 September 2021.

21. Budget update. On June 4, 2020, the Board approved, through inter-sessional decision B.35.a-35.b/29, the strategy and work programme of the AF-TERG contained in Annex 1 of the document AFB/EFC.26.a-26.b/3.⁴ Through intersessional decision B.35.a-35.b/27 the Board approved the first proposed two-year budget to cover the costs of the operations of the AF-TERG and its secretariat for fiscal years 2021 (FY21) and 2022 (FY22).⁵ Proposed adjustments for FY22

⁴ Draft Strategy and Work Programme of the Adaptation Fund Technical Evaluation Reference Group (AF-TERG). Document no. AFB/EFC.26.a-26.b/3. Available at: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/draft-strategy-and-work-programme-of-the-adaptation-fund-technical-evaluation-reference-group-af-terg/>

⁵ Administrative Budgets of the Board and Secretariat, and Trustee for Fiscal Year 2021 and the AF-TERG and its Secretariat for Fiscal Years 2021-2022. Document no. AFB/EFC.26.a-26.b/1/Rev.1. Available at: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/administrative-budgets-of-the-board-and-secretariat-and-trustee-for-fiscal-year-2021-and-the-af-terg-and-its-secretariat-for-fiscal-years-2021-2022/>

and a proposed budget for FY23⁶ were approved as part of decision B.36/31. The revised budget for FY22 totals US\$ 1,300,829 and US\$ 1,293,049 for FY23.

22. The budget reconciliation for FY21 as presented in document AFB/EFC.28/5⁷ shows a relatively large cost underrun (35% of the budget) in the evaluation component which was primarily due to the following reasons:

- i. Efforts of AF-TERG members became fully focused on delivering two important pieces of work which absorbed AF-TERG strategic attention and time, leaving less time for other work streams to be taken forward. This included the on-going MTR of the MTS and the Evaluation Policy.
- ii. Some activities were delayed. The two intended thematic studies did not proceed at the pace that was originally envisaged. The AF-TERG identified one thematic topic on innovation and made some initial efforts through external consultations to shape the scope of work, but this has been slow in taking off.
- iii. Some activities, like the outreach and capacity building activities, were undertaken with a more modest approach than originally envisaged, that did not consume the budget.

Forward Priorities

23. The next six months proposes to see the critical delivery of the following important milestones: (i) the finalisation of the Evaluation Policy, following extensive consultation; and an assessment of evaluation capacity needs within the Fund that will inform its operationalisation; (ii) development of an overall framing approach to inform the Fund's performance evaluation in FY23; (iii) completion of at least one thematic evaluation; and (iv) completion of two ex-post pilot evaluations.

24. The AF-TERG will continue to build on the recommendations of the recent Phase 1 Organisational Development exercise to strengthen its functional and operational effectiveness. Additionally, the AF-TERG is also seeking to develop a fit-for-purpose strategic communications and outreach approach that can demonstrate and leverage the niche and comparative advantage of the Fund and promote learning. The AF-TERG continues to engage with evaluation units in the GCF, GEF, UNEP, UNDP, CIF and with other climate change adaptation experts to ensure coherence and to adopt the latest innovative thinking on adaptation monitoring evaluation and learning (MEL). The AF-TERG is also exploring the possibility of joint sessions with other climate evaluation units at the upcoming COP-26 meeting in November 2021. As and when travel resumes, the AF-TERG would also be keen to undertake field visits so that evaluative and advisory work can remain grounded in contextual realities.

⁶ Administrative Budgets of the Board and Secretariat, and Trustee for Fiscal Year 2022, and the AF-TERG and its Secretariat for Fiscal Years 2022-2023. Document no. AFB/EFC.27/6. Available at: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/administrative-budgets-of-the-board-and-secretariat-and-trustee-for-fiscal-year-2022-and-the-af-terg-and-its-secretariat-for-fiscal-years-2022-2023/>

⁷ Reconciliation of the Administrative Budgets of the Board and the Secretariat, the Evaluation Function, and the Trustee for Fiscal Year 2021. Document no. AFB/EFC.28/5. Available at: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/reconciliation-of-the-administrative-budgets-of-the-board-and-the-secretariat-the-evaluation-function-and-the-trustee-for-fiscal-year-2021/>

Annex 1: Overview of personnel hired for specific AF-TERG work elementsAF-TERG members

25. Mr. Andy Rowe, Short-Term Consultant AF-TERG member left the AF-TERG on 30 June 2021 as part of the rotating out of AF-TERG members.
26. Mr. Carroll Patterson, Short-Term Consultant joined the AF-TERG on 20 September 2021 to support the AF-TERG as AF-TERG member.

AF-TERG secretariat

27. Ms. Anh Bui, Short-Term Consultant on fin-admin support left the AF-TERG on 31 August 2021.
28. Ms. Beryl Onyango, Short-Term Consultant joined the AF-TERG on 22 September 2021 to provide fin-admin support to the AF-TERG Secretariat.

AF-TERG consultants

29. Mr. Luis Francisco Garcia Espinal, Short-Term Consultant supported the AF-TERG review and revision of the Evaluation Framework. The consultant left the AF-TERG on 30 June 2021.
30. Ms. Judith Friedman, Short-Term Consultant re-joined the AF-TERG on 1 August 2021 to support the AF-TERG in the development of the overall evaluation framework.
31. Ms. Liza Ottlakan, Short-Term Consultant re-joined the AF-TERG on 1 September 2021 to support the AF-TERG as data analyst across work elements.
32. Ms. Mariana Vidal, Short-Term Consultant joined the AF-TERG on 1 October 2021 to support the AF-TERG as data analyst across work elements.
33. Ms. Karen Komiti, Short-Term Consultant joined the AF-TERG on 21 September 2021 to support the ex-post evaluation work.
34. Ms. Margaret (Meg) Spearman, Short-Term Consultant joined the AF-TERG on 18 December 2020 to support the ex-post evaluation work.

Annex 2: AF-TERG Work Programme (FY21 to FY23, i.e. July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023)⁸

18. The [...] AF-TERG work programme for FY21 to FY23, i.e. July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023, is based on the strategic choices and priorities emerging from scoping and diagnostic work during the first year of the AF-TERG operations, as presented in the two previous sections and in Table 1. The following [...] work programme sets out the activities that will be conducted, and the outputs that will be generated to achieve the intermediate outcomes of the work of the AF-TERG (Table 2).

19. The work programme will be continually reviewed and updated by the AF-TERG and updates will be reported yearly, for presentation to the EFC [Ethics and Finance Committee] for its review in conjunction with the consideration of the proposed budget and budget adjustments. Reporting on completed and ongoing work elements will take place semi-annually.

Table 2 AF-TERG Indicative Work Programme FY21 to FY23

Intermediate Outcome areas	Outputs	Activities
1. Solution-focused understanding of the Fund's evaluation needs and expectations on the AF-TERG	New knowledge on the Fund's evaluation approaches, processes and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct country scoping studies (FY20 to FY21) • Regular reviews and reflection e-based meetings • AF-TERG in person meetings (half-yearly) • Update AF-TERG theory of change and AF-TERG operations manual as needed.
2. Co-learning, productive and trustful relationships and processes	Clear, productive communication and interaction with key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going collaborative MEL [monitoring, evaluation, and learning] engagements with the Adaptation Fund Board [AFB] secretariat, Board and IEs [Implementing Entities], CSOs [Civil Society Organizations] and others in the evaluation and climate change communities.

⁸ Note that this Annex is a partial recap of the approved AF-TERG Strategy and Work Programme, contained in Annex 1 of the document AFB/EFC.26.a-26.b/3, added here to serve as a memory jogger for the reader.

<p>3. Fit-for-purpose evaluation tools and approaches are developed and used</p>	<p>Evaluation tools developed and/or revised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and revise the Evaluation Framework in collaboration with the AFB secretariat (FY20 to FY22) • Develop and share guide on ex post evaluations • Develop and share note on evaluability and evaluability assessment • Produce guidance on conducting project level mid-term reviews [evaluations] and terminal [final] evaluations in consultation with the AFB secretariat, IEs [Implementing Entities], and CSOs.
<p>4. Evaluation results and learning insights articulated and utilised within the Fund</p>	<p>Performance of the MTS [medium-term strategy] and adjustments needed established</p> <p>MEL insights synthesised and shared</p>	<p>Commission / conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term review of the MTS (FY21) • Evaluation of the MTS (FY22 to FY23) • 1 or 2 thematic/performance reviews/evaluations (yearly) • 1 or 2 ex post evaluations (yearly) • Evaluative gap mapping⁹ for 1 or 2 strategic topics • Review of Adaptation Fund evaluation reports for MEL insights (yearly) • Overall evaluation of the Fund (FY23) • Review of the AF-TERG (FY23-24).

⁹ Evaluative gap mapping refers to a visual overview of existing and ongoing studies or reviews in a sector or sub-sector in terms of the types of programmes evaluated and the outcomes measured. In FY21, the AF-TERG will map out existing and ongoing evaluations to identify lessons and experiences within the AF portfolio and outside but relevant to it.

5. Enhanced planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning capacity across the Fund	Collaborative working relationship with AFB secretariat fostered MEL capacity in some IEs developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold 1 MEL workshop with the AFB secretariat (yearly), • Hold 1 capacity development and co-learning seminar with partners in collaboration with the AFB secretariat.
6. Utilisation of Adaptation Fund evaluation insights beyond the Fund	Climate change adaptation (CCA) evaluation trends and good practices identified and shared with the CCA community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network with MEL functions of other climate change funding organizations and regional networks • Produce MEL blogs, prepare and present conference papers, keep the current website updated and develop a dedicated interactive website for the AF-TERG.

Implementing the AF-TERG Work Programme – Three Workstreams

20. The MEL work above will be managed and implemented in three workstreams that broadly correspond to the three functions of the TERG, Evaluation, Advisory and Oversight:

- (a) Workstream 1: Conducting Strategy and Programme Evaluations;
- (b) Workstream 2: Enhancing MEL Capacity and Tools;
- (c) Workstream 3: Co-generating Evaluative Knowledge and Insights.

21. The Advisory and Oversight functions of the AF-TERG will span the three workstreams. The Evaluation function is embedded in Workstream 1.

Workstream 1: Conducting Strategy and Project/Programme Evaluations

22. Workstream 1 focuses on the review and evaluation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS), thematic evaluations and the overall model and performance of the Fund, centred around the core features and niche of the Fund.

23. The review of the five-year Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2022 will assess progress made in the implementation of targets and outputs expected (to be done in FY21) to inform the current strategy as well as the designing of the next. The evaluation of the strategy will take place after the end of the strategy period to summarise achievements and lessons learned. Over the MTS period the AF-TERG will carry out a phased series of assessments of processes and policies implemented under the three pillars of the MTS: Action, Innovation and Learning and Sharing, the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance of the Fund and the actual and expected outcomes and impacts of the Fund's portfolio. Main processes and policies to be evaluated include Direct Access, Accreditation, Readiness Programme, the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), and the Gender Policy and Action Plan.

24. Innovation is and will continue to be a key feature of the MTS and the mission of the Fund. The AF-TERG will [...] conduct an assessment of the experience on how the concept of innovation is applied by the Fund as well as of examples of innovative climate change actions. An initial conceptual study and overview will be initiated during the FY20. Both the review and the evaluation of the MTS will provide inputs to the Overall Evaluation of the performance of the Fund in 2023. A preparatory scoping study will be initiated in FY21.

25. Thematic evaluations of Fund performance will provide perspectives on core features of the Fund, such as the country driven and innovative character of Fund operations with a view to assessing the potential for scale up and longer-term impact. This includes exploring how projects and programmes conceptualise and address vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Workstream 2: Enhancing MEL Capacity across the Fund

26. Workstream 2 focuses on reviewing and updating the Fund's Evaluation Framework and associated tools and guidance. The Evaluation Framework is a key document supporting the implementation of the evaluation function in the Fund and guiding AF evaluation practice. During FY20 an initial gap analysis was carried out and Terms of Reference for the further review and revision of the Evaluation Framework was elaborated. The purpose of the revision will be to reflect the evolution of the Fund since the framework was amended in 2012 and the advances in the evaluation and climate change adaptation community. The review will include updating the evaluation tools used to assess projects and programmes at mid-term and at completion.

27. This workstream will include enabling capacity building initiatives to strengthen the Fund's in-house MEL capacity and that of Fund partners. Specific attention will be paid to the capacities needed to ensure improvements in the quality of projects and programmes as well as Readiness, Innovation and Learning grants. The AF-TERG will draw on and contribute to evaluation practices that enhance the capacity of vulnerable populations to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Workstream 3: Co-generating Evaluative Knowledge and Insights

28. Working with the AFB secretariat, IEs, CSOs and other partners, Workstream 3 will include collaborative co-generation of evaluative knowledge and insights of the work of the Fund, exchanging experience with peers involved in MEL related to climate change adaptation, learning from innovation results, and tracking of implementation of evaluation results and actions including management responses to previous evaluations. For example, each year one or two topics may be selected to conduct an evaluative gap mapping exercise to identify lessons and experiences within the Fund portfolio and from outside. This knowledge will be synthesised and the AF-TERG would organize an event for project teams to discuss, validate and extrapolate this knowledge and develop plans for closing knowledge gaps. The topics could be discussed using country or sector context.

29. This workstream will also include country scoping studies, regular e-based meetings and two AF-TERG in-person meetings each year. Under this work stream are outreach activities, production of papers and contributions to conferences and seminars and the maintenance and development of an interactive AF-TERG website.