



ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation Fund Board Advances Development of Fund's Next 5-Year Strategy to Build and Expand Upon Fund's Successes

Board Also Approves US\$ 34.37M in New Projects and the Fund's evaluation policy; Elects New Officers Following Successful Year

Bonn, Germany (April 14, 2022) -- The 38th Meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board concluded here last week with the Board approving US\$ 34.37 million in new adaptation projects, as well as several key decisions that included furthering development of the Fund's next five-year strategy and developing guidance on optional co-financing of projects, among others.

The Board also approved the fast-track accreditation of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre as the Fund's 9th regional implementing entity, and 57th implementing entity overall.

It additionally approved a new [evaluation policy](#) which seeks to enable the Fund's evaluation function to contribute effectively towards the achievement of the mission, goal and vision of the Fund, including the Paris Agreement, especially its [Global Goal on Adaptation](#) (GGA). It will be primarily operated by the Fund's independent Technical Evaluation Reference Group (TERG), and help further the work of the Fund by adding value to its ongoing projects and programmes.

Recognizing the significant growth of the Fund's portfolio and to support the secretariat capacity, the Board approved an increase of secretariat staffing with dedicated support to innovation and project review streams.

The hybrid meeting, which included a mix of in-person and remote participation to limit risks of Covid-19, also featured the elections of **Mr. Albara Tawfiq**, of Saudia Arabia and representative of the Asia-Pacific constituency, as the Board's new Chair, and **Mr. Antonio Navarra** of Italy and the Western Europe and Others Group as the Vice-Chair.

Tawfiq assumes the Chairship from **Mr. Mattias Broman**, of Sweden, who completed his successful one-year term which included a [record](#) US\$ 350 million in new funds raised and the Board making several milestone decisions such as [doubling the country cap](#) on single-country project funding from US\$ 10 to 20 million, as well as doubling the number of national implementing entities countries can have under the Fund's pioneering [Direct Access](#) modality which builds country ownership in adaptation.

Broman thanked Tawfiq for his work as Vice-Chair in the past year and the support of his other Board colleagues, as well as the Secretariat, TERG and [AF CSO Network](#) in furthering the Fund's work smoothly over the past year, despite the challenges of the pandemic. *"I was very happy that*



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we could take several key decisions including to raise the cap, which was a much-awaited decision, and the successful dialogue we had at COP26 in Glasgow and very successful resource mobilization we managed to do there,” **Broman** said.

Tawfiq expressed his appreciation to Broman for the great results the Fund achieved under his leadership and guidance, and his appreciation to the Secretariat and colleagues for having kept the Fund moving in the right direction through Covid-19. *“Following the successes of COP26 and the milestones the Adaptation Fund achieved in recent years, we have a great responsibility ahead of us and I look forward to working with you all and your continued support,”* said **Tawfiq**, before presiding over the two-day meeting.

Following the meeting, Tawfiq added, *“I am pleased with the meeting results. The Adaptation Fund Board took a number of key decisions to advance the Fund’s work, including furthering development of the second Medium-Term Strategy which will build on the Fund’s excellent work over the last five years in the pillars of Action, Innovation and Learning and Sharing, and take it some steps further to continue to innovate and adapt to the rising adaptation needs of the countries we serve. We also were able to approve a number of new projects on the ground, including the Fund’s first regional project covering **Chad and Sudan** and its first single-country projects in **Trinidad and Tobago**, and **Kyrgyzstan**.”*

The Board’s greenlight to pursue development of the Fund’s next five-year Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) under [option 2](#) of several possible directions that were provided by the Secretariat will build on the strategic framework and achievements of the first MTS while adding further enhancements by proposing strategic updates and adjustments aimed at consolidating the Fund’s success and comparative advantage and optimizing its impact. The Fund will also undertake additional [stakeholder consultations](#) in further developing a draft MTS for the next Board meeting.

In approving development of a consultative process to provide guidance on [optional co-financing](#) of projects to further maximize impacts of projects, the Fund will work on defining scope, parameters, potential finance instruments, and ways to address potential risks for co-financing. This will build on the Fund’s niche of often piloting the first adaptation projects in many places that in addition to producing many direct adaptation benefits to the vulnerable populations they serve, frequently produce successful models that have been later replicated or scaled up by other partners.

“We have seen Adaptation Fund projects scaled up in nearly 20 instances to date, and governments or other organizations sometimes add funding to projects, which can lead to transformative impacts for climate-vulnerable communities,” said **Mr. Mikko Ollikainen**, Head of the Adaptation Fund. *“This is something we will continue to build on, and the Board’s decision opens the doors to more potential interest from the public and private sector in adding value to or extending the reach of Fund projects in the future in a more systematic way. I was also pleased to see the Board approve not only several concrete adaptation projects, but also advance key strategic elements such as Enhanced Direct Access and new [innovation](#) grants which is a growing area of the Fund that is aimed at taking innovation in adaptation a step further to try to help create additional proven models to help address the urgency of climate change.”*



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The Board also approved the FY '23 work plans and budgets of the Secretariat and TERG, as well as surveys to gather additional input on a [draft resource mobilization strategy](#) and action plan, among other decisions.

Broman will remain on the Board and serve as Chair of the Ethics and Finance Committee, and a representative of Western Europe and Others. Other new officers elected included **Ms. Fatou Ndeye Gaye** (The Gambia, Africa constituency) as Chair of the Project and Programme Review Committee, **Mr. Kevin Adams** (U.S., Annex I countries representative) as Chair of the Accreditation Panel, and **Ms. Patience Dampthey** (Ghana, Africa constituency) as Vice-Chair of the Panel.

The Board's funding decisions included:

- A US\$ 14 million project to be implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization in **Chad and Sudan** to strengthen resilience to climate and Covid-19 shocks through integrated water management on the countries' border;
- a US\$ 10 million project implemented by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) in **Trinidad and Tobago** for multisectoral adaptation measures to climate change in the South Oropuche River Basin for flood relief;
- a US\$ 10 million project carried out by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in **Kyrgyzstan** to build resilience among pastoral communities;
- a US\$ 250,000 innovation grant to the Ministry of Water and Environment in **Uganda** to enhance resilience to climate-induced flooding and drought through the deployment of water-filled barriers;
- the endorsement of 11 project concepts and pre-concepts, including US\$ 122,000 in project formulation grants to develop them further. Among these are a proposal to scale up the Fund's successful project in **Costa Rica** by the Fund's national implementing entity in that country, *Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible*, and large innovation grant concepts in **Egypt** as well as **The Gambia and Tanzania**;
- setting aside US\$ 60 million for regional project proposals in FY '23; and
- setting aside another US\$ 20.2 million for Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) projects in FY '23. EDA builds on Direct Access by [empowering national implementing entities](#) to identify and fund locally-led micro-projects directly. EDA has been piloted in South Africa and a few other Fund projects.

ABOUT THE ADAPTATION FUND

Since 2010, the Adaptation Fund has committed nearly US\$ 878 million for climate change adaptation and resilience projects and programmes, including 129 concrete, localized projects in the most vulnerable communities of developing countries around the world with 33 million total



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beneficiaries. It also pioneered Direct Access and Enhanced Direct Access, empowering countries to access funding and develop local projects directly through accredited national implementing entities.

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