

# REPORT

## ENHANCED DIRECT ACCESS WORKSHOP IN KIGALI, RWANDA 9-11 MAY 2023



## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	Adaptation Fund
DA	Designated Authority
ESP	Environmental and Social Policy
ESGP	Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy
GP	Gender Policy
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IE	Implementing Entity
EE	Executing Entity
MIE	Multilateral Implementing Entity
NIE	National Implementing Entity
RIE	Regional Implementing Entity
PFG	Project Formulation Grant
CPDAE	Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities
PPRC	Project and Programme Review Committee
TA	Technical Assistance
USP	Unidentified Sub Project
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
TOC	Theory of Change
EDA	Enhanced Direct Access
MTS	Medium Term Strategy
LLA	Locally Led Adaptation
NAP	National Adaptation Plans
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
MCT	Micronesia Conservation Trust
DOE	Department of Environment
MOE	Ministry of Environment
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
NW	North West
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
CASM	Comisión de Acción Social Menonita

## Introduction

The Adaptation Fund Board secretariat (the Secretariat) facilitated a climate finance readiness workshop on Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) in Kigali, Rwanda from 9-11 May 2023. The workshop provided a platform for countries to share and exchange lessons, knowledge, and experiences in the programming of EDA funding, in order to boost confidence as well as encourage the programming of climate finance through EDA. It is expected that NIEs who access the EDA funding window would be able to submit clear, complete and concise proposals that align with the objectives of the EDA funding modality, and result in enhanced locally led climate resilience and adaptation action. The workshop focused on the EDA funding window and the project review process and sought to enhance understanding of the readiness support available for EDA and the EDA implementation models.

The workshop followed a participatory and hands-on learning approach and included group activities involving secretariat staff and NIEs that had specific issues to discuss related to reviewing and critiquing sample EDA proposals, focusing on specific issues such as climate rationale, Unidentified Subprojects (USPs), Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Compliance. Presentations showcased during the workshop can be accessed under the capacity building news and event page via the following link: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/news-seminars/>.

### 1.1 Welcome remarks and discussion on the implications of the impact of climate change

The seminar began with welcome remarks and an introduction to the workshop by Ms. Diane Dusabe Bucyana, Acting Programme Manager of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Rwanda, who highlighted that the need for Climate Change Adaptation is necessary now more than ever with quoting a line from President Barack Obama stating, “we are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last that can do something about it.” She went on to mention that Rwanda is the first country to receive EDA funding and the importance and impact of Enhanced Direct Access. She took the opportunity to give a warm welcome to the Secretariat and the 20 countries who participated in the workshop and encouraged full participation for an interactive and learning experience for all.

She then introduced Hon. Jeanne d’Arc MUJAWAMARIYA, Minister of Environment, Rwanda to officially open the workshop. The Honorable Minister welcomed everyone to Kigali, Rwanda and started the workshop by requesting a moment of silence for the families affected by the floods that struck Rwanda from 2-3 May 2023, which caused loss of lives and infrastructure damage. The Minister went on to emphasize that Rwanda is experiencing climate change impacts on a daily basis and highlighted the country’s priority to be more actions on adaptation and be in a position to reduce climate change impacts through enhanced adaptive capacities, strengthened resilience and reduce vulnerability. She highlighted that vulnerable countries need a programmatic and integrated approach to address climate issues, beyond project by project. She mentioned the accreditation of the Ministry of Environment in Rwanda which allowed the country to successfully access funds through the direct access modality to implement the projects that reduce vulnerability to climate change in the Northwest of Rwanda through community-based adaptation. She stressed

on the seriousness of climate shocks and emphasized that investments, mainly in adaptation, will need to have the right outcome over the long term in terms of adapting policies and practices to mitigate the effects of climate change and to prepare for the challenges ahead. She reiterated the aim of the workshop to provide a platform for the countries gathered to share and exchange lessons, knowledge, and experiences in the programming of enhanced direct access funding, as well as encourage the programming of climate finance through EDA. She ended her remark by stating, “a wise scientist once said, that those who have the privilege to know, have a duty to act.” She thanked the AF for all the support and officially opened the workshop.

## 1.2. Defining EDA under the AF

Mr. Farayi Madziwa, Team Lead of the Climate Finance Readiness Programme of the Secretariat gave an overview of the goals and purpose of the EDA workshop, its objectives and the approach that will be taken over the next 3 days. He then proceeded to present on the definition of EDA under the Adaptation Fund. The main points of his presentation were:



- AF was one of the first fully functioning climate funds, who pioneered innovative Direct Access’ climate finance modality.
- AF has already committed a little over \$1Billion in climate finance, has a diversified portfolio with 15 thematic areas.
- Difference between direct access and enhanced direct access from the perspective of the fund where direct access means countries can access funds directly without going through a third party where the third party is the traditional form of accessing finance. Instead, the key element in EDA from the fund’s side is in the decision-making process where programming of internationally allocated funds is devolved to the national and sub-national levels. Therefore, once funding is disbursed, those specific projects are determined at the national level. Purpose of the devolved decision making is to empower countries to go beyond what can be achieved through direct access. Research has shown that devolved decision making when it comes to flow of funds from international to national level, is lot more effective when that decision making is held at national or sub-national level
- Expect project should be able to articulate and show concrete activities that are visible and tangible and can be verified. Funding cap is \$5 million per country which is disbursed on the basis of the full cost of adaptation, no expectation of co-financing required.
- Description of funds flow and decision-making process
- Benefits of EDA highlighted were increased country ownership and decision making, pays more attention to capacity building and training for the beneficiaries and stakeholders involved in the structure of the EDA project.

### *Discussion and Question and Answer (Q&A) session*

Question	Answer
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<p>Can you explain more about the \$5 million per country and how it does not require co-financing?</p>	<p>The AF does not require co-financing. When co-financing is included, the proponent need to ensure that the outcomes and outputs of the AF funded project will be delivered regardless of the success of the other projects. That means that you must be clear in your articulation of how the co-financing impacts the implementation of the components to achieving the objectives of the project, and that it is not compromised by the need to have co-financing. If for example, co-financing amount is delayed, you must make sure that it is not implementing the 5 million of the project financing.</p>
<p>Can you explain more on the collaboration with GCF in terms of processes for identifying gaps and challenges for EDA?</p>	<p>AF was first to start EDA, GCF has been in discussion with us to draw lessons from the AF experience in implementing the EDA window. As the EDA window under AF has evolved, we continue to improve the process and criteria. MoE is the first NIE to have an EDA project that falls under the new EDA funding window. Since the first project was approved, we have been taking lessons in identifying and addressing gaps and challenges. There are three main components identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Results framework and aligning with AF core impact indicators</li> <li>- Environmental and social safeguards and issue of unidentified sub projects and gender considerations</li> <li>- Climate rationale</li> </ul> <p>The challenge is there is too much information coming in proposals, but it doesn't add that much value in terms of the proposal going through. We are hoping this workshop will help address this issue.</p>
<p>What do you mean by decision devolved to national level</p>	<p>Broadly, definition says decision devolved to national level to advance locally led adaptation. National level means that decisions are devolved beyond the donor and grant applicant and national mechanisms can be used to make decisions on which projects will be funded. Funding decisions would therefore be made at national, sub national or community level depending on the actual EDA model used. For us, by default we say national as our</p>

	implementing entities are national implementing entities representing national interests and national priorities
I would like to get a clear understanding on what can be funded under EDA? Is window also able to finance software issues. Currently some countries have developed NAPs, but for these NAPs to be implemented, you need to raise awareness and understanding of the technique to people, so they are able to implement the NAP. So, wanted to check if countries can also develop a proposal around the operationalization of the adaptation plan for the people.	Yes, nothing stops you from designing the project the way you see fit. One of the criteria we look at is alignment with NAPs, but proposal needs to be concrete and adequately explain the adaptation rationale.
If country cap is not exceeded, can we develop an EDA project that is bigger than 5 million funding. Like a project for 10 million which uses half of EDA funds for \$5 million and half country cap allocation funds?	If you submit a proposal and label it as EDA, then it has to meet \$5 million cap. If you submit a proposal and do not label it EDA, and during the review process, it is determined that it looks like EDA, chances are that reviewers may come back to enquire why you have not applied under the EDA funding window. Whilst processes are constantly evolving and we are looking into how to enhance programming through various windows, the short answer is that currently you can't.

### 1.3. The Adaptation Fund EDA funding window

This session was presented by Ms. Alyssa Gomes, Climate Change Specialist at the AFB Secretariat who discussed the EDA funding window and its access criteria. The main points from her presentation were:

- When applying for EDA grant ensure there is a clear project justification and that the project supports concrete adaptation actions<sup>1</sup>
- The activities should align with the project's overall goal with a robust logical framework.
- Project components should articulate the characteristics of the EDA model with description of locally led adaptation solutions.
- Economic, social, and environmental benefits, in compliance with ESP and GP.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> OPG-Annex 5 (review sheets/criteria, details of what needs to go in each section –the basis for how we undertake the review) <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/opg-annex-5/>

<sup>2</sup> Environmental and Social Policy <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/environmental-and-social-policy-approved-in-november-2013/>



- It is important to have Stakeholder consultations in compliance with ESP and GP including vulnerable groups prior to formulating the proposal.<sup>3</sup>
- NIEs to identify all potential environmental and social impacts and risks.
- Identify adequate and credible measures to manage the impacts for all environmental and social risks, and the corresponding impacts that have been assessed.
- ESMP should contain/include clearly allocated roles and responsibilities for its implementation; opportunities for consultation and adaptive management; credible budget provisions, as needed, for the implementation of the ESMP.
- Outline the arrangements for the IE to supervise executing entities for implementation of ESMP.
- Include clear monitoring and evaluation arrangements for ESP compliance.
- USP justification criteria should include reasons why an activity cannot be formulated at the design stage and must describe the specific benefits of not formulating an activity at that stage. It should further explain how these benefits outweigh the increased risk on non-compliance with the ESP and GP.

#### ***Discussion and Question and Answer (Q&A) session***

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
We had submitted one proposal. We need to come out clearly on selection of executing entities, target geographical area and process of fund mechanism.	In case of India, they applied at concept stage. It is an ecosystem-based fund, and they would look at soliciting funds from different regions. The climate challenges were explained, but India being a diverse country, it was not clear how the model could work with a whole range of diverse ecosystems and who will be the executing entities in various regions. NABARD suggested that they will be the executing partner, but the drawback is that they could only use 1.5% of execution cost. Whereas there is a 12% cost set aside for an executing entity, to build the capacity of regional apparatus organizations. The climate challenges described were very diverse, but it was unclear how they would be linked with the key target areas. As the scope of the country is very big, what would be the key priority areas for ecosystem-based adaptation.
We are preparing a project with our region. One region has submitted a proposal. Main challenge is problem at 2 levels. Increasing level of climate of one country could affect climate realities of some regions. At regional	Include required assessment in the project design itself. If you want to have vulnerability assessment at the local level, it could be incorporated that in project design itself. For example, during the first year, factor in the

<sup>3</sup> Guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/guidance-document-implementing-entities-compliance-adaptation-fund-environmental-social-policy/>

level, we have issues but climate risk increasing in next country makes it increase in our country. So, to justify data for climate rationale, we need to include that risk from another country, and it is challenge as no such data is available. There are number of evaluations to be made like gender and such but don't have access to them as we don't have funds for them. Biggest challenge is to establish the climate rationale of where the intervention will take place?	required assessments and those assessments will the help justify that the interventions are best suited for the project. This could also be done by providing some comparable evidence from similar settings. That's why we recommend submitting through two step process. In concept, we don't require a whole lot of detail, we just need to know if intervention is fit for purpose and the adaptation rationale is sound Only initial consultations are required at the concept stage.
Comment: When we discuss with local partners, lot of ideas come up. To establish climate rationale with empirical data is another issue for us. In Bangladesh, we have 3 actors, the public sector, private and CSOs. So, who will be responsible to do this job? There is tension with NGOs. Discussion on EDA project started at local level, but it is being an issue that we will need to resolve.	

#### 1.4. Readiness Support for EDA project development

This session was presented by Ms. Ishani Debnath, Readiness Consultant at the AFB Secretariat, who discussed the types of capacity building support available to help with EDA project development. Below are the key points from the presentation:

- The readiness program supports NIEs in accreditation, project preparation and design. It is implemented through 4 key components namely (i) Support to countries seeking accreditation (ii) Support accredited IEs (iii) Cooperation/ Partnership with climate finance readiness providers (iv) Knowledge production).
- The AFB secretariat helps clarify review criteria and process (the secretariat cannot prescreen proposals before submission).
- Technical assistance grants are meant to improve NIE Environmental and Sustainability (E&S) risk management systems and to enable the NIE to put in place measures to avoid, minimize and or mitigate adverse gender impacts it accordance with the AFs Gender Policy and the grant supports none-grant activities.
- PFG are meant to support NIEs to access external expertise to strengthen their capacity to undertake the necessary technical assessments related to the design and development of adaptation projects and programmes.
- A country may have a maximum of 2 accredited NIEs following a decision by the Board.
- Readiness grants are available twice a year from 1 February to March and 1 July to 31 August.
- There are various non-grant support available to NIEs through (i)annual seminars for accredited NIEs (ii) regional workshops (iii) readiness webinars (iv) Country exchanges (v) Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities (CPDAE).



- EDA e-learning course training aims to support the preparation and development of high-quality EDA grant proposals, specifically to understand the EDA grant modality, enhance NIE uptake of EDA as a project delivery mechanism.

### ***Discussion and Question and Answer (Q&A) session***

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Do we have any guideline template available like GCF does on how to prepare an EDA proposal?	The AF does have an instruction document on how to prepare an EDA proposal. This document is currently in the process of being updated.
Can we apply for the grant while we are going through reaccreditation?	You can't access the grants if your accreditation has expired, and you are going through reaccreditation.

## **1.5. Gender Considerations for EDA Project**

This session was presented by Ms. Graciela Hajar, Gender Consultant at the AFB Secretariat. Key points from her presentation include:

- Gender matters in climate change adaptation because the impact of climate change is not gender neutral, men and women have different coping and adaptive capacities & different access to and control over resources.
- Gender-responsive adaptation ensures sustainability and efficiency, and it includes actively promoting gender equality through specific and targeted interventions, identifying opportunities and partners for collaboration and engagement, understanding the gender differentiated impacts, and collecting, using, and producing sex-disaggregated data.
- The AF policy framework explicitly states gender equality and empowerment of women and girls is a goal to be achieved throughout its operations. It includes an updated Gender Policy with specific requirements for project/programme funding, as well as a Gender Guidance Document, which provides supplemental technical information and practical guidance to IEs, to mainstream and integrate gender considerations throughout the AF project and program cycle. The Fund's new Medium-Term Strategy also reaffirmed gender equality and empowerment of women and girls as a key to achieve successful, inclusive and sustainable climate adaptation actions.
- Undertaking a gender analysis/assessment is a project requirement. This analytical tool allows IE to systematically understand, identify and describe gender relations and differences in a specific context which provides the necessary information to integrate the gender perspective into the project and address gender gaps for better adaptation.
- IEs should integrate gender in projects goals/objectives and identifying target groups, by understanding and addressing different social, economic and cultural contexts of women and men, girls and boys are facing: this means that we should move beyond considering women and men as homogenous group.
- Gender-responsive results framework and indicators should be both qualitative and quantitative.

- Gender-responsive budgeting promotes a comprehensive picture of how resources are being used to address the differentiated identified adaptation needs of all gender groups and subgroups.

### ***Discussion and Question and Answer (Q&A) session***

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Why is gender mainstreaming important?	I think it is very important to consider in EDA projects as gender analysis allows us to have vulnerable groups and include people discriminated in society and we need to include them in planning of project.
How does the gender responsiveness approach look like in adaptation projects?	Women participation needs to be increased in the decision-making process. Mainstream gender at all levels. It is about gender differences and understanding gender disaggregated data and generating this data and identifying and mitigating risks throughout the cycle of this project. Young women don't face same challenges as elderly or rural women. Also identifying opportunities and identifying gender gaps and how can the intervention be sustainable.

## **1.6. Group activity: Reviewing and critiquing sample proposals- climate rationale**

This session was presented by Ms. Alyssa Gomes, Climate Change Specialist at the AFB Secretariat and discussed adaptation reasoning for EDA grants to support full project development. The main points from her presentation were:

- When applying for EDA grant, ensure adaptation needs focus on climate related drivers, key risks and barriers preventing adaptation, and adaptation responses should focus on concrete outputs.
- Adaptation outputs can include development of climate resilient technology, capacity building, incorporating understanding of climate science and vulnerabilities, building systems for communicating climate information, using nature-based infrastructure.
- MoE EDA project aims to increase devolved adaptation decision making and finance through direct enhanced access to the sub-national level for rural adaptation in water, agriculture and land management sectors.
- Robust adaptation rationale should include an assessment of climate risks and impacts accompanied with reliable scientific resources & data.
- The suite of interventions should comprehensively address identified underlying climate risks by clearly articulating the proposed activities and how they address expected climate risks, impacts and vulnerabilities.
- Incremental and transformational adaptation is integral to maintain the essence and integrity of existing functions and have been the dominant focus on adaptation efforts to date.

- Knowledge management, replication and sustainability create an important link between demonstrating adaptation responses.

Following Ms. Gomes's presentation, Ms. Imen Meliane, Sr. Climate Change Specialist at the AFB Secretariat discussed the Theory of Change for EDA grants to support full project development. The main points from her presentation were:

- A TOC lays the foundation for evaluation, which will test whether your project has achieved what was intended. The theory of change should include information on why a project or activity is needed and why it will add value; what the activity is, how it works, and who it is for; and what are the intended outcomes.
- Intended outcomes should be both short-term and long-term, and focused on addressing the adaptation needs. These should be both plausible and measurable.
- A theory of change should be based on scientific evidence. This will help to challenge any assumptions you have made about why or how an activity or service works to improve outcomes.
- Projects funded through the AF must align with the Fund's results framework and directly contribute to the Fund's overall objective and outcomes outlined. Refer to the revised AF's result framework.<sup>4</sup> The project result framework must include at least the core impact indicator Number of beneficiaries including estimations for direct and indirect beneficiaries, and at least one additional core indicator.

Following the presentations, participants were divided into 6 groups (2 Spanish, 3 English speaking and 1 French speaking group) where they did a practical exercise of reviewing a sample case study based on climate and adaptation rationale and theory of change, based on the information they received through the presentation preceding the group activity.



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/strategic-results-framework-of-the-adaptation-fund-amended-in-march-2019/>

### Key points of reflections from the groups

- The target groups have not been clearly identified and project proposal doesn't comply with ESP and GP. Gaps were difficult to identify as the target groups were not clearly identified.
- The objectives are aligned with the AF, but interventions are not properly identified.
- The capacities have not been clearly identified and the project was focusing more on macro level risks and risks are not properly indicated.
- There was a lack of citation of information and there was no proper climate rationale.
- The TOC didn't have clear linkages and didn't give a clear description of EDA and why EDA modality was being used.

### Feedback from the Secretariat

- As proposals at concept stage is only 50 pages, information needs to be prioritized and to the point, and there should be clarity in making connections to the impacts and risks.
- Not having data is part of reality and part of the solution is how to manage the uncertainty and this needs to be included in the design of the project.
- Encourage to utilize the funding available for execution because a certain amount of funding is allocated for implementing entities to build the capacities of the local level. It is important to show how decision-making has been devolved to the regional apparatus organizations.

## 2.1. Panel discussion - EDA Implementation Models



Day 2 started with Mr. Farayi Madziwa, Team Lead of the Climate Finance Readiness Programme of the secretariat giving an overview of the agenda for the day and introducing the panel members for the first session which included the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), Micronesia, Department of Environment (DoE), Antigua & Barbuda, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa and Fundecooperacion, Costa Rica.

The first session started with each of the panel members introducing the respective vulnerabilities in their countries with a focus on adaptation and the EDA implementation model flow chart, including the funding mechanism processes and the EDA rationale. The panel members included Ms. Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio of MCT, Ms. Ezra Christopher of EDA, Ms. Mandy Barnett of SANBI, and Ms. Cinthya Meneses of Fundecooperacion.



## **Plenary Feedback**

- Justification is key when choosing an EDA approach, there is a need to clearly articulate the reasons for utilizing a particular EDA approach.
- Local organizations and communities should be at the center of EDA approach.
- First thing to do is conduct a call for proposals with basic budget, as well as considering financial due diligence. Requesting quarterly reporting and M&E is also beneficial.
- Gender and E&S basic questions should be asked at this stage.
- Important to select an EE that is different from the IE. IEs to have clear roles post approval and explain how the IE will work with different institution in the flow of funds.

## **2.2. EDA project from MoE, Rwanda**

This session was facilitated by Ms. Diane Dusabe Bucyana, Acting Programme Manager of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Rwanda who gave a brief overview of why an EDA approach was selected and how MoE created their EDA proposal to the AF. The main points were:

- MoE took a long time as they confused EDA with direct access modality and forgot about locally led communities. It took more than a year. Initially, the proposal was not approved.
- MOE used civil society and local govt institution that already have fiduciary competence and support safeguards to meet adaptation requirement.
- The EE selected is the Rwanda Green Fund, FONERWA. The EDA AF Program will specifically target grants to sub-national governments and CSOs for local adaptation projects.
- FONERWA will issue a Call for Proposal for this project. Throughout the process, FONERWA will act as the sole decision-maker and maintain open communication with all applicants and stakeholders, including the MoE. EDA project focusing on category B and C projects.
- The EDA modality is focusing on four areas in the call for proposal, for local projects that align to NDC adaptation priorities: • Sustainable land use management practices for erosion control • Sustainable agriculture activities • Water conservation practices, wetlands restoration, water storage and efficient water use • Small-scale irrigation.
- The EDA project components included raising awareness at sub-national level; training of CSO and local and district staff on proposals and project management; Sharing project results and lessons learned on EDA.
- The project aimed to address climate risks in all areas of Rwanda, but identifying a key theme proved difficult. To overcome this challenge, the proposal development team and stakeholders reviewed the list of priority adaptation interventions set out in Rwanda's updated NDC and focused on actions that target the most critical risks and vulnerabilities for rural households.

## **2.3. Group activity: identify an EDA model and draw the EDA model diagram/flow chart**

The remainder of Day 2 and most of Day 3 were spent on group activities and discussion and feedback from peers.

The first activity was a highly interactive session that provided deeper understanding on EDA model identification. The session was moderated by Ms. Alyssa Gomes and Ms. Imen Meliane of the AFB secretariat and involved the 6 groups (2 Spanish, 3 English speaking and 1 French

speaking group) created on day. Each group went through a practical exercise of drawing an EDA model showing finance flows in a diagram while designing their EDA proposal to the AF.



## 2.4. Group activity: Reviewing and critiquing sample proposals –ESP and Gender, proposal writing for USPs

In the following session, groups were required to develop their proposal for a country vulnerable to the increasing risks of climate change. This allowed the groups to specify USPs in their EDA approach in line with the AF USP guidance and addressing ESP and Gender. The groups did a practical exercise of both critiquing of proposals and the writing of ESP and gender arrangements into the NIE group projects. Groups had to take into consideration the following questions to develop the proposal.

1. Does the proposal adequately describe how ESP and gender will be addressed in general and specifically for USPs?
2. What additional measures or information would you add to adequately address USPs, ESP and gender in the fully developed proposals?

## 3.1. Group activity: Groups finalize proposals for presentation to peers

Day 3 started with Mr. Farayi Madziwa, Team Lead of the Climate Finance Readiness Programme of the secretariat giving an outline of the programme for the final day of the workshop. The groups then proceeded to finalize the draft proposals which was followed by shark tank type presentations facilitating feedback and discussion from the secretariat and peers. The panel discussion included



members of the innovation, project and programming and the gender team and staff members of MoE.

### **3.2. Closing Remarks**

The session concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Beatrice Cyiza, Director General of Environment and Climate at MoE, Rwanda. She once again highlighted the importance of community-based adaptation and enhanced direct access in the face of increasing climate risks and thanked all the participants for engaging in a very useful and informative discussion to increase local capacity and understanding of EDA. She thanked the Secretariat for selecting Rwanda as the host government and for organizing a very interactive and meaningful workshop on EDA and hopes to keep the conversation moving with the Secretariat and all the countries in a combined effort to combat the effects of climate change.

A post event survey was conducted by Ms. Sophie Hans-Moevi, Senior Program Assistant at the Secretariat, to get feedback from the participants on the lessons captured through this workshop and how the secretariat can improve on its execution for future workshops. Upon conclusion, Ms. Sophie Hans-Moevi gave an outline of the logistical arrangements for the field trip to Nyandugu Urban Wetland Park.

### **3.3. Field Trip- Nyandugu Urban Wetland Park**

Participants visited an adaptation project site called the Nyandugu Urban Wetland Park, which is a restored wetland ecosystem park in Kigali, Rwanda. The Nyandugu Urban Wetland Ecotourism Project (NUWEP) advanced the restoration of Nyandugu degraded area, restored biodiversity by introducing native tree species, and restored terrestrial and aquatic habitat. The restoration of Nyandugu wetland highlights the green technologies that can be used in Rwanda's secondary cities, therefore demonstrating its scalability as a model for other wetlands. The park demonstrated that native and indigenous trees as well as vegetation supported biodiversity conservation which in turn can generate revenues to local communities and the country in general.

