



**ADAPTATION FUND**  
Readiness Programme  
for Climate Finance

# **Webinar 15: Climate change reasoning for adaptation project development**

**24 April 2023**

**Report**



## **Introduction:**

The Adaptation Fund (the Fund or alternatively, the AF) held its fifteenth webinar on Climate change reasoning for adaptation project development on 23 April 2023.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) Decision 10/CP.7 establishing the Adaptation Fund stipulates that it shall finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes. The Fund's Operational Policies and Guidelines (OPGs) include that project proponents should provide justification of the extent to which the project contributes to adaptation and climate resilience and that proposals provide a description of the problem that a proposed project/programme is aiming to solve. This is part of adaptation reasoning which entails that the implementing entity provide a description of the problem that a proposed project/programme is aiming to solve and how proposed activities and adaptation measures will help with adaptation to climate change, will improve climate resilience, and are suited or adequate for the identified climate threats. In addition to ensuring that project activities are aligned with the project's overall goal and objectives, climate rationale also entails explaining the project rationale in relation to climate scenario(s) and other analyses and/or assessments which may include vulnerability assessments, at the earliest stage of project/programme preparation to determine the vulnerabilities and needs of the target vulnerable communities.

Projects have frequently identified the increased intensity of extreme events such as floods, droughts, warming trends and sea level rise, as climate related drivers giving rise to risks in food security and disrupting livelihoods. Addressing vulnerability is therefore a key component of adaptation reasoning and it is important to outline the adaptation needs by clearly articulating the climate related drivers, key risks, and barriers to adaptation. The webinar discussed the Fund's approach to adaptation reasoning and the lessons that can be learnt from previous project submissions. It facilitated peer-to-peer exchange and lesson sharing among NIEs on the approaches they have used, and best practice applied across different geographic regions on project design and development that is based on evidence and data collected through assessments, studies and other observations of vulnerability due to adverse climate impacts, including the options to address such vulnerabilities.

All presentations made by the speakers are available on the AF website: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/news-seminars/>.

## **Welcome Remarks**

The webinar began with welcome remarks and an introduction from Farayi Madziwa, Team Lead of the Climate Finance Readiness Programme of the

Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat). Farayi highlighted that the project activities should be distinguished from “business-as-usual” and should consider the wider social and economic drivers of vulnerability, as well as adaptation responses should lead to concrete outputs by producing visible and tangible results on the ground.

### **Session 1: Adaptation reasoning criteria in AF Projects**

Ms. Imen Meliane, Senior Climate Change Consultant of the secretariat, gave an overview how to establish a robust climate rationale; conceptualizing framework adaptation reasoning; presenting adaptation needs focused on climate related drivers, key risks, barriers and responses; AF approach to adaptation reasoning and highlighted a few case studies. Some highlights from her presentation include:

- the project/programme contains a set of activities suited to addressing the climate change impacts and that it is not a “business-as-usual” development or environmental protection project
- activities will lead to substantial tangible outcomes
- there is a coherent theory of change, that is, the suitability of activities in responding to the threats posed by the likely climate scenarios is outlined in detail in the background and context section and quantified in terms of magnitude and uncertainty,
- the project/programme activities align with its overall goal and objectives hence ensuring the cohesion of the components among themselves,
- activities support one or more Adaptation Fund Strategic Objectives, and the activities are detailed to a sufficient level.
- Adaptation planning and implementation enhanced through complementary actions across levels
- Reduce vulnerability and exposure to present climate variability
- Recognition of diverse interests, circumstances, social-cultural contexts, and expectations can benefit decision making processes
- 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, strengthening the enabling environment in which the responses occur, capturing and disseminating the lessons learned to facilitate replication, and ensuring outcomes are sustained to allow replication to occur

She further gave the overview on the case study of the adaptation of small-scale agriculture for improved food security of resilient communities in Papua New Guinea (assa), where the project aimed to enhance the sustainability of main agricultural value chains through the adoption of climate-smart practices, contributing to improving the produces' quality, increasing access to markets, and creating green jobs for women and youth in vulnerable communities.

## **Session 2: Developing the theory of change and elaborating a logical framework**

Ms. Imen Meliane, Senior Climate Change Consultant of the secretariat continued to give an overview on developing the theory of change and elaborating a logical framework. Some key highlights from her presentation include:

- A TOC lays the foundation for evaluation, which will test whether your project has achieved what was intended.
- There is no mandated template for the TOC diagram- choose the one that works best for you and the project rational
- 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.

## **Session 3: Closing Remarks**

The webinar closed with concluding remarks from Farayi Madziwa, who thanked everyone for their participation and their engagement in the webinar, despite joining from different time zones.