



ADAPTATION FUND
Readiness Programme
for Climate Finance

Webinar 16: Environmental and Social Policy requirements during post project approval

9 November 2023

Report



Introduction:

The Adaptation Fund (the Fund or alternatively, the AF) held its 16th webinar on Environmental and Social Policy requirements during post project approval on 9 November 2023.

The Adaptation Fund (the Fund) finances climate adaptation projects and programmes for vulnerable communities in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (KP) and Paris Agreement (PA) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), approved in November 2013 and revised in March 2016, ensures that projects and programmes supported by the Fund promote positive environmental and social benefits, and mitigate or avoid adverse environmental and social risks and impacts. Managing these risks is integral to the success of the projects/programmes and the desired outcomes are described in the 15 environmental and social principles (principles) of the ESP. Monitoring and reporting on the performance of environmental and social safeguards is essential to ensure that the project adheres to its safeguard policies and commitments. The Fund's accredited implementing entities are required to report on the management of E&S safeguards during project/programme implementation via the annual project performance reports.

The webinar discussed the Fund's requirements for reporting on the ESP during project implementation and will share insights on issues that entities should consider when reporting on the implementation of E&S safeguards in line with the Fund's ESP. NIEs also shared their experience monitoring and reporting on compliance with the Fund's ESP and engaged in open dialogue with participants to share lessons learnt and exchange experiences for improved monitoring and reporting practices.

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 Mr. Farayi Madziwa, Readiness Programme Team Lead, who highlighted that effective monitoring and reporting help identify issues, assess progress, and take corrective actions when necessary to ensure that the project's activities do not harm the environment or communities and that the project's benefits are equitably distributed.

Session 1: Overview of ESP reporting requirements post project approval

Ms. Martina Dorigo, Climate Change Specialist at the Secretariat, gave an overview on ESP reporting requirements during post project approval.

Some key highlights from her presentation include:

- Full information on safeguard measures, residual impacts and

remedial actions implemented during the reporting period should be reported in 1st PPR, for subsequent reports this info should be updated

- Safeguard measures and related monitoring indicators are described in the ESMP
- If the IE updates the ESMP because of unanticipated risks identified, it should share it with the secretariat
- ESP project categorization can change only if there is a revision at activity/output/outcome level which implies a revision in the environmental and social risks
- Any revisions to the project SRF should be promptly communicated to the secretariat
- Ideally implementation arrangements should be put in place and effective since project start
- The IE has an oversight role and need to ensure that the EE carries out the monitoring in compliance with the ESP and GP, and the EE is responsible for the daily monitoring of ES risks
- Clarify if the grievance mechanism has been made widely known to identified and potentially affected parties. If any grievances were received that must not be made public, please inform the AF Secretariat of such grievances, detailing the reasons for them to remain confidential. Confidential information may be redacted in the report
- Risks related to gender equality and women's empowerment should be reported in the ESP compliance tab

Session 2: AF insights from PPR/ESP

Mr. Hugo Remaury, RBM consultant at the secretariat gave an overview on the AF insights from PPR/ESP.

Some key highlights from his presentation include:

- Guidance document to complete Project Performance Report (PPR) for projects funded by the Adaptation Fund (<https://www.adaptationfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Guidance-Document-to-CompletePPR-2.pdf>)
- Guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the AF ESP (https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ESPGuidance_Revised-in-June-2016_Guidance-document-for-ImplementingEntities-on-compliance-with-the-Adaptation-Fund-Environmental-andSocial-Policy.pdf)

Section 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.