

## ACCREDITATION OF NIES FOR THE AFRICA REGION

From 5 to 6 September 2011 in Mbour, Senegal The UNFCCC secretariat, in consultation with the Adaptation Fund Board, pursuant to decision 5/CMP.6 and in collaboration with the Government of Senegal, organized a workshop to familiarize Parties from the Africa Region, with the Process and the Requirements for the Accreditation of National Implementing Entities for Direct Access under the Adaptation Fund.

This meeting was the first of a series of Regional Workshops initiated by the UNFCCC which gathered more than 100 participants representing mainly countries with CSOs from Adaptation Fund NGO Network (Enda and IIED), Intergovernmental organizations and Developed Countries Partners. Participants received knowledge from UNFCCC and Adaptation Fund Secretariats as well as experiences from National Implementing Entities in this instance CSE-Senegal and Benin National Fund.

The emphasis was particularly put on the modalities of accessing resources from the Adaptation Fund and the operational guidelines, the role of Designated Authority and selecting National Implementing Entities and the accreditation process at Adaptation Fund, this to enable participants to do a comprehensive job of completing the accreditation application and to better understand the project cycle and the process of project design.

**The role of Designated Authority (DA)** - The Adaptation Fund Board, in its decision B.9/4, paragraph b) at its 9th meeting, requested countries to appoint DAs. The DA's role is critical in helping the government through a consultative process identifies and selects an appropriate entity within the country which meets the requirements of the Fiduciary Standard. The DA would then endorse the application for accreditation of the potential NIE selected by the government. It is therefore crucial that the selection of a DA is well considered. In addition, the DA plays a role in endorsing future projects for the country. In other words, it has the function of being the caretaker of the countries participation in the AF.

**Selecting NIEs** - The first step in the accreditation process is to start putting together the application and its supporting documentation. Once the application for the accreditation process is complete, the DA, in its capacity as a representative of the government, should endorse the accreditation application. It also may interact with the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, the Accreditation Panel and the Adaptation Fund Board if they request or require further documentation.

The Designated Authority should have the confidence that the proposed NIE can demonstrate and supply evidence of its fiduciary abilities and obtain the accreditation from the Adaptation Fund. This would involve a preliminary evaluation by the Designated Authority that the potential NIE meets the fiduciary standards and can demonstrate this during the accreditation process. The NIE should demonstrate the ability to work together with government entities, leveraging co-financing organizations and other stakeholders within the country in order to identify, appraise, implement and evaluate projects related to adaptation.

**Access Funds** - Eligible countries can access funds from the Adaptation Fund by using the direct access modality. It is a new opportunity for developing countries to access funding directly and implement projects through a national legal entity that attains accreditation as a National Implementing Entity (NIEs). They can also use the services of a multilateral development agency or bank that has been invited to serve by the Adaptation Fund Board as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE). MIEs must also meet the fiduciary and management standards set by the Board.

These main modalities of accessing resources from AF and accreditation procedures were largely shared with participants who made exercises through working groups. Those exercises had contributed to understand better the Fiduciary Standard and its requirements in detail with particular emphasis on the management of the complete project cycle, to familiarize with the communication toolkit and to go through an example of a complete accreditation application form.

### **Accredited NIE: Example of CSE-Senegal and Benin National Fund for Environment**

CSE Senegal which is the first accredited NIE by AF Board in March 2010 had shared its accreditation experience by following process recommended by Fund Board and reviewed by the Accreditation Panel. After its accreditation, CSE had successfully accompanied the submission of a project on Adaptation to coastal erosion in Vulnerable areas in Senegal. It has settled an office in charge of NIE activities, initiated warm-up session on procedure of contract procurement for beneficiaries and elaborated format for financial and technical report. At the moment, CSE is developing a monitoring tool, a Web site and a Roster of experts. It shares also experiences with other countries and increases partnership with CSOs.

Besides process followed by Senegal, Benin NIE, the National Fund for Environment had received the visit of the Accreditation Panel for final decision to take. In June 2011 the Benin NIE is accredited.

The accreditation of these NIEs from Africa Region confirms the reality of the direct access despite the weakness of submissions made in number of projects. Globally, only three projects were submitted by NIEs. It ought to remind also that the first project approved by AF Board was submitted by a NIE, in this particular case the CSE Senegal. The existence of these NIEs in Africa emulates other countries to do the same and know that it is also possible for them to have a NIE. The demystification of the accreditation application has encouraged many participants to initiate the process in their respective country.

Even if the accreditation is valid for five years, these national structures with direct access are cited as best practices to consider in the architecture of the Green Climate Fund. That is a good perspective which will certainly contribute to reach many objectives and principles linked to the UNFCCC and related to Developing Countries, particularly the most vulnerable. Participants of the Africa Regional Meeting had possibility, with Saly site visit, to explore vulnerability of Coastal Communities and the effect of coastal erosion in the tourist infrastructures.

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