AFRICA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION: DIRECT ACCESS FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



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Introduction

In a context of climate change with negative impacts affecting particularly vulnerable populations from LDCs and difficult adaptation fund raising, the CSOs from more than 10 Francophone African countries met in a "*Regional Workshop for Africa on the Adaptation Fund: direct access for vulnerable communities*". The workshop was organised by Enda Energie in partnership with Germanwatch, within the framework of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network. It took place from May 3 and 4, 2014 in Lome, Togo in the presence of the Ministry of Environment of Togo, the West African Development Bank (BOAD) and the Togolese media.

The workshop aimed to build the capacity of CSOs on the issues relating to the Adaptation Fund, particularly the direct access and facilitate knowledge sharing on the Adaptation Fund stressing on what is being done at international level (e.g. the Board of the Adaptation Fund), where there is an interactive dialogue which allows to influence and improve the process for the benefit of the populations. The last objective was the development of a Regional Hub for francophone African countries on the AF that will allow the setting up of a facility but also to increase and strengthen the membership to the network.

At the end of the workshop, CSOs developed a strategy that would help them improve their participation in the establishment of National Implementation Entities (NIEs) as well as the definition of related projects, whether they are involved or not. The partnership and knowledge sharing framework called "Regional Hub" was also created.

To facilitate the achievement of the workshop's objectives and meet participants' expectations, several presentations were made on the achievements and prospects of the AF NGOs Network, the role of National Implementing Entities (NIEs), civil society organisation's involvement in the process (e.g. cases of Senegal and Benin) but also the accreditation process of the National Implementing Entities (NIE).

Overall, the workshop allowed to review the direct access to the Adaptation Fund as well as the adaptation projects already implemented in Senegal and the one in the pipeline in Benin. A Regional Hub was also established and will help CSOs in their work.

1. The Adaptation Fund NGO Network



The NGO Network on the Adaptation Fund was created in 2010 under the coordination of Germanwatch, to observe, generate and disseminate lessons from NIEs and Adaptation Fund's projects. It is a knowledge sharing and capacity building platform for NGOs in developing countries. It enables them to monitor climate change adaptation and finance issues and related projects in their countries as well. The network aims to

support the establishment process and the work of NIEs accredited by the Adaptation Fund. It supports the implementation of the AF projects and encourages countries to accredit NIEs (through NIEs, there are opportunities to build national capacities, create of jobs, mobilize financial resources for other projects and programs) so as to benefit from the direct access instead of falling back upon Multilateral and Regional Implementing Entities.

In line with the Adaptation Fund's strategy which has a special consideration to the needs of vulnerable communities, the Adaptation Fund NGO Network works for the satisfaction of the needs of the populations and the preservation of ecosystems.

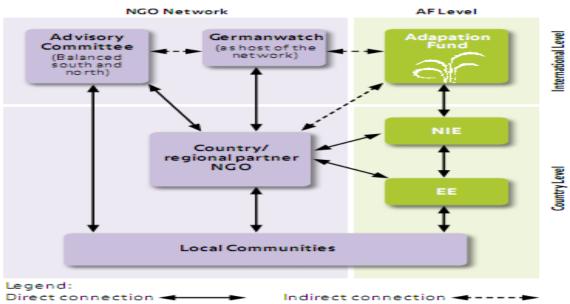
The network supports approximately 10 organizations in developing countries to facilitate their contribution to the smooth running of the AF projects implemented by NIEs. The network also collaborates with Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs) and Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs) so as not to miss their lessons and experiences. The aim is to better influence decision-making in the Board of the Adaptation Fund on the basis of field's experiences.

Developing countries also benefit from the support of the Network in the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Beyond those actions to influence national and regional positions to contribute to the effort for a global agreement in 2015, the network shares several and various experiences that could be useful for the members' countries.

The network primarily targets CSOSs, including Community Based Organizations (CBOs), vulnerable populations (especially women, the youth, direct beneficiaries, etc.), the NIEs, policy-makers such as Focal points, Parliamentarians, Members of the Board of the Adaptation Fund, and all other stakeholders (e.g. UNDP, UNEP, FAO, etc.).

In terms of structure, Germanwatch coordinates in close collaboration with eight partner organizations: ENDA Energie, Senegal; Panos, Jamaica; Benin's civil society; Fundacion Vida Honduras; Indigo Development, South Africa; NGO Forum, Cambodia; Climate Change Forum, Tanzania; Practical Action, Kenya. These NGOs do most of the work in so far as they translate information into concrete actions underground for communities. There is also an Advisory Committee of 25 experts from the South and the North. They have proven expertise on climate change adaptation and are in charge of the orientation of the network.

The diagram below provides insight into the structure of the network:



AF NGOs Network Structure

Results and even achievements exist in the collaboration of the network with the AF. Among those, there are: the institutionalization of a regular dialogue between the network and the Board of the fund, the adoption of a consultative and transparent process to integrate the needs of populations. The network is also the precursor of impact indicators in the Fund. The constructive relationship allows the network to be able to contribute to the fund raising next to the Adaptation Fund Secretariat, especially when it comes to convincing developed countries.

2. The Adaptation Fund

In a context of inconsistent adaptation finance added to a myriad of poorly integrated funds (SCCF, PPCR, LDCF, etc.), the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has been instrumental in the Adaptation Fund. It was established in 2001 and was part of the Marrakesh Accords (COP 7). Officially it was launched in 2007 to fund specific projects and programs that could reduce the adverse effects of climate change in developing countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. The Adaptation Fund is funded through the amounts generated from the sale of units of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) projects of the Clean Development Mechanism and other funding sources. The Global Environment Fund (GEF) serves as its Secretariat and the World Bank as the administrator of the Funds. The Adaptation Fund offers the following options to developing countries:

- direct access through the NIEs established by countries, or ;

- funding through the MlEs, such as the national offices of the UN Development Programmes or regional banks

It is also important to highlight the innovative aspect of the Adaptation Fund. The majority of Board members are from developing countries and the funding is mainly based on CERs.

On the basis of last updates, 34 projects are endorsed/approved by the Fund. Among them, 25 are carried by MIEs and the rest (9) by NIEs. Eleven (11) of them are from African countries (South Africa, Benin, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania).

Because of the predominance of projects submitted through the MIEs, the Adaption Fund Board decided to put a ceiling of 50 % to ensure an equal allocation of resources to both national and multilateral implementing entities. For this purpose, two (Ghana, Mali) of the four countries which are in the pipeline for funding through MIEs are from Africa.

That implies among other reasons, the NGO network on the Adaptation Fund including its partners, to promote direct access through NIEs. Beyond all the funding which will benefit totally the countries, the network and its members are convinced that it is the best approach for institutional capacity building, country and beneficiaries' ownership and social profitability. The Adaptation Fund NGO network improves its organization in order to better participate and influence the process and the countries for the accreditation of NIEs. Still, many parameters (policy, capacity techniques) and stakes are to be considered.

Despite the importance of the Fund for vulnerable countries, challenges remain the resources predictability, their adequacy as well as their sustainability. The cause is mainly linked to the uncertainty of the carbon market. Depending mainly on the 2% levy from the sale of units of certified emission reductions which experienced very low prices, only a very small amount (\$ 30 million) of the several \$ billion dollars initially estimated would be available by the end of 2020.

3. The accreditation process

All the developing countries which parties to the Kyoto Protocol and which are particularly vulnerable are eligible to the AF. As it is mentioned above, they are many options to access to the Funding. The direct access through NIEs, the other one through MIEs (UNDP, WB, etc.) or RIEs (e.g. WADB which is the entity for Togo and Niger).

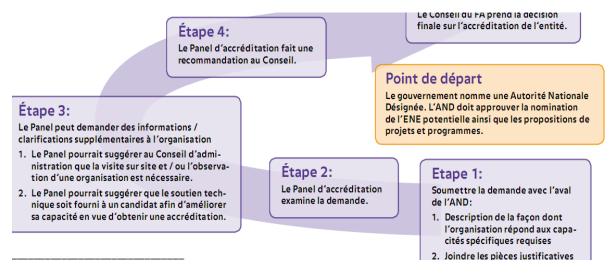
Whatever may be the nature of the Implementing Entity (IE), it is entirely responsible for the global management of the projects and programmes and the only one to be accountable to the AF.

In any case, we, members of CSOs, moreover members of the AF NGO Network, we recommend direct access through NIEs.

Indeed, the accreditation process is long and complex but the countries need to be in accordance with the following fiduciary standards:

- Financial integrity management;
- Institutional capacity ;
- Transparency and self-investigative powers;

and also be able to fulfil successfully the four steps outlined in the graph below:



Thus, Senegal being one of the first countries to establish an NIE and benefit from the AF other LDCs followed), its experience proves the possibility and the potentiality of other African countries, particularly francophone Africa to choose that option as a serious one to be financed. The network would provide full support to CSOs so that they can help in their turn their countries in the process. The importance of the NIE and the experience which results from it, goes beyond the projects of the Fund.

Without neglecting, the complexity of the accreditation process, the network's members were urged to try and get more information and knowledge on the criteria, procedures, etc. of the AF so as to better play their role.

4. The role of National Implementing Entities

There are globally 16 NIEs among which six in Africa (Senegal, Benin, South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya, and Morocco). While aiming to point up the possibility to have NIEs, the case of Senegal, which has already implemented an AF project and Benin which has submitted its project which in the pipeline were used to facilitate and enrich the discussion between CSOs.

4.1 The case of Senegal

In Senegal, the Ecological Monitoring Centre (CSE) has been accredited to monitor the Adaptation Fund's projects. It is a semi-public organization created in 1986. CSE had already the adequate profile for accreditation. It was proposed by the National Designated Authority (NDA) in a participative process supported and approved by the Senegalese National Climate Change Committee (COMNAC)

Among the reasons which have motivated the accreditation of an NIE, there are:

- a need for an effective ownership of the project
- a need to better supervise the resources dedicated to the implementation of the project
- capacity building through learning by doing while implementing the project and the indirect benefits;
- the need to anticipate on the other funding sources. The NIE could be the recipient of the funds from the GCF and its experience can be used for other projects related to the Convention

The mission of the CSE consisted in leading the preparation of projects and programmes and their submission, managing financial resources, implementing projects through executing entities, reporting to the AF.

The direct access to the AF has allowed the CSOs to contribute in the capacity building of stakeholders, to play a role of control, watchdog and observation all along the implementation to ensure all is oriented to the satisfaction of the vulnerable beneficiaries.

The AF NGO network which has been created just after the signature of the Senegalese project has contributed significantly to the effective participation of the civil society. Enda Energie which is one of the founding members of the network undertook several activities. Enda met all the stakeholders (NIE, CSE; Executing Entities, Green Senegal and Dynamique Femme; Ministries; beneficiaries, etc.), organized knowledge sharing and capacity building workshops. The workshops allowed Enda to share and refine its results on the baseline mapping in a view to get impact indicators (institutional, environmental, social, economic impacts) so that the results of the projects are not only based on performance indicators.

4.2 The case of Benin

Further to the accreditation of its National Fund for the Environment, Benin submitted the « Adaptation of Cotonou Lagoon ecosystems and human communities to sea level rise and extreme weather events impacts» to contribute to the implementation of its 2007 NAPA. The project was approved by the AF but finance is not provided until now. Various reasons have been considered to be the cause of the blocking. The civil society which denounces the lack of dialogue around the project doesn't know until know the real reasons of the delay in receiving the funds.

For this purpose CSOs developped participation strategies to the AF activities. Strategies which could help them better support the country to overcome its challenges in the process.

5. Participation of CSOs in the activities of the Adaptation Fund



The adaptation fund is an innovative mechanism for climate adaptation finance developing countries. The in the participation of CSOs in the process can foster an advisedly use of resources. However, with the financial stakes that arouses interest, it is still not sure CSOs will be automatically involved in the process even though the Board of the AF militate for a participative and inclusive approach. An approach which is an opportunity for them to work for their involvement in the activities from the

preparation of the establishment of the NIE to the projects implementation for the benefits of the vulnerable populations. The CSOs must be able to define strategies related to the process in the region and strengthen its partnership framework so as to better meet the expectations of the local populations.

5.1 CSOs involved in the National Implementing Entities

CSOs involved in the work of NIEs are in a complex position though that situation is often the one required to better contribute and ensure that the needs of beneficiaries are met. The table below outlines how they could proceed:

CSOs involved in a National Implementing Entity			
What can we	Actions à mener par la société civile: Actions to be performed by civil		
expect from CSOs	society organisations		
involved in a	- selection of CSOs representatives and ToRs for their mandate ;		
National	 involvement in the needs assessment of beneficiaries; 		
Implementing	 elaboration of selection criteria of eligible projects; 		
Entity?	- participation to the contracting process, monitoring and control of		
	the activities;		
	 ensure the accountability of representatives vis-à-vis other CSOs; 		
	- analysis of procedures manuals to highlight the gaps of the NIE;		
	- ensure communication between CSOs and communities		
Mechanisms to	That can happen through:		
establish to	- national steering committee for the projects ;		
facilitate the	- local consultative frameworks for exchange and knowledge sharing		
involvement and	- creation of a specific advocacy network in the project area (e.g.		
the contribution of	Senegal coastal defense network).		
CSOs			

STRATEGY:	- proven expertise in terms of climate change adaptation (to be	
What is the best	resource persons for capacity building, perform awareness	
way to impact or	activities)	
make a success of	- propose policy briefs (papers to guide NIE members, technical	
the role of CSOs in	notes for guidance, etc.)	
decision making?	communication strategy	
	national workshops on climate change studies	

5.2 CSOs outside the National Implementing Entity

If the civil society is not involved in the process or doesn't have sufficient information as it is the case in many countries, it must think about its role, the mechanisms and the strategies to develop to participate. The table below sums up what is recommended:

CSOs outside the National Implementing Entity			
What can be the role of the civil society outside the national implementing entity?	 CSOs should: find information on the process and the project itself; inform the public and the communities, play a role of alert and control partner with decision makers to influence the process; raise awareness and build the capacities of stakeholders (CSOs, beneficiaries); make a critical and constructive analysis of the NIE. If gaps are identified, build on the lessons drawn to develop a strategy support through valuable advice 		
Which kind of mechanisms should be set up to facilitate the contribution of the CSOs in the Adaptation Fund process (NIE & project)	 establish partnerships with policy makers (National Designated Authority, climate focal point, Ministry of environment, beneficiaries, Executing Entities, etc.); constitute a watch group between civil society organizations; seize the opportunity of the frameworks offered by National Climate Change Committees; establish a harmonized framework between CSOs to influence the process; establish a partnership with the AF NGO Network on the Adaptation Fund; ensure the AF NGO Network is known at national level; 		
What strategy should be set up by the CSOs to access and monitor funds provided through NIEs?	 organize political dialogues on adaptation to showcase adaptation strategies developed by CSOs; meetings with stakeholders (civil society, policy makers, etc.). develop criteria for the projects monitoring. 		

6. Creation of a regional Hub for francophone Africa

In francophone Africa, only one country has benefited from the AF direct access. Other countries such as Benin and Morocco have their NIEs but until now funds are not available. Next to them, other countries such as Togo, Conakry Guinea, Mali, and Niger plan to request adaptation finance through MIEs and REIs.

In this context of different approaches for the access to adaptation finance many countries seek the most accessible ways without thinking about sustainability. That is why, the AF NGO Network which militates for direct access through NIEs, has set up a Regional Hub during its meeting in Lome, Togo which will gather its "effective" and "associate" members to push further for that direct access in the countries. It was created by consensus and was one of the key outcomes of the workshop.

In the same view to providing constructive contributions and strengthen the actions of the AF NGO Network, the Hub will encourage and facilitate the involvement and engagement of members in the process of establishment of IEs. It will serve as a repository of the network's activities and will promote its actions. The Hub will also help technically and financially the network's "effective" and "associate" members for their work to be more effective.

In addition, it will allow members to be better strengthened to influence the process of negotiations for a post 2015 climate agreement in the medium term but also make a significant contribution in the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

The Hub will be coordinated by Enda Energie and membership files will be provided for those who need to join or formalize their membership.

An act of creation of the Hub is available for more information in the annexes.

7. AF NGO Network recommendations

After two intense days of exchange, CSOs from Africa francophone countries had the possibility to have an overview of the AF. From the accreditation process of NIEs to the implementation of the projects, the state of play has been outlined. That allowed them:

- to invite francophone Africa countries to make of the accreditation of NIEs their priority
- to call them to seek through the NIEs the strengthening of countries institutional capacities for effective ownership;
- to consider NIEs as tools which can raise funds for other projects from the Convention;
- to ask them to adopt in the very beginning of the accreditation process of NIEs a participative approach including all stakeholders: beneficiaries, civil society, ect.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Workshop agenda

Saturday, May 3, 2014			
09.00 - 09.30	Introduction & welcome remarks of Enda Energie et Germanwatch		
	(Emmanuel Seck & Alpha Kaloga)		
	- Representative of the Ministry of Environment		
09.30 -10.00	Objectives of the workshop, expectations and review of the agenda/		
	Emmanuel Seck		
10.00 - 10.30	Presentation of the AF NGO Network : Achievements and prospects/ Alpha		
	Kaloga		
10.30 - 11.00	The Adaptation Fund : state of play, accreditations & projects / Alpha kaloga		
11.00 - 11.30	Q &A		
11.30-11.45	Coffee-break		
11.45 - 12.10	Role of National implementing Entities (NIE) : <i>The case of Senegal /</i> Emmanuel Seck		
12.10 -12.30	Adaptation project to coastal erosion in vulnerable areas of Senegal :		
	Participation of the civil society/ Emmanuel Seck		
12.30 - 13.00	Q & A		
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch		
14.00 -14.30	The case of Benin: After the accreditation of the "FNE" as a National Entity,		
	How to ensure that the project submitted will profit the vulnerable		
	communities/ Mawusé Hountondji		
14.30 -15.00	The Accreditation process of National Implementing Entities		
	/Alpha Kaloga		
15.00 - 15.45	Qu& A		
15.45 - 16.00	Coffee breack		
16.00 - 17.00	Working groups : Accreditation of NIEs		
	Working group 1 : The role of the CSOs involved in a National Implementing		
	<i>Entity</i>		
	Working group 2 : The role of CSOs outside a National Implementing Entity		
	Sunday, May 4, 2014		
9.00 - 10.00	Restitution of the Working groups		
10.00 - 12.00	Visit of the "BOAD" and discussion on the role of the Regional Implementing		
	Entity (RIE)		
12.00 - 13.00	Creation of a Regional Hub		
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch		
14.00 - 14.30	Assessment of the workshop		
	Recommendations & closing remarks		
14.30 - 15.00	Lome Declaration		

Annex 2: Creation Act of the Regional Hub

Lome, May 4, 2014

Creation act of the Regional Hub

1 Consensus on the necessity to have a Regional Hub named Regional Hub francophone Africa

2 General objective of the Regional Hub

- Encourage CSOs to get involved in the Implementing Entities (IEs) establishment process
- Contribute to promotion of the direct access and the implementation of projects for the benefits of the vulnerable populations
- Contribute to the visibility of the Adaptation Fund and the AF NGO Network

3 Role of the Regional Hub

- Promote at regional and national levels the AF NGO Network and best practices in terms of climate change adaptation
- Promotion of direct access and participation to the projects' implementation for the benefits of the vulnerable populations
- Offer to the members of the Network which are not directly supported by Germanwatch:
 - ✓ A south-south knowledge and experience sharing platform on direct access and adaptation best practices
 - ✓ Technical support to better participate to the national processes related to climate change
 - ✓ The possibility to participate and development of countries' positions during negotiations related to the post 2015 agreement
 - ✓ The possibility to participate actively to the elaboration of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

4 Coordination and Membership

- ENDA will coordinate the Regional Hub for Francophone
- The validation of the membership file is necessary to become a member

Annex 3: Adaptation Fund NGO Network Members Lome Declaration

From May 3 to 4, 2014, around twenty civil society representatives from 10 African countries, together with representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources of Togo and the West African Development Bank (BOAD) met at M'Rode hotel in Lome (Togo) for an "African Regional workshop on the climate change Adaptation Fund: direct access for vulnerable communities".

This workshop is part of the activities of the International Network of NGOs on the Adaptation Fund which promotes the accreditation of national implementing entities and the Adaptation Fund projects for the profit of vulnerable communities. It aims at the same time to build the capacities of CSOs that work on climate change adaptation, particularly the development and the implementation of concrete projects for the communities of the developing countries.

The regional workshop on the climate change Adaptation Fund direct access, allowed the creation of a **Regional Hub for Francophone Africa**, under the coordination ENDA Energie-Environnement-Développement and Germanwatch's support. The Hub will serve as a regional platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building for the different civil society actors. It will also improve the participation and ensure better synergy in the implementation of activities meant to combat climate change in considering the interest of vulnerable populations affected by its impacts.

The Lome workshop was helpful for understanding how National, Regional and Multilateral Implementing Entities established in Francophone Africa and the implementation Adaptation Fund projects function. Furthermore, CSOs seized the opportunity to define participation strategies in the regional process but also to strengthen the partnership so as to better meet the needs of the local populations.

As a reminder, the Adaptation Fund was established in 2001 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol, to finance concrete projects and programs for adaptation in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change. The Adaptation Fund is the first one under the Convention that allows direct access to climate finance to vulnerable countries. Direct access promotes greater ownership, accountability, institutional and financial capacity strengthening, a better engagement of recipient countries in the implementation of their own projects instead of delegating their responsibilities to regional or multilateral entities.

The Africa region has benefited from 10 Adaptation Fund projects. At least 6 National Implementing Entities (South Africa, Benin, Kenya, Morocco, Rwanda and Senegal) have been accredited. They are responsible for the overall management of projects and programs financed by the Adaptation Fund.

In consideration of the importance of direct access for our populations and the national entities for institutional strengthening in the management of climate finance, civil society present at this workshop considers that it is necessary to establish these mechanisms in the countries of the region. For this purpose, the AF NGO Network organization members commit to accompany the process of establishment of these national entities but also to monitor the development and implementation of projects for the profit of vulnerable communities.

Annex 4: Synthesis of the Workshop's Feedback Forms and Comments

It is worth to mention that among the 12 participants of the workshop, 8 filled the feedback form. Four of them were either resource persons or rapporteurs.

What was important is the satisfaction expressed by the participants about the workshop

- In terms of capacity building, the workshop was very satisfactory and allowed participants to feel being pushed into action once they return to their respective countries;
- This workshop was a great satisfaction. Overall the workshop informed participants about the principles of the Adaptation Fund and the accreditation process. They had very useful information for a better understanding to be able to support the process in their respective countries;
- The participation in this workshop is a great satisfaction because it is the first time it was possible to have notions about the Adaptation Fund and the accreditation process;
- Feeling of satisfaction in so far as the workshop helped the participants understand the activities of AF and the necessity for a country to have a national implementing entity;
- Generally the objective was achieved since the process of accreditation of national entities and the role of civil society are understood;
- Satisfaction in terms of information and the role that CSOs can play when they are involved or not in the entities;
- Overall, the workshop was satisfactory. Communications were appropriate, discussions teaching, logistics well managed, the internet was good.

Suggestions formulated for the organizers

- The operationalization of an action plan for the global network, periodical monitoring and evaluation (6 months) to have an impact and make the members work;
- The organization of capacity building sessions for members to allow them to better fulfill their mission;
- The organizers should follow the implementation of the participants' commitments. Beyond that, they should facilitate the sustainability of their actions for not only on the creation NIEs but mainly their better involvement.

Annex 5: List of participants

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20	AMAH Essoby Clavibon ADIGNON	Radio Lomé	
21	KOKEH Jaques	Radio Lomé	
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23	TCHUVGUILOU A. Paul	Coordonnateur National du Projet 3 ^{ème} Communication nationale sur les changements climatiques/Direction de l'Environnement	
24	Joseph KUEVIDIEN	Organisation Logistique	