



1. EDITORIAL

(by David Eckstein and Lisa Junghans)

Rarely has the Adaptation Fund (AF) received as much attention as at the UN Climate Summit in Warsaw last year, when the industrialized countries earmarked additional financial resources in the closing stages of the conference, allowing the AF to reach its fundraising goal of \$100 million. However, in the wake of the conference the attention ebbed again just as quickly. After Warsaw, things have been rather quiet around the AF, which must now secure new pledges for the coming years in the shadow of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) that is gradually becoming functional.



Currently, we are far from being able to speak of a lasting rescue of the fund at this stage. Even after the Warsaw pledges, it has not been possible to fund all of the AF projects to be implemented by multilateral institutions. In some cases, projects have been waiting for funding for more than a year. These include two projects in the world's most vulnerable countries.

The financial position of the AF therefore remains precarious. Revenue from the proceeds of carbon credits remain negligible due to the inadequate climate protection targets of the Kyoto member states, and so financial pledges from governments remain necessary to guarantee the functioning of the Adaptation Fund. In view of the pending capitalization of the GCF and the attention that will thus be focused on the new multilateral fund, the AF would appear to have no hope of reaching its \$80 million fundraising goal for this year. But at this particular point – at which the AF has further successes to its credit while the GCF is still far from funding concrete ad-

aptation projects – the international community must ensure that the AF can continue its vital work beyond 2014.

2. Update from the 24th Adaptation Fund Board Meeting

(by David Eckstein and Marisa Heenen)

On 9 - 10 October 2014 the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) convened for its 24th meeting in Bonn, Germany. The fund's 32 Board Members once again convened to decide on topics such as the funding of new, concrete adaptation projects and programs in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The meeting was unusual in one respect: For the first time in the history of the fund, no projects were submitted through the usual multilateral institutions on behalf of the countries. Instead, 12 of the 13 project applications for this meeting were submitted by developing countries that will use their own national institutions, the so-called National Implementing Entities (NIEs) to implement projects and programs on the ground and bear the responsibility for their proper implementation.

As usual, the Board took decisions on NIE accreditation and project approvals: The Accreditation Panel concluded the review of an application from a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE), however deciding not to recommend to the Board. Nevertheless, in the inter-sessional period between the 23rd and 24th AFB meeting, the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia received accreditation, increasing the number of accredited

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A participant of the Regional Hub Workshop in Honduras explains the adaptation project.

implementing entities to 32 (17 NIEs, 4 RIEs and 11 Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs)).

Moreover 13 project proposals had been submitted to the secretariat: 4 project concepts and 9 fully-developed project proposals. One project concept submitted by the Chilean NIE Agencia de Cooperación Internacional was endorsed by the Board, encouraging the NIE to develop a fully-developed proposal. Furthermore, the Board approved six fully-developed proposals: Two from India, two from South Africa, one from Costa Rica and one from Kenya, raising the number of NIE projects to 11.

During the inter-sessional period the AFB approved one project proposal from Belize, which had been submitted by the World Bank and was waiting in the MIE pipeline. The current MIE pipeline now includes 4 approved MIE projects: Ghana (UNDP), Mali (UNDP), Nepal (WFP) and Indonesia (WFP), requesting a total of USD 32.35 million.

At the meeting AFB members also discussed about regional projects and programmes and decided to initiate steps to launch a pilot programme on regional projects, not exceeding

USD 30 million. For this programme, RIEs and MIEs partnering with NIEs will be eligible. Furthermore, the Board adopted a zero tolerance policy for corruption which was developed by the Ethics and Finance Committee.

Regarding the financial status of the Adaption Fund Trust Fund (as of 30 September 2014), USD 404.12 million had been received on part by proceeds of sales of CERs and contributions by donor countries. Considering cumulative funding decisions for MIE and NIE projects and programmes leaves the total funds available to support further funding decisions at around USD 117.5 million.

Furthermore, Civil Society Organizations were given the opportunity to engage with the AFB to raise matters of concern regarding the work of the Adaptation Fund. In addition, the AF NGO Network provided the Board with information on the status of implementation of the AF projects in Tanzania, Honduras, Cambodia and Senegal. The Board decided on a tentative date for its next meeting, which is scheduled for April 7th-10th, 2015.

The Adaptation Fund facts and figures

Project level		
Full projects approved	41	Myanmar, Seychelles, Cuba, Uzbekistan, Rwanda, Guatemala, Argentina, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea, Georgia, Tanzania, Cook Islands, Uruguay, Samoa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Maldives, Turkmenistan, Ecuador, Eritrea, Solomon Islands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Senegal, Honduras, Belize, India, India, South Africa, South Africa, Costa Rica, Kenya
Funding Decisions (full project)	USD 259 million	

Implementing Entities (IE) accredited

National (IE): Direct Access	17	Jamaica, Senegal, Uruguay, Benin, South Africa, Belize, Jordan, Rwanda, Kenya, Mexico, Argentina, India, Chile, Costa Rica, Morocco, Peru, Namibia
Multilateral	11	ADB, IDB, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, WFP, World Bank, WMO, AfDB, UNESCO, EBRD
Regional	4	West African Development Bank (BOAD), Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional

Resources in the AF Trust Fund (as of 30 September 2014)

Obtained Through CERs Monetization	USD 190.4 million
Voluntary contributions by developed countries	USD 213.7 million

Funding decisions	Total
Funding decisions for NIEs	USD 43.1 million
Funding available for NIEs	USD 142.99 million
Funding decisions for MIEs	USD 6 million
Funding available for MIEs	USD 7.71 million

MIE projects in the pipeline	MIE
Ghana	UNDP
Mali	UNDP
Nepal	WFP
Indonesia	WFP

3. National Implementing Entities in Africa

(by Laura Schäfer)

Germanwatch is currently undertaking the “Adaptation Fund NIEs in Africa: Independent insights” project with CDKN. National Implementing Entities (NIE’s) are seminal in allowing governments to access climate funding affording them the opportunity to implement adaptation projects that facilitate climate compatible development. Developing countries are only able to access the Adaptation Fund via accredited implementing entities, multilateral, regional or national. The capacity for the development of NIE’s and programming of projects thereafter is limited at present and it is essential that governments in Africa become capacitated to facilitate this process.

The research carried out through Germanwatch and partners of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network has the objective to assess common challenges of accredited entities, identify individual country success stories, discuss alternative access pathways and give a status of domestic funds in Africa and provide an outlook vis-à-vis the future climate finance landscape including the Green Climate Fund. To collect lessons learnt of the accreditation process and implementation research was undertaken applying a mix of qualitative scientific methods, mainly using interviews as research tool. In a first

step, a desk research on direct access was conducted. The desk research as well as expert interviews with the Adaptation Fund Secretariat contributed to the development of a guiding questionnaire. The questionnaire was tested during a mission in Benin from 5th to 6th of May, 2014. In a second step the questionnaire was used in an in-country research process to conduct in-depth structured interviews. The interviews were conducted through national partner organizations (African members of the AF NGO-Network (AFN-Network)), or through Germanwatch itself. The process helped collect views of relevant actors (representatives of the respective IE, ministries of the environment and finance, Designated Authority, as well as civil society and stakeholders in the project area) on challenges and best practices around all aspects of IEs accreditation, project design and implementation. First results were presented in July on the “First Africa NIEs workshop” in Nairobi, Kenya. Germanwatch is currently finalizing the research report “Learning from direct access modalities in Africa” as well as related policy papers, all to be published before COP 20 in Lima.



Farmers in Namakwa district (South Africa) have always been innovative when dealing with extreme climate variability. The Small Grant Facility will allow more adaptation measures on the ground through an enhanced direct access mechanism. (Photo: Bettina Koelle)

4. Inside stories

South Africa – A pilot for financing enhanced direct access in South Africa

(by Bettina Koelle)

In South Africa a project funded by the Adaptation Fund is piloting enhanced direct access finance through a local small grant facility. Implemented by SANBI (the National Implementing Entity in South Africa), the project aims to support effective local adaptation projects in two pilot District Municipalities (Namakwa and Mopani District Municipality). This project was approved by the AFB in October 2014 and will be implemented over the coming 4 years. A strong learning component aims to ensure that the project can inform a national mechanism of enhanced direct access in the future. This project will explore appropriate ways to provide an avenue for effective local level transformative adaptation and promoting local agency.

The funding granted is USD 2,442,682 and is dedicated to the following components:

The following components form part of the project:

1. Small Grants – Small grants to vulnerable communities to deliver tangible and sustainable benefits
2. Institutional Capacity – Local institutions empowered to identify and implement adaptation response measures
3. Lesson learned – Lessons learned to facilitate future up-scaling and replication of small grant-financing approaches.

The largest component, the Small Grants component, entails investing in 12-16 small grants for locally run climate change adaptation projects in Mopani and Namakwa, each in the order of USD 100,000.

Jamaica – Six months stalemate stymies Jamaica's AF project

(by Petre Williams-Raynor)

One component of Jamaica's Adaptation Fund (AF) Project has reached a stalemate after consistent opposition from a stakeholder group consisting of hoteliers and business people in Negril, Westmoreland. Since April 2014, the group has registered staunch opposition to project plans to erect permanent breakwaters in Negril, intended to address the beach erosion being experienced in the tourist resort town. The National Implementing Entity (NIE) – the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) – has done a series of public consultations and community dialogues with the community, including having senior government officials share in the discussions. However, this has had little impact, as residents insist softer engineering options, notably beach nourishment, should be explored first. With a USD 5.4-million price tag, the breakwaters are the most expensive component of the project titled, "Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security". While the PIOJ had initial consultations in Negril during the development phase of the project, it is clear that the lack of continued dialogue with Negril has worked negatively against the project.



Some small scale farmers in Namakwa District are already engaging in adaptation action by monitoring weather conditions and relating this to the seasonal forecasts. The Small Grant Facility can help to put some of these adaptation ideas into practice. (Photo: Bettina Koelle)



Participants of the Regional Hub Workshop in Jamaica are visiting the Adaptation Fund project in Negril, where a breakwater will be constructed to reduce coastal erosion. (Photo: Lisa Junghans)

5. An introduction to the three new partners of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network

In September 2014 the Adaptation Fund NGO Network further extended its network to three more developing countries: Jordan, Benin and Rwanda. While Benin and Jordan are currently preparing their Adaptation Fund project, it is already under implementation in Rwanda. Please read below an introduction to our new partners, who will, as part of the Adaptation Fund NGO Network, take over a critically and constructive watchdog role in their respective countries.

Jordan

The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) was founded in 1993 as the first and only Jordanian non-profit, non-governmental organization working with a mission to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment in Jordan through conservation, outreach, advocacy, and sustainable development programs. JREDS believes that knowledge of marine and coastal environment is critical for the sustainable protection of marine environment, ecosystems, and species. Accordingly, JREDS has invested in developing research programs to inform the decision making process with regard to sustainable socio-economic development of the living conditions for people in Aqaba. In addition, JREDS' awareness program is influencing behaviour change through a variety of actions including clean-up-campaigns; environmental education programs, and partnership with the private sector. Having been accredited by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), JREDS has put Jordan at the

Still, the NIE is moving forward with project implementation in other parishes in Jamaica. Already three communities – Orange Hill and Thompson Town in Clarendon and Weir Pen in Manchester – have demonstration plots implemented by farmers groups. An October 28 visit to all three communities, done by Panos Caribbean, revealed they have been sensitised about the project, primarily through community meetings. While some community members were not aware of the project, several of those spoken with had knowledge of the project. There seemed to be a general sense of appreciation for the work being done under the project to increase water options and improve agricultural practices for farmers. No opposition to the project, as seen in Negril, was noted.



The 7-mile beach in Negril, Jamaica. The picture clearly shows the narrow beach, a result of coastal erosion. (Photo: Lisa Junghans)

forefront among countries in the Middle East in environmental education programs. These programs include Eco Schools, Green Key, Blue Flag, and Young Reporters. In addition, JREDS succeeded in developing eco-desert camp standards that were approved and adopted at an international level. Since establishment, JREDS has developed its work, in quantity and quality, and has contributed effectively in sustainable development efforts in Jordan. In partnership with national, regional, and international partners several projects were implemented by JREDS who has achieved regional presence as well. JREDS takes pride in its highly professional staff, and works toward further development of the capacity and professional performance of its staff.

Benin

Young Volunteers for Environment International (YVE) is present in more than 20 countries in Africa. YVE BENIN is an organization founded in 2004, working for the protection of the environment and contributes to the well-being and the integral development of vulnerable groups. In Benin, we are working on three main topics:

1. The promotion of new and renewable energy technologies by distributing solar lamps.
2. Awareness and advocacy on climate issues and on climate change negotiations. We are promoting measures using community-based adaptation and ecosystem-based adaptation to strengthen resilience of vulnerable groups.
3. IWRM implementation of the negotiated approach

The Adaptation Fund has funded an ambitious project called "Adaptation of the Cotonou Lagoon ecosystems and human communities to sea level rise and extreme weather events impacts". This project will allow residents of the lagoon of Cotonou to adapt to the effects of climate change in their environments and contributes greatly to the improvement of the project area.

YVE BENIN is expected to play a key role in this process. Since May 2014, we have had regular meetings with the head of the NIE, following-up with him on the process. We will coordinate a critical analysis of CSOs so that we can ensure that the project is well managed.

Rwanda

The "Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR)" a National Non-Governmental Organization was founded in August 1992, in the framework of implementing in Rwanda the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. ACNR is dedicated to the promotion of biodiversity conservation through participatory and sustainable management of natural resources in Rwanda. It's interventions focus on developing and implementing programmes, strategies and projects to ensure that ecosystems (forests, wetlands,...), especially Important Birds and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) are conserved and protected, to integrate their health and integrity into local livelihood improvement efforts.

ACNR undertakes research to improve scientific knowledge and understand biodiversity and ecosystems functioning, develops and implements a sound environmental education and public awareness raising program, and actively contributes to the enhancement of national policies and laws on environmental issues. ACNR is also a large membership organization which has an excellent experience in working with communities and has established and empowered strong nature clubs in schools and community-based organizations called Local Conservation Groups (LCGs), which address common and salient conservation and livelihood challenges around IBAs.

Through implementation of different climate change adaptation projects in Rwanda, ACNR is at the forefront of efforts to identify and understand climate change impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation responses. It strengthens local communities' capacity to cope with the effects of climate change on different economic sectors and human activities.

More information about the AF NGO Network on:

www.af-network.org

This website also contains resources such as the Germanwatch Adaptation Fund Project Tracker, briefings and reports on the meetings of the Adaptation Fund Board and other reports.



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