Emerging lessons from the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)

Taking stock - Early lessons from AFCIA implementation

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Overview of AFCIA
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Background of the AFCIA

• A new USD 10 million programme (AFCIA) launched by the Adaptation Fund at COP25 in Madrid

• Small grants programme to support innovation for effective, long-term adaptation in developing countries

• UNEP/CTCN and UNDP selected to administrate the AFCIA (USD 5 million each)

• Provision of different services to support innovation in adaptation
  – (UNEP-CTCN programme) Technical assistance
  – (UNDP programme) Grant funding

Adaptation Fund Launches New Grant Programme to Foster Innovation of Adaptation Practices in Vulnerable Countries

The Adaptation Fund has announced the launch of a new US$ 10 million pilot innovation programme during the COP 25 UN climate conference in Madrid.

The new programme will foster innovation in adaptation in developing countries, and will target a broad range of potential finance recipients, including non-governmental organizations, community groups, young innovators and the private sector. Two of the Fund’s accredited multilateral implementing entities, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), will each receive US$ 5 million to administer and aggregate about 45 small grants (up to US$ 250,000 each). UNEP will also work in conjunction with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), which is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism.

The new programme adds a new financing opportunity for the most vulnerable communities under the Fund’s overall Innovation Facility, which includes a recently launched separate innovation grant funding window that is available to accredited national implementing entities (NIEs) under the Fund’s pioneering Direct Access modality that builds country ownership in adaptation.

The new innovation programme and grants are expected to be discussed at the Fund’s side event on innovation at COP 25 on Dec. 6 in Room 4 of the exhibits hall from 1:15-2:45 pm and webcast live here.
Overview of AFCIA (cont.)

UNEP-CTCN programme at a glance

- **Objective**
  Support for developing countries to test, evaluate, roll out and scale up innovative adaptation practices, products and technologies

- **Implementation**
  25 technical assistance projects (up to USD 250,000 each)

- **Knowledge sharing & exchange of best practices**
  Programme webpage
  UNEP & CTCN communication channels, etc.

- **Budget**
  USD 5 million + USD 1 million (CTCN co-funding)
Briefing on implementation of UNEP-CTCN programme so far
Launch and outreach of the programme

Virtual inception workshop
• **Date:** 28 October 2020 (at the 4th G·STIC conference)
• Organised together with UNEP
• **186 participants** (viewers)

Virtual joint launch event
• **Date:** 18 November 2020
• Organised together with the Adaptation Fund, UNEP and UNDP
• **743 participants** (viewers) in total
  – Asia-Pacific region: 205 viewers
  – America, Europe and Africa regions: 538 viewers

Other events / communication activities
• UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020, Youth Climate Innovation Labs, Webinar for LAC, etc.
• Social media, CTCN newsletter, GAN newsletter, etc.
Submission of AFCIA applications

The 1st call for applications

• Duration: 18 November 2020 – 31 January 2021
  
• Promotion of the 1st call for applications
  – Direct contact to the NDEs and the Designated Authorities
  – Direct contact to CTCN partners (Network members, Consortium partners, Knowledge partners, etc.)
  – Use of various UNEP/CTCN communication channels and social media platforms

• 71 applications received

• After an initial screening/ completeness check

47 applications selected for evaluation
Overview of the applications selected for evaluation

- 27 developing countries submitted 47 applications
  - Asia-Pacific (10 countries): Cambodia, Georgia, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Uzbekistan
  - LAC (3 countries): Bahamas, Dominica and Honduras
  - Africa (14 countries): Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo and Zambia

Of these, about 48% are LDCs, and about 11% are SIDS
Overview of the applications selected for evaluation (cont.)

- **Geographical distribution** of 47 applications
  - Asia-Pacific: 18 applications
  - LAC: 3 applications
  - Africa: 26 applications

- **Major Adaptation Sectors**
  - Agriculture
  - Rural Development (resilience)
  - Food Security

- **Three elements** considered in evaluating the applications to identify innovation in adaptation technology

**Adaptation sectors** (requested by developing countries)

- Water management
- Urban development (resilience)
- Rural development (resilience)
- Marine and fishery
- Human health
- Forests
- Food security
- Disaster risk reduction
- Coastal zone management
- Agriculture

5 applications (2 Asia-Pacific, 1 LAC, 2 Africa) are selected to move to the next stage of developing project concept notes in the 1st round.
Early lessons from the 1st call for applications
Early lessons from the 1st call for applications - overview

▪ There is a large appetite and need for adaptation-related technical assistance in developing countries.

▪ Developing countries continue to need support to articulate their adaptation technology demands, in particular LDCs and SIDS.

▪ Initiatives to improve capacity to identify and assess innovative adaptation practices, products and technologies, targeting LDCs and SIDs, need to be rolled out.

▪ Guidance on the application submission process needs to continue to be provided to the NDEs and the Designated Authorities, as well as potential applicants in developing countries.

▪ Where applications are cross sectoral in nature, a combination of adaptation and mitigation technologies should be considered/encouraged to generate transformative impact.
The 2\textsuperscript{nd} call for applications is \textbf{now open}

\textbf{Apply until 30 April 2021}

- Please check information on the application submission process, fill in an application template, and submit it online via the link:

\url{https://www.ctc-n.org/afcia/unep-ctcn}
Thank you

Email: ho-sik.chon@un.org

Supported by
Where to apply

- Access to the programme webpage
  - Direct access via a link: [https://www.ctc-n.org/afcia](https://www.ctc-n.org/afcia)
  - Access via the CTCN website: [https://www.ctc-n.org](https://www.ctc-n.org)
    - (Option 1) Direct links to the programme webpage
    - (Option 2) Tool bar ‘Technical Assistance’ - ‘AFCIA’
Submission of the application via the programme webpage

- **(Step 1)** Clicking on **‘Apply via UNEP-CTCN’**
- **(Step 2)** Clicking on **‘Submit your application (technology concept)’**

Download of the application template

**Programme FAQ**

1. Evaluation
2. Linkage with the Adaptation Fund Medium-Term Strategy
3. Contact
How to apply

- Development of the application
  - Download of the application template via the programme webpage
  - Need to be developed by an applicant
  - **Consultation with the national focal points** to the Adaptation Fund and the CTCN
  - Acceptable to develop an **application in which multiple countries engage**

![Diagram showing the process of how to apply]

- **Development of the application (technology concept)**
- **Endorsement from the national focal points**
- **Submission of the application (online)**
How to apply (cont.)

- Endorsement from the national focal points
  - National focal point to the Adaptation Fund
    - The statement in the template needs to be confirmed by the Designated Authority of the country
  - National focal point to the CTCN
    - The application needs to be signed by the National Designated Entity (NDE) of the country

Development of the application (technology concept) → Endorsement from the national focal points → Submission of the application (online)
How to apply (cont.)

- Submission of the application
  - Provision of information including title of the application, adaptation sectors and contact details
  - Upload of the application and clicking on ‘Submit’