

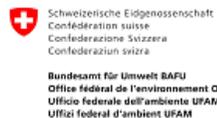


**Global Workshop on  
Water, Agriculture and Climate Change**  
17-18 October 2022, Geneva and online

# Transboundary approaches to climate adaptation: lessons learned from the Adaptation Fund portfolio

Cristina Dengel KM Officer

Mahamat Assouyouti Abakar - Sr Climate Change Specialist



Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU  
Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV  
Ufficio federale dell'ambiente UFAM  
Uffizi federal d'ambient UFAM



# Adaptation Fund



Pioneered Direct Access – finances concrete adaptation projects/programs



A total of 56 IE (34 NIEs, 14 MIEs, 8 RIEs)



Btw 2017-2021: AF approved more than US\$205million in grant funding for transboundary projects/34 countries



ADAPTATION FUND



# Tangible results as of June 30, 2022

## IMPACT 1:

Reduction in vulnerability of communities and increased adaptive capacity of communities to respond to the impacts of climate change



10.6 million **DIRECT**

**BENEFICIARIES**

25.2 million

### INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Number of direct beneficiaries is a conservative estimate, as it is not consistently reported (i.e. some projects report as no. of households)



516

### EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Includes projects targeting several small scale EWS at the local level as well as those targeting one large regional system

## IMPACT 2:

Strengthened policies that integrate climate resilience strategies into local and national plans



99

**POLICIES INTRODUCED  
OR ADJUSTED TO ADDRESS  
CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS**

Includes any policy whether at the local, regional or national level

## IMPACT 3:

Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change induced stresses



575,699 ha

**HA OF NATURAL HABITATS  
CREATED, PROTECTED OR  
REHABILITATED RESTORED**



162,425 m

**M OF COASTLINE PROTECTED**



ADAPTATION FUND

# AF Funding opportunities at a glance

Action	Innovation	Learning & Sharing
Single country projects (\$ 20 M per country) (NIE, RIE, MIE) + PFG (NIE only)	Small grants (<US\$250 k) to foster innovation practices in CCA (NIE)	Learning grants (<US\$150 K) to share best practices and lessons learned (NIE)
Regional projects (2 + countries) \$ 14 M (RIE, MIE) + PFG	Small grants (<\$ 250k) in innovation for non accredited entities - AFCIA	
Enhanced Direct Access (EDA): US\$ 5 M per country (NIE)	Large grants (<US\$5 M) to roll out innovative adaptation practices in CCA. Single country (NIE, RIE, MIE) or regional (RIE, MIE)	
Project scale-up grants: < US\$100 k per project (NIE)		



# AF regional window – Access modality

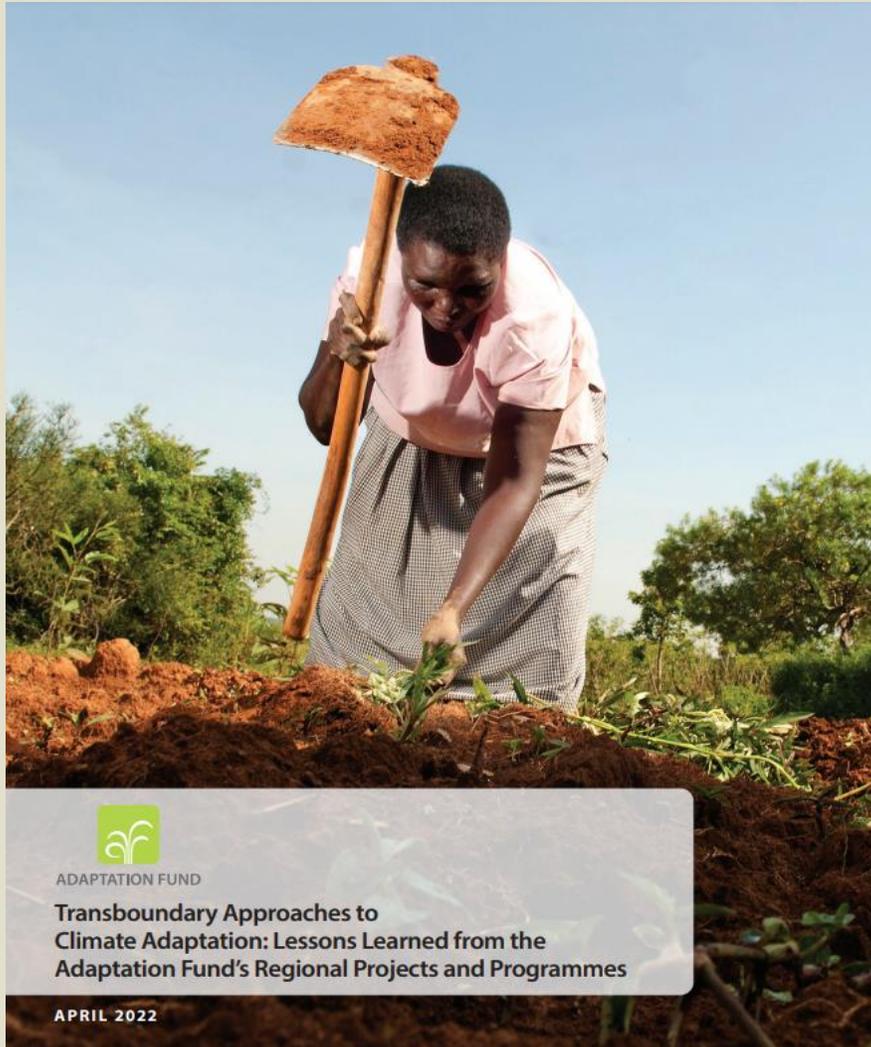
- ❑ Pilot programme introduced in 2015 with at cap of \$30 million Up (AFB.25/28)
- ❑ to \$14 million and \$100k PPG for regional project (2+ countries)
- ❑ Implemented by MIE or RIE and endorsement by each DA of participating countries
- ❑ **Concrete adaptation actions** in multiple sectors including including Transboundary Water Management, Enabling Environment, water security, Nature-Based Solutions, EBA, etc.
- ❑ Total of US\$151M under the regional window, or 20% total portfolio
- ❑ Funding on the basis of the **full cost of adaptation** (No co-financing required, addressing adaptation needs and co-benefits if any, no BAU)
- ❑ **Environmental, socio-economic benefits** especially for the most vulnerable and gender considerations

# Review criteria for regional projects and programmes

In addition to review criteria defined for all projects funded by AF, additional criteria as follow :

- **Regional approach** : Does the regional project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience, and do so providing added value through the regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually?
- **Cost-effectiveness** : Is the project / programme cost-effective and does the regional approach support cost-effectiveness?
- **Project management at regional level** : Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management at the regional and national level, including coordination arrangements within countries and among them? Has the potential to partner with national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs), been considered, and included in the management arrangements?
- **Innovation** : Does the project promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, such as new approaches, technologies and mechanisms?

# Learning from transboundary climate change adaptation in Adaptation Fund Projects and Programmes



- Aligned with the Learning and Sharing pillar of the Fund's five-year **Medium-Term Strategy**
- **Objective:** to accelerate learning about approaches that lead to successful transboundary adaptation strategies
- **Target audience:** AF stakeholders, current and prospective MIEs and RIEs, executing entities, NGOs and practitioners interested in transboundary approaches
- Examined transboundary adaptation interventions of five AF-funded regional projects in **Chile-Ecuador, Lake Victoria Basin countries, Western Balkans, Volta Basin countries**
- Examined **enabling conditions** for transboundary adaptation and **opportunities and challenges** in implementing transboundary adaptation interventions
- <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Transboundary-Adaptation-final-April-2022.pdf>

# Synthesis of findings – enabling conditions for transboundary action

## Common adaptation challenge across borders

- Where countries in the region face similar climate risks
- Where interventions to manage climate impacts in one country have implications in neighboring country
- Where distinct climatic challenges in different countries in a transboundary program, more challenges to foster a culture of regional coordination and shared learning

## Regional contexts with common languages across borders

- Sharing common language across neighboring nations, communities more readily enabled to share experiences and knowledge of climate impacts and solutions
- Ease of communities for IEs working in territories with common language at project sites

## Comprehensive understanding of the institutional landscape across region among IEs is key

- Understanding the strengths of national-level agencies as well as their needs for capacity enhancement
- Understanding the mandate, experience and competencies of any regional or basin-level authorities
- IEs to understand the nuanced political and policy realities around past efforts of cooperation is key

## Good understanding, early on, of the robustness and availability of climatic, scientific and socioeconomic information by project team

- Up-to-date data and information from national-level agencies, regional institutions and international organizations lead to a strong proposal and builds trust with national-level agencies



Gully rehabilitation in the Republic of Rwanda, as part of a five-country regional AF-funded project.  
Photo by ACC-LVB Project Coordination Team

# Synthesis of findings

## Increased cost-effectiveness and enhanced coordination

- Country-by-country approach to adaptation could lead to duplication of efforts or even negative and costly outcomes elsewhere
- A centralized form of coordination at the regional, supranational scale has proved to be key in delivering cost effective management, including collective procurement with higher purchase power
- A transboundary approach to adaptation can achieve cost savings through economies of scale

## Cooperation through learning and knowledge sharing across scales

- Transboundary projects offer many opportunities for learning and knowledge transfer, about what works, where and why, across local, national and supranational scales
- Extreme shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic in all regions have provided learning opportunities in adaptive management across all transboundary projects (virtual workshops, online knowledge sharing across regions)
- Inclusion of comprehensive risk assessment and adaptive management in implementation arrangements from the outset



community consultations  
Photo by UNPD/Nikola Zdraveski

# Thank You



ADAPTATION FUND

**Cristina Dengel**

[cdengel@adaptation-fund.org](mailto:cdengel@adaptation-fund.org)

[www.adaptation-fund.org](http://www.adaptation-fund.org)

**Mahamat Assouyouti**

[massouyouti@adaptation-fund.org](mailto:massouyouti@adaptation-fund.org)

[www.adaptation-fund.org](http://www.adaptation-fund.org)