

Climate Finance Advisory Service

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Daily Briefing

22nd AFB Meeting

(31 October – 1 November 2013, Bonn)

This is the Climate Finance Advisory Service (CFAS) Daily Briefing. Produced at key meetings and negotiations by the CFAS expert team, the Daily Briefings try to provide a concise, informative update on key discussions that have taken place at each day of the meeting and give an overview of substantive points of action or progress. Please note that this is an independent summary by CFAS and not officially mandated by the AFB or its secretariat.

Summary from 31 October 2013

On 31 October 2013 the Adaptation Fund Board convened its 22nd meeting, a two-day event in Bonn, Germany. Two days prior to the meeting members of the two committees of the Board, the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) and the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) met for the 13th time. On 30 October, in the margins of the committee meetings, the Board held its regular Civil Society Dialogue.

Besides procedural matters, such as the adoption of the agenda and the date and venue of the first Board meeting in 2014, Board members engaged in substantial discussions on 31 October. From a policy perspective, it is important to highlight the adoption of the fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) as well as options for a programme for readiness and preparatory support. Both decisions mark a milestone and better position of the AF among other climate funds.

The purpose of an ESP is to ensure that the AF will not fund projects that may derive in unintended harms for the beneficiaries. For the last years the AF has been applying environmental and social safeguards at the project level, mostly through a screening process of project proposals. The adoption of the ESP will from now on help the AF to also streamline, complete and integrate robust and comprehensive safeguards into its current policies and guidelines.

Besides, Board members discussed options for a programme to support readiness for direct access. The intention behind this is to on the one hand take action on the slow progress and the number of NIE accreditations and on the other hand to address the difficulty of national and regional entities, once accredited, to submit promising high quality projects to the AF. In the discussion several Board members proposed to focus the readiness programme on those countries that are seeking support in getting their institutions accredited, rather than on already accredited institutions.

The afternoon session resumed with reports from the EFC, the Accreditation Panel (AP) and the PPRC. The report by the EFC comprised, inter alia, the Annual Performance Report of the AF for 2013, an update on the work on results tracking initiated at the previous committee meeting. It also featured a short introduction to the financial status of the AF Trust Fund that will be further complemented on 1 November by an official report from the trustee.

With regard to the report of the AP, and as recommended therein, the Board decided to grant accreditation to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), making it the third Regional Implementing Entity of the AF. In addition, the Board decided to adopt a proposed procedure for a re-accreditation process, providing clarity on steps to be taken when accreditation of

an implementing entity expires after five years (as stated in the Operational Guidelines and Policies of the AF).

The PPRC report provided the Board with findings of the project review process, recommending the endorsement of three project concepts (Costa Rica, Jordan and Indonesia) and two fully developed project proposals (Rwanda and Nepal). The project for Rwanda was submitted by the country's Ministry of Natural Resources, representing yet another NIE project to achieve approval by the Board. The total number of NIE projects now adds up to five. As fairly usual, the Board decided to follow the recommendations of the PPRC.

At the end of the first day, the Board concluded the meeting by discussing the fundraising strategy of the AF, however in closed session.

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