SCALING UP KNOWLEDGE

One of the founding values of the CIF is targeted knowledge sharing to improve results, enhance the potential for replication and contribute to scaling up successful approaches. As the AfDB CIF portfolio begins to transition to full implementation, the development and climate finance communities will be looking to the AfDB for lessons on how to successfully develop investment plans, prepare bankable projects and implement projects successfully.

To effectively share the key lessons and knowledge stemming from this transition, the AfDB has started to put in place a robust knowledge management function.

Over 2013 the AfDB took great strides to advance the knowledge agenda of the CIF in Africa. This included working to include a knowledge management component in the investment plans of both Liberia and the United Republic of Tanzania, the support of south-south learning exchange between Kenya and Tanzania on how Kenya has successfully begun to develop its vast geothermal power potential, active participation in the Africa Climate Conference, and hosting an international workshop on the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) mechanism.

Liberia

With the Liberia SREP Investment Plan, information sharing and the exchange of lessons learned is included as a core component. As the IP transitions from Phase I to Phase II, the knowledge component will be used to increase successful development of renewable energy and rural electrification in Phase II. It will also consolidate and disseminate information with a view to addressing the lack of reliable data and information on renewable energy in Liberia and in the region.

Specifically, the knowledge management component seeks to:
- Enable production and dissemination of information among renewable energy stakeholders and partners to support capacity building and awareness creation;
- Improve communication and awareness raising on IP results and achievements, but also on key related issues such as electricity theft;
- Strengthen flow of communication on renewable energy in Liberia and with neighboring countries to share success stories;
- Increase capacity of relevant stakeholders to design better renewable energy investments;
- Enhance visibility of scaled-up renewable energy efforts in Liberia and additional funding mobilized for renewable energy;
- Facilitate technology transfer in order to build capacity of the local private operators and service providers to increase their competitiveness and ability to respond to demand.

United Republic of Tanzania

The Tanzania SREP Investment Plan seeks to address knowledge management and lessons sharing at the program and project level. At the program level it has been identified that knowledge management is needed to measure what outputs are obtained and to share what has been learned with stakeholders at all levels. At the project level, the knowledge component will draw lessons from the new business models and innovative activities to be adopted in the SREP-supported pilot projects so that similar models and activities can be replicated in other regions of Tanzania and/or other countries.

Specifically, the Tanzanian government has undertaken to:
- Support the development and maintenance of an efficient, national-level energy-information system;
- Promote efficient knowledge management and exchange of best practices between projects and with other African countries;
- Ensure a favorable environment for the rapid expansion of renewable energy by promoting a cross-cutting approach aimed at building the capacity of all stakeholders;
- Raise the SREP profile in order to raise additional funds and foster large-scale replication of activities countrywide and in the subregion;
- Communicate SREP results by disseminating outputs at all levels (local, regional, national and international), especially through online posting of knowledge management products;
- Support the management of renewable energy knowledge (i.e., approaches, methods, and lessons) acquired by the SREP;
- Ensure linkage with the CIF Administrative Unit and draft regular program implementation reports intended for the SREP subcommittee;
- Conduct targeted studies, organize consultation workshops, and develop and support dialogue to achieve more efficient project implementation;
- Regularly monitor progress in other SREP countries and share operational management experience and;
- Organize information and exchange sessions with other countries in the subregion to disseminate best practices and the SREP’s program-based approach.

Economic and Sector Work

The AfDB is committed to being at the forefront of crucial analytical work carried out on the continent. Examples of this work can be seen below:
- Clean Energy Development in Egypt
- Renewable Energy in Mali: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities.
- Climate Finance Tracking

Monitoring & Evaluation

The AfDB has been active as part of the ongoing processes to develop the CIF monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms.

The objectives are (i) to create a functioning monitoring and reporting system, (ii) to help generate and analyze high quality data, and (iii) to achieve this by placing learning at the heart of all its activities.

You can view the most recent AfDB CTF Core Results Indicators report here.

The Payment for Environmental Services (PES) Mechanism

PES is a flexible mechanism in which a well-defined environmental service (watershed, carbon sequestration) is bought by a buyer from at least one environmental service provider in a voluntary transaction. PES is based on the use of the market forces of supply and demand to achieve private transactions between the providers and consumers of environmental services.

The AfDB is eager to integrate PES into its projects because it presents a viable option to ensure the continued, proper functioning of key ecosystems.

The recent workshop organized by the AfDB was an important first step in scaling up the Bank’s work with PES. Over 2014, the Bank intends to strengthen the knowledge base around the current state of PES in Africa and the potential for its future use, and thereby support implementation of its three FIP projects which are looking at PES as a relevant results delivery mechanism.