



# Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

## Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Evaluation Title:	Phase Two Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action in South Africa
Evaluation Number:	427
Evaluation Completion Date:	31 March 2011
Period of Evaluation:	4 months
Submitted:	03 November 2014 by Thandeka Mhlantla
Approved:	03 November 2014 by Mike Leslie

## Evaluation Details

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Created:	27 May 2014 by Mike Leslie
Submitted:	03 November 2014 by Thandeka Mhlantla
Approved:	03 November 2014 by Mike Leslie
Period of Evaluation:	4 months
Known Cost:	R 857,736.00
Known Cost Type:	Referenced
Initiated By:	The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Initiated By Internal:	No
Undertaken By:	WYG International
Undertaken By Internal:	No

## Assessors

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Thandeka Mhlantla	thandeka@pdg.co.za
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## Assessment Documents

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Document Name:	Document Type:	Added By:	Added On:
PD Final Country Evaluation Report FINAL.pdf	Evaluation report	Mike Leslie	27 May 2014
Terms of References.pdf	Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation	Thandeka Mhlantla	15 July 2014
Service Agreement.pdf	A letter of engagement or contractual agreement with the service provider	Thandeka Mhlantla	15 July 2014
Final Draft Synthesis 16 May.pdf	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Thandeka Mhlantla	15 July 2014
PD Exec Summ revised cer 100111.pdf	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Thandeka Mhlantla	15 July 2014
EVALUATION_OF_THE_PD_FINAL_REPORT_SA.pdf	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Thandeka Mhlantla	15 July 2014
The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.pdf	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Thandeka Mhlantla	15 July 2014
Assessment Report at Moderation.pdf	Assessment Report at Moderation	Mike Leslie	20 August 2014

## Quality Assessment Summary

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This evaluation scored a 3.60 overall, making it a sound evaluation. The report was well written clearly with the guidance and direction of the logic chain provided by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) who informed the TORs. The evaluation report scored a (3.98) the good executive summary and the clearly reported structure of the evaluation and easy to follow report that goes into answering the evaluation questions quite thoroughly. The evaluation followed a clear theory of change that looked at the pre-historic development agenda from the inception of the Paris Declaration development over 15 years till 2005.

The planning and design of the evaluation scored (3.82) illustrating good use of overall design methodologies employed, however when viewing the area of evaluation, under implementation phase, project management (Implementation phase) scores 1.00.

The methodology is highlighted in the TORs clearly and makes for good instructions for evaluators doing the in-country work to ensure that all the main questions and purpose of the evaluations throughout all the countries follow the same structure. One could argue that there was weak planning in the overall process of the evaluation due to the implementation of the evaluation falling short in the implementation phase and scoring (3.11) out of 5.

The evaluation scored low in the capacity development overarching considerations due to its lack of planned formalised processes to advocate for a learning or development process to be incorporated in the TORs therefore, translated in the report.

There could be further development and more departmental engagement on this piece of work to further entice and involve departments and officials to take up some of the recommendations that will most likely space the policy space.

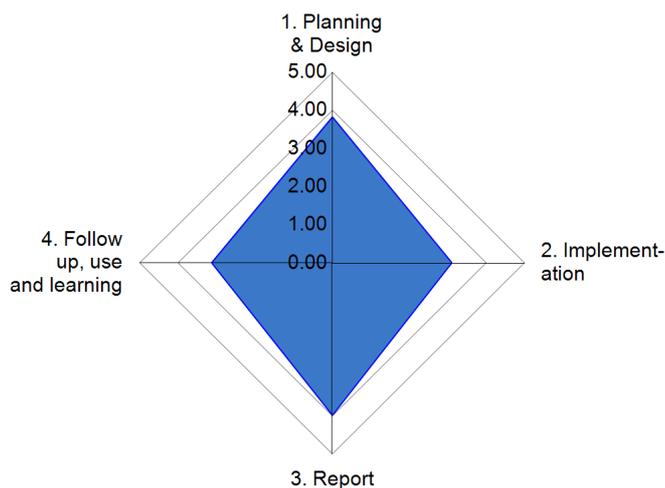
## Quality Assessment Scores

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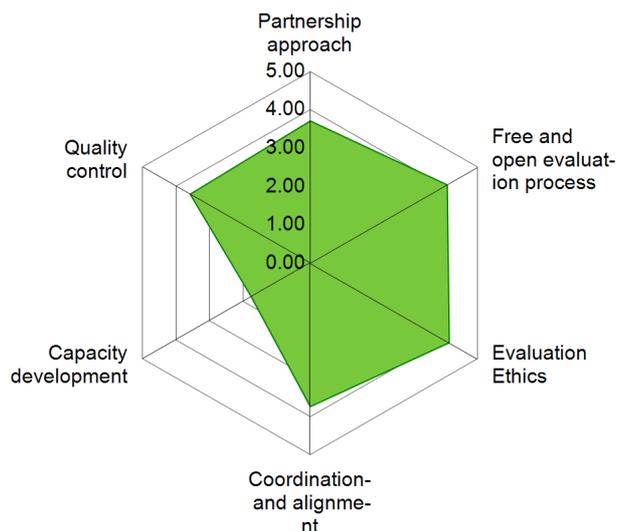
Phase of Evaluation	Score
1. Planning & Design	3.82
2. Implementation	3.11
3. Report	3.98
4. Follow-up, use and learning	3.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.60</b>

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	3.70
Free and open evaluation process	4.09
Evaluation Ethics	4.17
Coordination and alignment	3.74
Capacity development	1.75
Quality control	3.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.60</b>

### Scores: Phases of Evaluation



### Scores: Overarching Considerations



Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
1. Planning & Design	1.1. Quality of the TOR	3.96
1. Planning & Design	1.2. Adequacy of resourcing	3.18
1. Planning & Design	1.3. Alignment to policy context and background literature	4.00
1. Planning & Design	1.4. Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology	3.94
1. Planning & Design	1.5. Project management (Planning phase)	4.00
2. Implementation	2.1. Evaluation ethics and independence	4.00
2. Implementation	2.2. Participation and M&E skills development	2.20
2. Implementation	2.3. Methodological integrity	3.16
2. Implementation	2.4. Project management (Implementation phase)	1.00
3. Report	3.1. Completeness of reporting structure	4.13
3. Report	3.2. Accessibility of content	4.07
3. Report	3.3. Robustness of findings	4.00
3. Report	3.4. Strength of conclusions	3.79
3. Report	3.5. Suitability of recommendations	4.00
3. Report	3.6. Consideration of reporting risks and ethical implications	3.77
3. Report	3.7. Project management (Reporting phase)	4.00
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.1. Resource utilisation	3.80
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.2. Evaluation use	2.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.60</b>

# 1. Planning & Design

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## 1.1. Quality of the TOR

Standard: 1.1.1. The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or a well-structured and complete internal evaluation proposal

Comment and Analysis: The TORs go on to elaborate on content that needs to be covered by each of the country evaluations. The TORs are well well-structured and articulated. It also specifies the nature to which the evaluation should be undertaken.

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.1.2. The purpose of the evaluation stated in the TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) was clear and explicit

Comment and Analysis: The purpose of the evaluation is clearly defined from a holistic view of the global agenda of the project. The purpose of the evaluation is highlighted in the TOR(2011: 2) as "main vehicles for answering the core evaluations questions on the effects of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness and development results, including poverty reduction".

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.1.3. The evaluation questions in the TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) were clearly stated and appropriate for addressing the evaluation purpose

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation questions prescribed in the TOR originate from various workshops that took place prior to the development of the methodology for the evaluation. The 'core questions' were specifically articulated in the TORs to best guide country specific questions that could have been developed in the inception phase of the contract. There were three (3) core evaluation questions provided as,

1. What are the factors that have shaped and limited the implementation of the Declaration reforms and their effects? (The Paris Declaration in Context)

2. What improvements have been made in aid effectiveness as targeted in the Declaration? (Contributions to Aid Effectiveness)

3. What contributions have improvements in aid effectiveness made to sustainable development results? (Contributions to Development Results).

These questions help to answer how the PD is being implemented and also they also look at the results and address the aid effectiveness and development as stipulated in the purpose of the evaluation.

Rating: 5

Standard: 1.1.4. The approach and type of evaluation was suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal)

Comment and Analysis: It is highlighted in the TORs that the type of evaluation suited for the scope of work should focus on a results orientation approach that looks at achieving developmental results supported by aid. No specific mention to the exact type of evaluation but a design evaluation is hinted at "in order to understand the joint arrangements between donors and the recipients of aid that have been put in place to support the implementation of the Declaration" and then look at all country evaluations to draw on comparisons (TOR: 2010, pg. 4).

Rating: 3

Standard: 1.1.5. The TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) identified the intended users of the evaluation and their information needs

Comment and Analysis: The TORs speaks about the intended audiences, stakeholders and usefulness of the evaluation to focus on looking at results that will be synthesized into evaluation reports which will be presented to high level stakeholders of donor agencies. It will also spur interest in improvement efforts from participating countries and donor agencies with the interaction and engagement from all executive and legislative branches of government in the specific countries who are involved, bilateral partners, civil society, private sector stakeholders and other partner countries.

Rating: 5

Standard: 1.1.6. Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation

Comment and Analysis: The OECD developed the TORs at a high level, being the commissioners of the world wide evaluation process as part of global aid evaluation. The main players who developed the purpose of the evaluation would have been the OECD and other key donor agencies contributing to donor aid effectiveness globally. Key stakeholders in the specific country context would have been involved, like National Treasury to carry out the evaluation with the contracting of a service provider.

Rating: 3

## 1.2. Adequacy of resourcing

Standard: 1.2.1. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time allocated

Comment and Analysis: Initially the evaluation was envisioned to take 6-9 months but ended up being 3 months. The time allocation was agreed for a four month contractually from 01 November 2010 to 31 March 2011. At the time of the allocation of the project, the time was seen as sufficient. However, the evaluation started very late due to issues of acquiring funding on time. The service provider only started in December and needed to be done in March 2013 which gave 4 months time frame.

Rating: 2

Standard: 1.2.2. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of original budget

Comment and Analysis: The original budget was set at \$152 905.00 from USAID Southern Africa. It was thought this figure would be sufficient to meet the needs of the evaluation and its desired outcomes. The evaluation came in under the budgeted amount.

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.2.3. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets

Comment and Analysis: There were enough staff on the evaluation and their skills were all either specialist in various domains of aid effectiveness and not necessarily in a specialist in evaluation. There was good background knowledge in similar donor work done by the service provider in the past allowing for familiarity in the aid domain to be further explored.

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.2.4. Where appropriate, the evaluation planned to incorporate an element of capacity building of partners/staff responsible for the evaluand

Comment and Analysis: This was not stipulated in the TORs. The unit for aid in Treasury is a small one and so people involved were not part of a larger capacity building component of the evaluation.

Rating: 1

### 1.3. Alignment to policy context and background literature

Standard: 1.3.1. There was evidence that a review of the relevant policy and programme environments had been conducted and used in planning the research

Comment and Analysis: Since the evaluation followed the evaluation of Phase 1 PD, one could say that there had to have been a review of the relevant policy and programme environments used in planning the research. The TORs state, "the first Phase of the Evaluation ran from march 2007 to September 2008 and aimed at providing information on the "HOWs and WHYs" of the early implementation process of the PD, looking at inputs and early outputs. Due to the preliminary research done, the 2nd Phase would then emphasize "outcomes and results and offer answer to the critical policy question of whether the intended long-term effects of the PD are being achieved or advanced" (TORs, 2009: 2).

Rating: 4

Standard: 1.3.2. There was evidence of a review of appropriate literature having been conducted and used in planning the research

Comment and Analysis: The research dates back to 2008 as a result of aid effectiveness debates, global movement, and treasury part of to. This Paris Declaration was signed in early 2000. On annual basis an evaluation is undertaken just to track the progress on aid effectiveness principals in aligned to signature. The TOR also goes into highlighting which data would be most relevant to the evaluation, types of literature reviews to be conducted to specifically meet the needs of the OECD.

Phase 2 was came after the monitoring survey of 2007. The background of the TOR provides a brief description of where the previous literature conducted for the evaluation can be sourced which informed the evaluation. The actual report goes further into discussing this literature.

Rating: 4

## 1.4. Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology

Standard:	1.4.1. There was explicit reference to the intervention logic or the theory of change of the evaluand in the planning of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The theory of change is described in the key elements of the evaluation framework where the theory of change "anticipates and explores complexity rather than expecting to apply simple or one-dimensional models of attribution" (TORs, 2009: 7). A logic chain is also mentioned through the three different diagrams of the Evaluation Framework guiding relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.
Rating:	4
Standard:	1.4.2. Key stakeholders were consulted on the design and methodology of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	There was a steering committee formed which encompassed all OD coordinators of national departments. Because the evaluation was commissioned for a larger piece of work, there was a generic methodology developed to meet the standards of compiling the information from all participating countries into one finalized document. Therefore, the actual TOR stipulated a preferred methodology that needed to be followed by the service providers, but that could also shape to provide more information if needed.
Rating:	3
Standard:	1.4.3. The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked
Comment and Analysis:	A section in the TOR looked at the specific methodology that needed to pursue the evaluation and ensure it answers the evaluation questions that were tabled. It saw a syntheses and meta-analyses of existing evidence, structured surveys and questionnaires (including focus groups with different government branches and spheres), donor agencies, civil society and the private sector. Another aspect of the methodology stipulated that there be a common template by all or almost all country evaluations of one important 'tracer sector" (i.e. health) for comparable analysis. It also included backward tracking and forward looking analysis. The methodology was envisioned to be appropriate and useful for the purpose of the evaluation questions.
Rating:	4
Standard:	1.4.4. Sampling was appropriate and adequate given focus and purpose of evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	A purposeful sample selection from the sampling frame (Sector and Programme Matrix) provided with the ToR, including the identification of relevant information sources. Most of the departments that use donor aid were consulted and sampled. There were government departments, civil society, donor agencies, the private sector and the academia involved to try achieve the objective of the evaluation. By having such a variety in the sampling more rich content could be sourced to provide the evaluation with more robustness and strengthen findings.
Rating:	4

Standard:	1.4.5. There was a planned process for using the findings of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The findings would be presented to the 4th High Level Forum in 2011. Members of this would include the "executive and legislative branches of government in the country, those of its bilateral development partners, governing authorities and senior management of development agencies" (TOR: 2009: 3). The findings were going to be presented in Busan, South Korea in April as these would help shape the issues on mutual accountability, alignment with donors and systems in South Africa. The findings were also expected to be of direct interest to citizens of host and developing countries.
Rating:	5

## 1.5. Project management (Planning phase)

Standard:	1.5.1. The inception phase was used to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented
Comment and Analysis:	<p>The inception phase helped to iron out some blurred lines that were not clearly articulated in the TOR. The only refinement that took place was looking at narrowing down and clearing the definition of the Climate Change, because it wasn't clearly spelt out and the service provider felt that it was a big engrossed topic. Due to the late award of the project, scheduling meetings with different stakeholders would prove to be a challenge, due to the festive period.</p> <p>It is also guided by the December 20th 2010 communications arising from the International Reference Group Workshop in Indonesia in early December 2010 which emphasised that the evaluation teams should focus on issues/questions where evidence is available and findings can be substantiated.</p>
Rating:	4

## 2. Implementation

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### 2.1. Evaluation ethics and independence

Standard: 2.1.1. Where data was gathered in contexts where ethical sensitivity is high, appropriate clearance was achieved through an ethics review board; e.g. in evaluation involving minors, institutions where access usually requires ethical or bureaucratic clearance, and situations where assurances of confidentiality was offered to participants

Comment and Analysis: No ethical considerations needed to be taken in terms of high sensitivity areas. Due to the global understanding of the desire of the evaluation, all necessary parties who either received donor funding or were part of the initiative were well aware of the processes.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.1.2. Where external, the evaluation team was able to work freely without significant interference

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation team felt as if it was a free evaluation process that had not been influence by any major contributing stakeholder. The team did not feel influenced in anyway by the commissioning team.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.1.3. The evaluation team was impartial and there was no evidence of conflict of interest

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation team brought fairness to the process and there was no proof that there was any conflict of interest in anyway. They were not steered in any direction to make certain recommendations that would impede on the results of the overall evaluation. Treasury felt that they had the expertise to carry out the evaluation but choice to bring on a more independent opinion to look into the processes.

Rating: 4

### 2.2. Participation and M&E skills development

Standard: 2.2.1. Key stakeholders were consulted through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement

Comment and Analysis: Key stakeholders were consulted through means of formal communication and through the advisory group that was formed. The National Evaluation Coordinator was appointed by government to ensure setting up of in-country national reference/advisory group and interaction of departments to assist the service provider, WYC, with the engagements for meetings.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.2.2. Where appropriate, an element of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluand was incorporated into the evaluation process

Comment and Analysis: Nothing was mentioned specifically targeting capacity building, however since the department does not work as a silo, the public finance unit deals with projects that get aid money were able to better understand relationships between beneficiaries desires and that of the donors. This was a process that was seen to blend in part of the process of the evaluation.

Rating: 2

Standard: 2.2.3. Where appropriate, the evaluation team incorporated an element of skills development amongst the evaluators (e.g. students, interns, recent graduates, etc)

Comment and Analysis: Nothing in the nature was mentioned. There were time sensitive issues so this evaluation had to be done at the most cost effective and time efficient manner.

Rating: 1

Standard: 2.2.4. Peer review of the agreed evaluation design and methodology occurred prior to undertaking data collection

Comment and Analysis: There wasn't a peer review for the evaluation officially used. The evaluation was owned by the relevant stakeholders from Treasury.

Rating: 1

### 2.3. Methodological integrity

Standard: 2.3.1. The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned

Comment and Analysis: Due to the nature of the evaluation being from a global context a designed information matrix of questions was a mandatory tool to ask high level questions. This was a planned approach which the service provider delivered on. Because it wasn't a small scale evaluation all protocol needed to be followed due to the extent to which the evaluation needed to be comparable from a larger perspective. Customised questions were designed by the service provider to fit in the understanding of the country context of aid in South Africa.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.3.2. A pilot of data collection instrumentation occurred prior to undertaking data collection

Comment and Analysis: No pilot data collection was done prior to evaluation data collection phase due to time sensitive issues as the evaluation started later than planned. The service provider had to begin working of the evaluation immediately and keep reworking and refining their tools as each interview process went along.

Rating: 1

Standard:	2.3.3. Data collection was not compromised by fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions from original intentions
Comment and Analysis:	The biggest issue that resulted in the evaluation process was the timing of the entire process. Due to the late start of the evaluation the service provider ran into a few issues. Due to the late project started late (i.e. November 2010) interviews fell over the Christmas period meaning that availability of some key partners was difficult to attain. Significant time needs to be given to allow for giving feedback and getting buy in from all relevant stakeholders. The service provider noted that even after the evaluation process, recommendations need to be explore with people in order for their buy-in to be stronger and for it to have more ownership.
Rating:	3
Standard:	2.3.4. Forms of data gathering were appropriate given the scope of evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The data collection instruments used included an Electronic Survey; discussion topics addressed by small groups in workshop setting; structured questionnaire for interviews with representatives of South African government departments; structured questionnaire for interviews with Development Partner. In addition, data was also collected through the review of relevant literature . This was all necessary to cover the bigger purpose of the evaluation and also the more case study focused agenda of the intentions of the evaluation.
Rating:	4
Standard:	2.3.5. The data analysis approach and methods were appropriate and sufficient given the purposes of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	Analysis looked at incorporating the core three questions of the bigger evaluation of the project. The data collection methods which were interviews, focus groups, structured surveys and questionnaires were seen to be sufficient in order to address the purpose of the evaluation. These did not come separate to more engagement with a literature review and documentation review, syntheses and meta-analyses, template of analysis, backward tracking and forward looking analysis.
Rating:	4
Standard:	2.3.6. Key stakeholders were significantly engaged as part of the methodology
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was under a lot of time pressures and so engagement with relevant stakeholders to the full extent of the evaluation was difficult. Therefore not all stakeholders were engaged with. There wasn't sufficient time to incorporate feedback with stakeholders or follow-ups to ensure that information was correctly represented.
Rating:	3

Standard: 2.3.7. The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information

Comment and Analysis: The main reason for the evaluation was to get to the beneficiaries of the aid interviewed to better understand "the effectiveness and development results on poverty reduction" (TOR: 2010: pg. 2). Because South Africa does not have a formal agreement or detailed strategy for the implementation of the PD, it is firmly fixed on the notion of country ownership. So interaction with beneficiaries at this scale looked at its value at leveraging own resources more effectively and in its implications for the transfer of knowledge, best practices, and in embedding innovative approaches. Engagement occurred with public sector (ministers, parliamentarians in ODA oversight, Technical Assistance Unit (TAU), and the International Development Cooperation Unit (IDC) and Health and Environment sectors.

Rating: 3

## 2.4. Project management (Implementation phase)

Standard: 2.4.1. The evaluation was conducted without significant shifts to scheduled project milestones and timeframes

Comment and Analysis: The timeframe of the evaluation was extremely tight. The evaluation was conducted over four months starting in November 2010. Some engagement with relevant stakeholders did not occur due to availability. Project milestones were achieved but with some of the findings that needed to come out the study, it would have strengthened the analysis to allow for more time to ensure that all information adequately fed into the bigger part of the OECD agenda. This was a drastic delay and also made the data collection a difficult one for the service provider.

Rating: 1

## 3. Report

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### 3.1. Completeness of reporting structure

Standard:	3.1.1. Executive summary captures key components of the report appropriately
Comment and Analysis:	Findings and conclusions were well articulated in the executive summary and gave good key recommendations (on common questions) about the country evaluations. It gave succinct outlines of what the country evaluation report achieved in light of the Organisation Economic Co-operation Development (OECD) agenda and managed to incorporate the needs of looking at a middle income country that does not receive nearly as much donor aid funding as other countries in this bracket.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.2. The context of the development intervention is explicit and presented as relevant to the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The broader development agenda aims to bridge gaps with addressing how the PD with the assistance of the Accra Agenda for Action effectively contributes to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other mechanism put in place to try enable or inhibit development in countries in reducing poverty. The country evaluation therefore accurately represents this through highlighting some of the vehicles that contribute to development outcomes and meeting with the range of participating development agencies that are involved in reducing poverty and inequality and economic growth increase.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.3. There is a clear rationale for the evaluation questions
Comment and Analysis:	Due to the broad consensus of the PD the evaluation questions provided for a good premise on looking at the three evaluation questions for the boarder context of the evaluation from the OECD level. It was mentioned that some additional questions were customized to understand the environment of aid in South Africa more clearly
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.4. The scope or focus of the evaluation is apparent in the report
Comment and Analysis:	The scope of the evaluation mentioned in the evaluation report mentions in a section the purpose and scope of the evaluation. The focus of the evaluations is rested on ensuring that the "strengthening of the PD and its application in South Africa, assessing increased impact aid has on reducing poverty and inequality, in increasing growth, and in building capacity and accelerating the achievement of the MDGs" (WYG, 2011: pg. 10). The evaluation highlighted engagements with public sector stakeholders, Health and Environment sector, IDC, TAU DIRCO, provincial, district and local authorities and civil society organisations.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.1.5. A detailed methodology is outlined in the relevant section of the report to the point that a reader can understand the data collection, analysis and interpretation approaches used
Comment and Analysis:	<p>The methodology for the final report comprises the use of a combination of the following instruments and arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The results of Phase 1 of the Evaluation, which will be used in the report as an initial reference point.</li> <li>- The use of the development and application of the Evaluation Matrix built around the 'three questions' in the form of an interview schedule for use with key stakeholders.</li> <li>- These stakeholders are in the public sector (ministries, parliamentarians responsible for ODA oversight, senior staff in the Technical Assistance Unit (TAU) and International Development Cooperation Unit (IDC) responsible for assessing managing and coordinating ODA); in the development partner community active in the selected Health and the Environment sectors including Water and more specifically the Climate Change sectors.</li> <li>- Where respondents are not available an electronic copy of the matrix was sent</li> <li>- The Presidency was also involved in the interview process.</li> </ul> <p>Use of the results of Phase 1 of the Evaluation, which was used in the report as the initial reference point and extensive use of global, national and local literature on 'development', the Paris Declaration, aid effectiveness and North-South South development dialogue and debates.</p> <p>The report provides a detailed methodology outline of which was concise for the reader to understand and follow and also follow up on the various data instruments used.</p>
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.1.6. Acknowledgement of limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly and succinctly articulated
Comment and Analysis:	<p>Limitations are clearly highlighted in the beginning of the report and note issues around engaging with some senior staff from South Africa from the Departments of Environment and Energy in Washington and in Cancun, Mexico for the COP 16 deliberations. The other limitation included "lack of institutional memory regarding both the coordination of ODA and of the PD due to transfers and resignations of staff were raised, as were limits due to ministries 'splitting' (from the Dept. of Environment Affairs and Tourism into the Dept of Environmental Affairs, and from the Dept. of Minerals and Energy to form the Dept. of Energy" (WYG, 2011: pg 12). Overall limitation of the report is the use of only the two main sectors in making statements on the extent and state of an overall 'aid effectiveness effort' in South Africa.</p>
Rating:	5

Standard:	3.1.7. Key findings are presented in a clear way; they are made distinct from uncertain or speculative findings; and unused data is not presented in the body of the report
Comment and Analysis:	<p>Key findings are explained through the three key questions that needed to be answered by the evaluation. They give sufficient explanation to the broader needs of the evaluation. All data presented was necessary and used for the report.</p>
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.1.8. Conclusions and recommendations are clear and succinctly articulated
Comment and Analysis:	A framework for conclusions is defined according to the evaluation questions. They are clearly articulated and are defined with the key focus of the questions. The use of this method also allows for more defined explanation on how conclusions were established and then there is an overall conclusion that shows the need to have this because "Of the PD principles – effective country ownership, along with good alignment and harmonisation can make the strongest contribution to aid effectiveness and development results, but can be constrained by different and competing interests. There is wide variance evidenced in the sectors regarding the significance and sustainability of aid via the principles, but the overall view of the team is that these investments have been extensive and significant, in relation to the needs and demands of a middle income country like South Africa" (WYG, 2011: pg. 7). The recommendations are clearly highlighted and are in line with some of the conclusions that have come out of the study.
Rating:	4

### 3.2. Accessibility of content

Standard:	3.2.1. The final evaluation report is user-friendly, written in accessible language and its content follows a clear logic
Comment and Analysis:	The final report is user friendly but there needs to be some kind of economics understanding to better understand some of the figures. Because the document was disseminated widely the use of the evaluation is needed to be understood by all relevant audiences including the public.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.2.2. Quality of writing and presentation is adequate for publication including: adequate layout and consistent formatting; complete sentences and no widespread grammatical or typographical errors; consistency of style and writing conventions (e.g. tense, perspective (first person, third person); levels of formality; references complete and consistent with cited references in reference list and vice versa; etc.
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation is well written and the layout is presented in such a way that makes reading easy and enjoyable. There aren't any errors, grammatical issues or inconsistencies with style of the document and its visual preparation. It is a good document that is formal and complete with the necessary referenced documents.
Rating:	5

Standard:	3.2.3. Appropriate conventions are used in presentation of data (e.g. use of appropriate statistical language; reporting of p-values where appropriate; not reporting statistically insignificant findings as significant; clarifying disaggregation categories in constructing percentages; not using quantitative language in reporting qualitative data, etc.)
Comment and Analysis:	Appropriate uses of data are presented in the report. findings are reported in graphs with percentages for better understanding of donor funding received from donor agencies. Use of mathematical and economic terms are adopted in order to make comparisons with other countries/ look at the historical background of South Africa's economic performance with regards to the intention of aid and its usefulness to the context of a middle income country. There is good use of quantitative language that also makes the document more high level for interpretation and further individual engagement.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.2.4. The use of figures and tables is such that it supports communication and comprehension of results; and data reported in figures and tables are readily discernible and useful to a reader familiar with data presentation conventions
Comment and Analysis:	Graphs were used to highlight findings on ODA contribution by sector in donor countries, disbursement of ODA, distribution of ODA. The supporting qualitative information was substantial and adequate to further understand the context of ODA. Hardly any graphs used in the report to communicate results of the evaluation. Largely boxed examples that sometimes go into different aspects of what is being discussed by the evaluation at a particular time. This should not have direct implications on what illustrations are used to interpret some of the results as the need to ensure that questions are answered to serve the more broader context of the evaluation is key.
Rating:	3

### 3.3. Robustness of findings

Standard:	3.3.1. Data analysis appears to have been well executed
Comment and Analysis:	Data analysis is well articulated and presented in a way that was clear in the report. Relevance to the key findings was well documented to ensure that variance in findings is well documented and discussed to make solid recommendations.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.3.2. Findings are supported by available evidence
Comment and Analysis:	Evidence is provided by the references and contact lists from meetings with all relevant stakeholders. This is available to National Treasury and the OECD.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.3.3. The evidence gathered is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument
Comment and Analysis:	WYG was able to provide a well argued report that provided good analysis of information on the evidence that was gathered.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.3.4. There is appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	Alternative interpretations are not provided but there is an awareness that these could have occurred. Exploring different feedback from evidence gathered and expanding on the sample size is mentioned as an understanding to alternative interpretations.
Rating:	4

Standard: 3.3.5. The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws  
Comment and Analysis: Due to the methodology being developed by OECD following that guideline meant that there would be linear form of conducting research with the report which looks free from issues of design and analysis.  
Rating: 4

Standard: 3.3.6. Relevant limitations of the evaluation are noted  
Comment and Analysis: The general limitations of the evaluation are clearly noted and are provided in the text of the report. Issues of time to ensure that the scope was successfully covered to meet with the national expectations and that of the OECD. Lack of availability of main primary data sources due to delayed beginning of the project. Overall, the report also highlighted that the use of only two main sectors in making statements to the report about aid effectiveness in South Africa were seen as not sufficient  
Rating: 4

### 3.4. Strength of conclusions

Standard: 3.4.1. Conclusions are derived from evidence  
Comment and Analysis: Conclusions are made from the analysis of the document discussed with the common questions of the broader evaluation report. They are succinct and are directly linked to the core mandate of the evaluations intention. The conclusions provided good summaries of each of the main points discussed.  
Rating: 4

Standard: 3.4.2. Conclusions take into account relevant empirical and/or analytic work from related research studies and evaluations  
Comment and Analysis: Conclusions look at incorporating both document literature review that looked at international and national review of information provided on the topic. Using interviews to strengthen the analysis of the evaluation allowed for varied use of evidence to determine the conclusions related to the context of the country and the studies that were provided.  
Rating: 4

Standard: 3.4.3. Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions  
Comment and Analysis: Conclusions go back to addressing the purpose of the evaluation and its common questions. The conclusions go into looking at the general consensus of the how South Africa fairs with PD and how aid effectiveness in the country, "is thus a matter of better targeting of structural anomalies, gaps and missions in cross-sectoral progression" (WYG, 2011: pg. 7).  
Rating: 4

Standard:	3.4.4. Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change
Comment and Analysis:	There is a clear process that the conclusion has followed with reference to the logic chain, seen as the evaluation matrix. Although not explicitly referenced, the framework for conclusions is placed on the premise of the evaluation matrix.
Rating:	3

### 3.5. Suitability of recommendations

Standard:	3.5.1. Recommendations are made in consultation with appropriate sectoral partners or experts
Comment and Analysis:	All stakeholders who were interviewed, whether sectoral partners or government departments or experts were consulted during the recommendations period. The evaluation team themselves needed to involve the triangulation of all information to get varying degree of views from stakeholders, then information was shared with them to interpretation was right that informed the recommendations from the discussions.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.5.2. Recommendations are shaped following discussions with relevant government officials and other relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	Recommendations have come after most of the organized interviews were conducted with the targeted sample after the stakeholder workshop. This workshop was in consultation with donor agencies, national departments and private sector. This comprised of people outside the advisory group.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.5.3. Recommendations are relevant to the current policy context
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations are focused on aid policy and show that development departments are required to be involved in assisting with "bottlenecks and thus promoting delivery at a greater scale as well as for innovation, not based on other regional experiences, but also exploring indigenous solutions to local challenges" (WYC, 2001:pg. 67). The agendas in the recommendations largely look at regional involvements and South-South corporation interactions that can enhance aid effectiveness in South Africa. The recommendations also play a crucial role in aid effectiveness and MDG trends on building policy engagements which also play a crucial role in the development path in the South African policy space.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.5.4. Recommendations are targetted at a specific audience sufficiently - are specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable
Comment and Analysis:	Some of the recommendations are sector specific with regards to South Africa's positioning with aid. The realistic nature of the recommendations looks at targeting donor agencies with donor receivers to try, widen scope of their activities, sear for indigenou solutions to local issues whilst promoting local and national development, strengthen implementation of PDA and to align partners into coordinating support into the countries 12 priority outcomes. These recommendations are feasible to the nature of the OD relations desired by both parties to collaborate better and to use South-South cooperation to enhance resourcing and capacity.
Rating:	4

### 3.6. Consideration of reporting risks and ethical implications

Standard:	3.6.1. Peer review of the draft evaluation report occurred prior to finalisation of the evaluation report
Comment and Analysis:	There was no peer review however there was an in Country Reference/Advisory group which helped with the verification of the information and validity of the draft report before it was finalised.
Rating:	2

Standard:	3.6.2. The full report documents procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent where necessary (in some cases this is not needed - e.g. evaluation synthesis - in which case N/A should be recorded)
Comment and Analysis:	The report highlights the procedures it undertook to conduct the evaluation and ensure evaluation best practice and documents consent forms and a transcript of stakeholders that were consulted.
Rating:	5

Standard:	3.6.3. There are no risks to participants in disseminating the original report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	There wasn't any risks associated to participants in disseminating the original report on the public website. Because all information was also public knowledge individual reputation or personalities were not individually targeted towards the findings of the report.
Rating:	4

Standard:	3.6.4. There are no unfair risks to institutions in disseminating the original report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	All involved institutions which were largely government departments had no risks sharing information about their aid processes and data. Their roles involved ODA oversight which helped with interpreting a comprehensive picture of South Africa's roles in aid effectiveness.
Rating:	4

### 3.7. Project management (Reporting phase)

Standard:	3.7.1. A project closure meeting that reflected on the challenges and strengths of the evaluation process occurred
Comment and Analysis:	There was a project closure meeting with the WYG and National Treasury. Some issues were raised were time sensitive issues that resulted in disadvantaging the consultants in doing more follow-ups with stakeholders that they did not get a chance to interview and also with some of the information they gathered. It also looked at strengthening interactions for future evaluations.
Rating:	4

## 4. Follow-up, use and learning

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### 4.1. Resource utilisation

Standard:	4.1.1. The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes
Comment and Analysis:	Although the service provider felt that the timeframe was extremely tight to cover the extent of detail needed for the evaluation, they still completed the work on time for the delivery of the 4th High Level Forum and produced a good report that was incorporated to the overall OECD PD evaluation.
Rating:	3

Standard:	4.1.2. The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget
Comment and Analysis:	The agreed budget of \$152 905 and the evaluation was completed under budget and came in at about R700 000- R750 000.
Rating:	5

### 4.2. Evaluation use

Standard:	4.2.1. Results of the evaluation have been presented to all relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	The consultation process worked extremely well, and resulted in creating an inclusive process to ensure that all departments concerns were heard. After the study was done, a full day workshop took place to unpack the study chapter by chapter to better understand results. This ensured better representation and creating a better process to follow up with the relevant country/ donor that was mentioned. The results were presented in Busan where other countries were involved with sharing their results from the evaluations that were conducted.
Rating:	5

Standard:	4.2.2. A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee (if no steering committee exists then by the evaluation management team or the involved department officials) to reflect on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations
Comment and Analysis:	The steering committee had an opportunity to engage with the results but they could not fully unpack each of the mechanisms that could have been employed to strengthen future evaluations. However, aid managers were more aware of what is needed for the future of aid effectiveness.
Rating:	2

Standard:	4.2.3. The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as having added significant symbolic value to the policy or programme (e.g. raised its profile)
Comment and Analysis:	There is no evidence to suggest that the interviewed stakeholders felt that the evaluation would add significant symbolic value to the policy or programme. The evaluation is intended to affect the interviewed stakeholders, but the to what extent is a different case. Because the timeframe of the evaluation was short lived to better raise some of this policy concerns.
Rating:	1
Standard:	4.2.4. The evaluation study is of conceptual value in understanding what has happened and possibly in shaping policy and practice
Comment and Analysis:	In climate change the potential lies in supporting appropriate institutional alignment for implementation, attaining policy coherence and cohesion over time, and in implementation. Aid effectiveness is thus a matter of better targeting of structural anomalies, gaps and omissions in cross-sectoral progression. This is one of the key areas that can focus on shaping policy practice. It is a good exercise to assist government face the bigger issues of climate change. In the case of South Africa, the study helped with looking at outcomes and movement from there to understand and how the 5 key principals have been implemented in the last 5 years and how they can be improved.
Rating:	4
Standard:	4.2.5. Development of a draft improvement plan has been started, but not completed, based on the findings and recommendations set out in the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	After the submission of country report there was a submission about the process at an international level. No specific indication was given by WYG or National Treasury that an improvement plan was going to be developed.
Rating:	2
Standard:	4.2.6. The report is publicly available (website or otherwise published document), except where there were legitimate security concerns *Note: only apply if sufficient time has elapsed since completion of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The report is available of the OECD website and there is also a country report available on the National Treasury website. There is a executive summary available too which is more reader friendly.
Rating:	4
Standard:	4.2.7. There is clear evidence of instrumental use - that the recommendations of the evaluation were implemented to a significant extent *Note: only apply if sufficient time has elapsed since completion of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	Whether recommendations were implemented or no, this would be with the OECD and its engagement with beneficiaries. National Treasury gave a presentation of the recommendations from the country study which were translated in the bigger report.
Rating:	N/A

Standard:	4.2.8. There is clear evidence that the evaluation has had a positive influence on the evaluand, its stakeholders and beneficiaries over the medium to long term *Note: only apply if sufficient time has elapsed since completion of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	Not enough time has lapsed other than three years to actually inform aid policies.
Rating:	N/A

## References

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National Treasury of South Africa, (2010). Services Agreement: WYC International Incorporated in the United Kingdom. November 2010.

WYG International, (2011). Phase Two: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action in South Africa: Executive Summary. February 2011.

WYG International Limited, (2011). Phase Two Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action in South Africa: Final Country Evaluation Report. February 2011.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, (2008). The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.

## List of Interviewees

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Ms Mokgadi Tena – Director Infrastructure Cluster and Aid effectiveness, National Treasury South Africa. Interview: 4 July 2014

Mr Simon Ferreira– Deputy Director Social Cluster, National Treasury South Africa. Interview: 4 July 2014

Charles Reeve - Regional Director, WYG INTERNATIONAL LTD: Pretoria, South Africa. Telecom interview: 7 July 2014