



Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Evaluation Title:	Making the Most of Climate Change Finance in Africa: Synthesis report from six country studies
Evaluation Number:	430
Evaluation Completion Date:	01 September 2011
Period of Evaluation:	2010-2011
Submitted:	12 August 2014 by Meagan Jooste
Approved:	13 August 2014 by Mike Leslie

Evaluation Details

Evaluation Title:	Making the Most of Climate Change Finance in Africa: Synthesis report from six country studies
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Created:	19 May 2014 by Mike Leslie
Submitted:	12 August 2014 by Meagan Jooste
Approved:	13 August 2014 by Mike Leslie
Period of Evaluation:	2010-2011
Known Cost:	
Known Cost Type:	No Data
Initiated By:	OECD's Development Cooperation Directorate and the African Development Bank
Initiated By Internal:	No
Undertaken By:	Multiple Agulhas Applied Knowledge (UK) researchers, as well as a private South African consultant, namely, Jeff Zingel
Undertaken By Internal:	No

Assessors

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Assessment Documents

Document Name:	Document Type:	Added By:	Added On:
CC Aid Effectiveness Africa Synthesis Agulhas _South Africa Zingel.pdf	Evaluation report	Mike Leslie	19 May 2014
Making_the_Most_of_Climate_Change_Financing_in_Asia_and_the_Pacific-CDDE_Report_2010.pdf	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Meagan Jooste	04 August 2014
CC S.A Final JZ.pdf	Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process	Meagan Jooste	04 August 2014
Assessment Report at Moderation.pdf	Assessment Report at Moderation	Mike Leslie	11 August 2014

Quality Assessment Summary

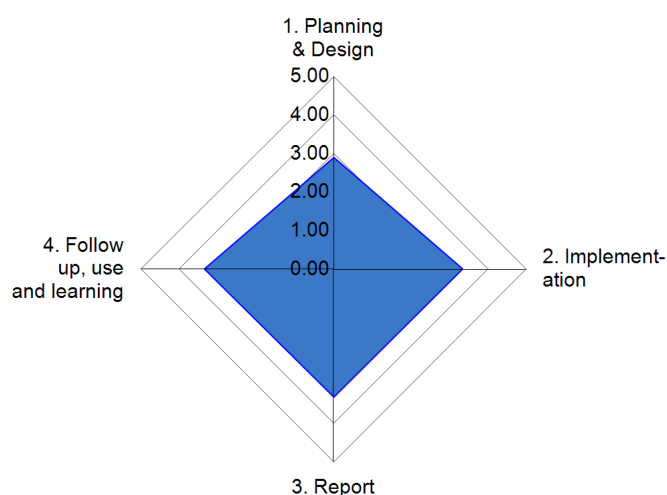
The overall score of this evaluation has been rated at 3.24 out of 5 on the Likert-type scale applied to assess the quality of government evaluations. This rating implies that the evaluation is of an adequate quality and was afforded to the evaluation as, while the evidence base of the evaluation was well-founded, the assessor could have benefited from more information about the design and implementation of the evaluation. The assessor's insights to the evaluation relied solely on the South African case study evaluator's inputs as the evaluator responsible for this evaluation synthesis was unavailable for engagement. Despite this, the South African evaluator's knowledge of the context and ultimate effect of the evaluation was insightful. Due to the South African evaluator not being provided with a clear brief/scope of work upfront, the planning and design phase of the evaluation was only scored 2.89 (implying it was less than adequate) as this represents a significant shortfall. At the time of the evaluation, there was a limited body of knowledge on the scale and dynamics of climate change finance in Africa. This evaluation was thus important in collating a collection of desktop information and stakeholder views in the African context into a concise report which reflects on climate finance relative to the key principles of Aid Effectiveness. It was also key in identifying areas for improvement in the management and roll-out of such financing on the continent particularly as relates to the key role-players (governments, international funders and global institutions). The report phase of the evaluation was thus scored at 3.31 as its compilation was more than adequate. The evaluation takes good account of the contextual factors at play in the case study countries, to describe the status, nature and management of climate change finance and was thus scored 4.00 in terms of the 'coordination and alignment' overarching consideration. In addition, the effect of the evaluation on the continent was viewed as important as, in combination with complementary case studies of other African countries, the evaluation findings were used to develop the Nairobi Declaration on African Principles for Aid Effectiveness in Climate Finance. It is however, not known to what extent the evaluation's team benefited from skills development through the evaluation. The assessor thus scored the 'capacity development' overarching consideration as slightly better than adequate (i.e. it was scored 3.29). Overall, the findings of this assessment are that the evaluation is viewed to not only have been timely but to have presented a vital platform for discussions around the constraints and opportunities to the expanded roll-out of climate finance on the African continent.

Quality Assessment Scores

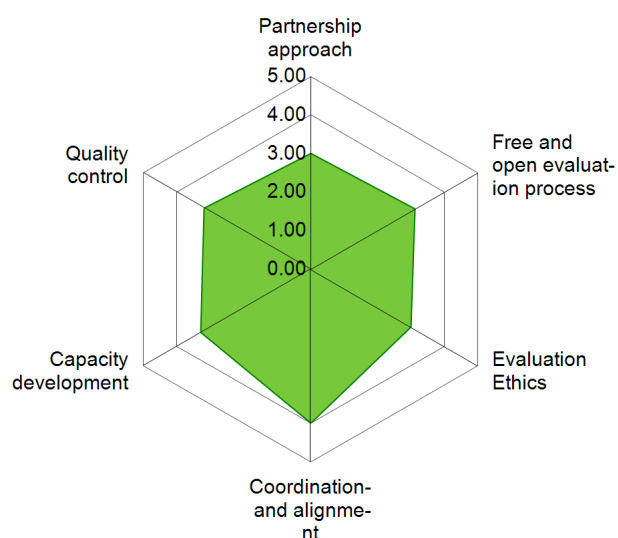
Phase of Evaluation	Score
1. Planning & Design	2.89
2. Implementation	3.36
3. Report	3.31
4. Follow-up, use and learning	3.35
Total	3.24

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	3.00
Free and open evaluation process	3.13
Evaluation Ethics	3.00
Coordination and alignment	4.00
Capacity development	3.29
Quality control	3.18
Total	3.24

Scores: Phases of Evaluation



Scores: Overarching Considerations



Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
1. Planning & Design	1.1. Quality of the TOR	2.63
1. Planning & Design	1.2. Adequacy of resourcing	4.14
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	2.61
1. Planning & Design	1.5. Project management (Planning phase)	2.00
2. Implementation	2.1. Evaluation ethics and independence	2.64
2. Implementation	2.2. Participation and M&E skills development	3.10
2. Implementation	2.3. Methodological integrity	3.83
2. Implementation	2.4. Project management (Implementation phase)	3.00
3. Report	3.1. Completeness of reporting structure	3.67
3. Report	3.2. Accessibility of content	4.00
3. Report	3.3. Robustness of findings	3.23
3. Report	3.4. Strength of conclusions	2.86
3. Report	3.5. Suitability of recommendations	3.15
3. Report	3.6. Consideration of reporting risks and ethical implications	2.85
3. Report	3.7. Project management (Reporting phase)	2.00
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.1. Resource utilisation	4.00
4. Follow-up, use and learning	4.2. Evaluation use	3.21
Total	Total	3.24

1. Planning & Design

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: An engagement with the evaluator (Agulhas UK) could not be secured for this assessment and thus insight into the planning & design phase of the project, relied on inputs from the evaluator commissioned to complete one of the component case studies, specifically that for South Africa. According to that evaluator, the work was not preceded by specific Terms of Reference, but rather, evaluator's were requested to build on their existing research and/or knowledge on climate change finance in their country and develop this further through engagement with key stakeholders in their country according to a common structured interview matrix. Country experts/evaluator's were commissioned by Agulhas UK (on behalf of the OECD and African Development Bank), to complete this evaluation.

Rating: 2

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: A specific Terms of Reference for the study was not provided to the evaluators. The purpose of the evaluation as communicated by Agulhas UK, to the evaluators was to review the landscape of climate finance in the respective case study countries. This included a review of what was and was not working in terms of the application of such finances, who the key role-players were in the absorption and use of such finance and the degree to which the principles of aid effectiveness were being achieved.

Rating: 2

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: As no specific ToR was apparently provided to evaluators, the evaluation questions were in effect those as reflected in the common structured interview matrix forthcoming from Agulhas UK. These questions included a review of the principles of aid effectiveness (Ownership, Alignment, Harmonisation, Results and Mutual Accountability) in terms of their policy, capacity, incentives and constraint elements. These questions are clearly outlined in the appendix of the evaluation and are appropriate to the evaluation purpose as they entail a review of the dynamics of climate finance in the case study countries.

Rating: 3

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: A ToR was apparently not provided to evaluators but as this was a diagnostic evaluation/evaluation synthesis, the approach employed to complete it (desktop literature review, stakeholder engagement in all case study countries and the collation of key findings from across the evaluations into a overarching synthesis), was appropriate. This approach was particularly appropriate at the time of the evaluation when the definition of 'climate finance' was still unclear to many of the case study, and other developing, countries.

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:	A ToR was apparently not provided to evaluators, but Agulhas UK communicated to the evaluators that the outcomes of the case studies would: 1. be collated into a consolidated review of climate finance aid effectiveness in Africa and, 2. be presented at a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in late 2011 to showcase lessons learned from the application of climate finance to date, in Africa.
Rating:	3
Standard:	1.1.6. Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	An engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured to inform this assessment. It is thus not possible to comment on the extent to which key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the work. However, the South African evaluator, indicated that the case studies were meant to mirror their precursor: climate finance across a sample of Asian countries. Agulhas UK completed the Asian case studies prior to the initiation of the African case studies and common structured interview matrix used and developed for the Asian case studies were applied to the African case studies. The South African evaluator understood that the common structured interview matrix and the scope of work for the African case studies were collaboratively determined by Agulhas UK, the OECD and African Development Bank.
Rating:	3

1.2. Adequacy of resourcing

Standard:	1.2.1. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time allocated
Comment and Analysis:	An engagement with the evaluator (Agulhas UK) could not be secured for this assessment and thus insight into the planning & design phase of the project, relied on inputs from the evaluator commissioned to complete one of the component case studies, specifically that for South Africa. The South African evaluator felt that the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time allocated and even despite a minor timeline extension request, the evaluations were completed with time for review and comment, prior to the workshop in Nairobi.
Rating:	4
Standard:	1.2.2. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of original budget
Comment and Analysis:	An engagement with the evaluator (Agulhas UK) could not be secured for this assessment and thus insight into the planning & design phase of the project, relied on inputs from the evaluator commissioned to complete one of the component case studies, specifically that for South Africa. While the South African evaluator reported that the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of the original budget, no comment can be made in relation to the other case study countries nor Agulhas UK.
Rating:	N/A

Standard:	1.2.3. The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets
Comment and Analysis:	In the 'approach' section of the report, it is specified that: "...5 people (some working on more than one case-study), each with complementary experience and skills relating either to climate change or development effectiveness". The South African evaluator felt adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills to complete the evaluation. Based on the fact that this evaluation comprised the compilation of a set of case studies, and it a well-constructed compilation, it is viewed that the evaluation was well resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets.
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:	Agulhas UK were commissioned by the OECD in partnership with the African Development Bank to compile a set of African case studies on climate finance. At the outset, the intention was for the outcomes of the case studies to be presented at a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in late 2011. The workshop was purposefully designed to: 1. showcase lessons learned from the application of climate finance to date, in Africa and, 2. bring experts in the realm of climate finance in Africa, together to share experiences, debate on views and learn from country experiences. As this was an evaluation synthesis, the approach taken whereby a the evaluation comprises the collation of a number of country case studies which was then presented to the evaluand's, is viewed as very valuable and perhaps the most ideal approach for building capacity which could have been possible.
Rating:	5

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:	It is known that this evaluation came post- an earlier evaluation of Asian countries and thus contextual information was likely collated and drawn from that previous evaluation in terms of the international context to climate finance. Further, as this evaluation is a synthesis of a number of African case studies, it is viewed as having been well grounded in the relevant policy and programme literature regarding those country contexts.
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:	There was clear evidence that the author of the evaluation articulated the origins, nature and role of climate finance well and this came across through a clearly described review of the relevant policy and programme environments affecting climate finance globally and in Africa. The African case studies in themselves were completed prior to the compilation of this, overarching evaluation of Africa's experience with climate finance. And as such, there was evidence of a review of the appropriate literature in each country context, having been completed prior to this evaluation.
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:	In the documentation available for this assessment, it is not evident that a clear reference was made to the theory of change of the evaluand.
Rating:	1
Standard:	1.4.2. Key stakeholders were consulted on the design and methodology of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	An engagement with the evaluator (Agulhas UK) could not be secured for this assessment and thus insight into the planning & design phase of the project, relied on inputs from the evaluator commissioned to complete one of the component case studies, specifically that for South Africa. The South African evaluator understood that the common structured interview matrix, scope of work and methodology for the African case studies were collaboratively determined by Agulhas UK, the OECD and African Development Bank. It is not clear whether stakeholders from the case study countries were, for example, consulted during the design and methodology development for the evaluation. It is understood that the approach was informed by that taken to compile the Asian case studies which were completed prior to the commissioning of the African case studies.
Rating:	2
Standard:	1.4.3. The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked
Comment and Analysis:	The approach taken to develop each of the African case studies comprised a rapid assessment of climate change financing and aid effectiveness in the first quarter of 2011 in the 6 case study countries. The common structured interview matrix (presented in the appendix to the report) was then used to develop insight to the complementary experience and skills of climate change and development aid effectiveness. In effect, the methodology comprised a desktop literature review combined with a stakeholder engagement process. Given that at the time of the evaluation, knowledge and literature on climate finance was limited, this approach seems most appropriate and amenable to the questions being asked.
Rating:	4

Standard:	1.4.4. Sampling was appropriate and adequate given focus and purpose of evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	In a footnote on page 10, the evaluation reports that the countries selected for evaluation were chosen by the commissioning agencies to "...represent the range of environmental, economic and political conditions found on the continent...". It is not however clear what this thought process entailed nor why some evaluators were tasked with compiling more than one case study as that may have led to the unintended streamlining of views gathered from such countries. Further, it is questionable that South Africa (which the report acknowledges is the largest continental emitter of carbon dioxide) was sampled with some of the lowest emitters in the world (Cameroon, Tanzania, Ghana, Morocco and Kenya). It seems to make sense to include the low emitters together in a sample but there is concern that South Africa is in fact an outlier in this sample, not only in terms of its emissions-intensity but also in terms of its openness to official development assistance for climate change. Again the report specifies that South Africa "...have been very careful in maintaining a distance from external finance..." and have in fact "...stated an intention to develop the capacity to provide development assistance...".
Rating:	2

Standard:	1.4.5. There was a planned process for using the findings of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	At the outset, the intention was for the outcomes of the evaluation and its component case studies to be presented at a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in late 2011. The workshop was purposefully designed to: 1. showcase lessons learned from the application of climate finance to date, in Africa and, 2. bring experts in the realm of climate finance in Africa, together to share experiences, debate on views and learn from country experiences.
Rating:	4

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:	The South African evaluator confirmed that the inception phase was used to engage with Agulhas UK to clarify the focus of the research and agree on how the evaluation would be implemented. However, the degree to which Agulhas UK engaged with the commissioning body (OECD, AfDB) in this respect, is not known. It is however assumed that the commissioning body would have supported the implementation approach as it mirrored that applied for the prior Asian evaluation synthesis.
Rating:	2

2. Implementation

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:	An engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured for this assessment and so it is not known whether ethical clearance was pursued. However, the data gathered for the evaluation were primarily qualitative in nature as they reflect stakeholder feedback. The evaluation report does not report the feedback verbatim but rather, this feedback was used to identify emerging patterns or differences. As such, the report does not attribute specific points to individuals and thus it is viewed that there are no ethical sensitivities to its composition and thus no need for ethical clearance.
Rating:	2
Standard:	2.1.2. Where external, the evaluation team was able to work freely without significant interference
Comment and Analysis:	While it is not possible to comment on Agulhas UK's degree of freedom in terms of completing the evaluation, the South African evaluator felt freedom to complete the evaluation without interference. The evaluator reported that the OECD and African Development Bank reviewed the case study and provided helpful feedback which enhanced the clarity of the information in the case study but did not result in it adjusting to meet any specific messages.
Rating:	3
Standard:	2.1.3. The evaluation team was impartial and there was no evidence of conflict of interest
Comment and Analysis:	Engagement with Agulhas UK was not possible, but it is evident that the case studies were, with the exception of the South African case study, compiled by the Agulhas UK team only. Agulhas UK's website indicates that they are a consultancy who "...provide advice and support to donor agencies, international organisations, governments and companies...". Given that the report reflects on the status quo of donor climate finance and provides recommendations for enhanced efficiencies in the roll-out of such financing, the evaluation aligns to Agulhas UK's objectives. But as Agulhas UK do not appear to provide or manage climate finance, it is viewed that there is no conflict of interest.
Rating:	3

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:	A core component of the evaluation entailed a stakeholder engagement process in each of the case study African countries according to the common structured interview matrix. These stakeholders were key to the absorption, management and roll-out of climate finance in each of the case study countries and were engaged through a formalised mechanism whereby key respondents were interviewed either face-to-face, in writing or via telephone.
Rating:	4
Standard:	2.2.2. Where appropriate, an element of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluation was incorporated into the evaluation process
Comment and Analysis:	The outcomes of the case studies would be: 1. collated into a consolidated review of climate finance aid effectiveness in Africa and, 2. presented at a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in late 2011 to showcase lessons learned from the application of climate finance to date, in Africa. Based on insights from the South African evaluator, in addition to the project team, workshop participants included the African Development Bank, OECD, and other key role-players in the aid agenda of Africa. In this way, there was ample opportunity for officials present to raise concerns regarding relationships with donors and to talk through means of matching priorities across climate finance recipients and donors. Capacity-building was thus built into the workshop as the main platform for the involvement of key beneficiaries and commissioning representatives in this evaluation synthesis.
Rating:	5
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:	As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured for this assessment, it is not possible to determine whether skills development amongst the evaluators was completed. However, the South African evaluator was the sole party responsible for collating the South African case study and, assuming this was the case for each of the case studies, this may represent a missed opportunity for skills development amongst the evaluators.
Rating:	1
Standard:	2.2.4. Peer review of the agreed evaluation design and methodology occurred prior to undertaking data collection
Comment and Analysis:	The South African evaluator understood that the design and methodology underpinning the evaluation was informed by its precursor, a case study of the application of climate finance in Asia. The assessor was able to access the Asian case study online and noted that the common structured interview matrix employed for that evaluation was mirrored for the African case studies. While the methodology was tried and tested in the Asian context and reviewed by the OECD and African Development Bank, it was not apparent that a peer reviewer, external to the evaluation, reviewed the design and methodology prior to the data collection process.
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: The South African evaluator indicated that the methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those used for the precursor (Asian case studies) and with those planned at the outset of the evaluation.

Rating: 4

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

Comment and Analysis: Agulhas UK had previously completed similar country case studies/evaluations for the Asian sub-continent titled 'Realising Development Effectiveness - Making the Most of Climate Change Finance in Asia and the Pacific'. The common structured interview matrix, the set of questions posed to stakeholders, which is represented in the appendix to this evaluation is a replica of that used for the Asian case studies. As such, the data collection instrument used for this evaluation was used and effectively piloted, in Asia, before application in Africa.

Rating: 4

Standard: 2.3.3. Data collection was not compromised by fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions from original intentions

Comment and Analysis: As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured and so it is not clear whether there were any fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions which may have compromised the data collection processes.

Rating: N/A

Standard: 2.3.4. Forms of data gathering were appropriate given the scope of evaluation

Comment and Analysis: The main forms of data gathering included a desktop literature review and stakeholder engagement process. Through this the intention was to collate information on the status quo of climate finance in Africa. Given that, at the time of its collation, there was a limited understanding of what 'climate finance' really comprised, it was important for the evaluation to include both a desktop and interview information collection exercise. This is especially the case as the interview feedback was intended to complement or provide greater nuance to, information collected through the desktop review. The forms of data gathering were thus appropriate given the scope of the evaluation.

Rating: 3

Standard:	2.3.5. The data analysis approach and methods were appropriate and sufficient given the purposes of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	It is understood from the 'approach' component of the report that the data analysis approach entailed a review of documentation followed by questioning of key respondents either face-to-face, in writing or telephonically. Findings were then collated in order to identify any emerging patterns or differences. Insofar as it was necessary to unpack the status quo of climate finance in Africa at a time when a limited amount of information was documented on the topic (particularly for some of the African case study countries like Tanzania and Morocco), the data analysis approach and methods are deemed to have been appropriate and sufficient for the purposes of the evaluation.
Rating:	4
Standard:	2.3.6. Key stakeholders were significantly engaged as part of the methodology
Comment and Analysis:	A core component of the evaluation involved extensive engagement with key stakeholders in each of the case study African countries. These stakeholders reigned from the following groups: bilateral and multilateral development partners, government, strong civil society organizations working nationally, regionally and globally, representative private organizations, and strong consultancies and think tanks active in the sector.
Rating:	4
Standard:	2.3.7. The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information
Comment and Analysis:	Beneficiaries of climate change aid might, most notably, include national governments and civil society organisations. These parties were actively engaged through the interviews conducted by the evaluator.
Rating:	4

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:	As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured and so it is not clear whether there were any significant shifts to the project milestones and timeframes related to some of the specific African case studies. However, the South African evaluator reported that all the country case studies were completed in advance of the Nairobi, Kenya workshop and that the evaluators even had time to review and comment on this evaluation prior to the workshop. So it is understood that the project time-frames were kept in tact.
Rating:	3

3. Report

3.1. Completeness of reporting structure

Standard:	3.1.1. Executive summary captures key components of the report appropriately
Comment and Analysis:	The executive summary outlines the key findings in relation to donor and beneficiary coordination, managing climate finance and accountability. These key findings are then used to identify means of overcoming the challenges currently faced in such coordination and climate finance management. It would have been nice had it also included some reference to the findings in relation to the specific case study countries but this omission does not take away from the value of it.
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 first main component of the report is dedicated to introducing the reader to the context of development and climate finance globally and to introducing the case study country contexts. This is particularly well done as the context is clearly explained and is of importance to understanding the context to the evaluation.
Rating:	5
Standard:	3.1.3. There is a clear rationale for the evaluation questions
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation questions correspond to the common structured interview matrix which seek to unpack the principles of aid effectiveness in terms of policy, capacity, incentives and constraints. As the overarching purpose of the evaluation is to establish what the role of governments and external funders is in coordinating funding in accordance with international principles developed over the last decades for aid effectiveness, the evaluation questions have a clear rationale.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.4. The scope or focus of the evaluation is apparent in the report
Comment and Analysis:	The report stipulates that it is focused on strengthening the country and regional responses to making climate finance more effective. It also specified that it provides a synthesis of six case studies from countries across the African continent and considers climate change financing through the lens of the internationally agreed Aid Effectiveness principles, focusing on whether countries are well placed to utilize the funds available.
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:	The report outlines the methodology in its 'approach' section and this specifies that a rapid assessment of climate change financing and aid effectiveness was undertaken on the 6 case study countries and that this comprised fieldwork and complementary desktop research. The findings were then collated in order to identify any emerging patterns or differences. It is not evident whether a particular methodology was employed for the latter exercise, i.e. whether a specific qualitative research method was applied to assess the qualitative feedback from stakeholders and categorize them post-interview, or how exactly themes/patterns were identified.
Rating:	3
Standard:	3.1.6. Acknowledgement of limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly and succinctly articulated
Comment and Analysis:	Acknowledgement of the limitations of the findings of the study are made within 'The way forward' section as acknowledgement is made of where there are weaknesses in the current systems which inhibit the effectiveness of climate change aid. However, no explicit mention is however made of any methodology related limitations (or the lack thereof either).
Rating:	1
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:	The main findings of the study are well represented and grounded in the use of examples to substantiate these points through reference to the case study countries. The text boxes and tables presented within the body of the report make a valuable contribution to explaining the key findings.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.1.8. Conclusions and recommendations are clear and succinctly articulated
Comment and Analysis:	The main conclusions and recommendations are presented as 'The way forward' and are clearly articulated, targeted to specific stakeholders (who can have a active role in the implementation of the recommendations) and are succinct.
Rating:	5

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 evaluation report is well-written and the use of guiding sub-headings works particularly well in guiding the reader through the complex intricacies of climate change finance and the extent to which these are achieving the principles of aid effectiveness in Africa. Having reviewed the South African case study report which fed into this evaluation, the assessor noted that this evaluation comprises additional information to provide context to the country and substantiate key points. This represents an added effort by the evaluator to pinpoint information comparable across the case study countries.
Rating:	5
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 quality of writing and presentation of the report is good. The formatting approach is consistent and neat and with the exception of a few grammatical errors, is well presented. One major exclusion is a reference list/bibliography however.
Rating:	3
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 conventions were used in the presentation of the quantitative data on the magnitude of development and climate finance and in terms of the qualitative information as captured in text boxes.
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:	The figures and tables used in the report are particularly valuable in adding to the nuance of the results. The information reported in these is clear, discernible and useful to explaining the logic behind key points made.
Rating:	4

3.3. Robustness of findings

Standard:	3.3.1. Data analysis appears to have been well executed
Comment and Analysis:	The main form of data analysis comprised the collation of qualitative feedback from stakeholders and the identification of emerging patterns and/or differences. This appears to have been well done as the interview feedback provided key contextual information on the case study countries and insights into, perhaps otherwise undocumented, challenges and opportunities to the enhanced effectiveness of climate change aid. In the absence of clear mention of the methodology to assess stakeholder feedback though, it is not evident how views were consolidated across the case studies or whether there were potentially some views which were omitted due to irrelevance or other reasoning.
Rating:	3
Standard:	3.3.2. Findings are supported by available evidence
Comment and Analysis:	The findings contained in the report are substantiated either by information drawn from the individual case study reports, or available literature gathered through the desktop literature review, on the topic of climate change finance in South Africa.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.3.3. The evidence gathered is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument
Comment and Analysis:	The evidence gathered through the stakeholder engagement process and from the literature, are well reviewed and used to support the arguments made in the evaluation, particularly as relates to the inherent limitations to the effective application of climate finance in Africa.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.3.4. There is appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation comprises useful comparisons between the case studies in terms of the range of experiences with the application of climate change aid, as well as where there are distinct similarities or differences in these. A typical example being that there is divergence in the way in which donors define additionality (a key criterion for the application of climate change finance), in relation to planned climate-related projects across the case study countries. In some countries like Tanzania, there is no systematic approach amongst donors and in South Africa, little effort is exerted by donors in capturing it.
Rating:	4
Standard:	3.3.5. The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws
Comment and Analysis:	The report does not appear to present any major methodological nor analytical flaws.
Rating:	3

Standard:	3.3.6. Relevant limitations of the evaluation are noted
Comment and Analysis:	Limitations of the evaluation (such as in terms of the evaluation scope or design) are not distinctly noted in the evaluation. The only limitations noted relate to factors which inhibit the functionality of climate change finance in the African case study countries but not those which have influenced the nature of the evaluation.
Rating:	1

3.4. Strength of conclusions

Standard:	3.4.1. Conclusions are derived from evidence
Comment and Analysis:	The main conclusions (as displayed in 'The Way Forward' section) are derived based on the key findings of the report and are thus driven by the evidence underpinning the findings.
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:	The conclusions rely on the information collated in the main body of the report which derives from empirical information on the magnitude of climate finance and on the qualitative feedback of stakeholders in regard to experience with climate change finance to date. Insofar as this the conclusions use some of the analytical findings of the stakeholder engagement process to substantiate the findings it is good, but no empirical work is revisited in the conclusions to support its findings.
Rating:	2

Standard:	3.4.3. Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions
Comment and Analysis:	The original evaluation purpose and questions relate to understanding the role of governments and external funders in coordinating funding according to international principles of aid effectiveness. The conclusions identify the set of challenges facing: countries, governments, international funders and global institutions. Insofar as the conclusions aim to identify areas of weaknesses in climate change aid effectiveness, they achieve the intended purpose of the evaluation. It would however been useful had the conclusions related back to the principles of aid effectiveness more explicitly, these conclusions tend to be embedded in the overall text but not explicitly drawn out for the reader.
Rating:	3

Standard:	3.4.4. Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change
Comment and Analysis:	Explicit reference to the intervention logic is not made in the conclusions. However, insofar as the conclusions identify a number of input factors which would need to be in place to facilitate the enhanced roll-out of climate finance in alignment with the principles of aid effectiveness (the impact), the intervention logic seems to be represented indirectly.
Rating:	2

3.5. Suitability of recommendations

Standard:	3.5.1. Recommendations are made in consultation with appropriate sectoral partners or experts
Comment and Analysis:	An engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured for this assessment and so it is not known whether appropriate sectoral partners or experts were engaged. The South African evaluator, who represents an expert on the South African case study, reported that the full evaluation report was available for input prior to the Nairobi workshop but it is not clear if any other experts were engaged.
Rating:	2
Standard:	3.5.2. Recommendations are shaped following discussions with relevant government officials and other relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	An engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured for this assessment and so it is not known whether appropriate sectoral partners or experts were engaged. The South African evaluator reported that the full evaluation report was available for input by the evaluators responsible for the case studies prior to the Nairobi workshop but it is not clear who else, if anyone (such as relevant government officials and other relevant/affected stakeholders), had input to the recommendations of the report.
Rating:	1
Standard:	3.5.3. Recommendations are relevant to the current policy context
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations made in the evaluation were not only timely at the time of its writing, but are still of relevance particularly in the context of a growing emphasis of policy-making in relation to climate change and more broadly, the environment.
Rating:	5
Standard:	3.5.4. Recommendations are targetted at a specific audience sufficiently - are specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations are very well and clearly directed to the specific role-players in the absorption and management of climate finance in Africa but also very likely, other developing countries. While an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured and so comment cannot explicitly be made on the 'acceptability' of the recommendations, it is understood that they were presented to a broad audience at the Nairobi workshop which garnered much conversation and recognition of areas for opportunity in the enhancement of effective climate finance application on the continent.
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: The South African evaluator reported that the evaluation report was sent for peer review amongst the case study project team, prior to the Nairobi workshop. It is also understood that the case study reports were reviewed by the OECD and African Development Bank. As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured, it is not known whether a peer reviewer, external to the evaluation synthesis, reviewed the draft report prior to its finalization however.

Rating: 1

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 does not document procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and secure informed consent. Overall however, there are no references made to specific comments made by individuals so it is viewed that there are no confidentiality issues around the generalized reference made to the role of ministries or donors.

Rating: 2

Standard: 3.6.3. There are no risks to participants in disseminating the original report on a public website

Comment and Analysis: There are no risks to participants in disseminating the original report on a public website as the information made public on the evaluation, does not specify the names of persons engaged.

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: In general, the evaluation does not appear to raise contentious issues but rather works towards identifying the concerns of key parties and to identify means for converting these opportunities for enhanced climate change aid.

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:	A week long workshop was held in Nairobi where all the case study reports were presented along with the overarching evaluation report. The intention of the workshop was to share lessons learned from the case studies in terms of i. the effectiveness of climate change aid and, it is understood, ii. in investigating the topic in Africa. As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured however, it is not known whether this workshop was also used as a platform to reflect on the evaluation itself. It is assumed that this may have occurred indirectly as a spin-off from the sharing of lessons across workshop participants.
Rating:	2

4. Follow-up, use and learning

4.1. Resource utilisation

Standard:	4.1.1. The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes
Comment and Analysis:	As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured and but the South African evaluator reported that all the country case studies were completed in advance of the Nairobi, Kenya workshop and that the evaluators even had time to review and comment on this evaluation prior to the workshop. So it is understood that the planned project time-frames were kept in tact.
Rating:	4
Standard:	4.1.2. The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget
Comment and Analysis:	An engagement with the evaluator (Agulhas UK) could not be secured for this assessment and thus insight into the planning & design phase of the project, relied on inputs from the evaluator commissioned to complete one of the component case studies, specifically that for South Africa. While the South African evaluator reported that the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of the original budget, no comment can be made in relation to the other case study countries nor Agulhas UK.
Rating:	N/A

4.2. Evaluation use

Standard:	4.2.1. Results of the evaluation have been presented to all relevant stakeholders
Comment and Analysis:	At the outset, the intention was for the outcomes of the case studies to be presented at a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in late 2011. The workshop was purposefully designed to: 1. showcase lessons learned from the application of climate finance to date, in Africa and, 2. bring experts in the realm of climate finance in Africa, together to share experiences, debate on views and learn from country experiences. The workshop proceeded successfully. As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured it is not known whether any further key stakeholders in the case studies were presented to after the workshop however.
Rating:	3
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:	As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured for this assessment, insight into this relies on the South African case study evaluator's feedback. Other than the workshop in Nairobi where the results of this evaluation synthesis were displayed, it was not evident from discussions with the evaluator that a reflective process on strengthening future evaluations was done by Agulhas UK or the OECD and AfDB.
Rating:	1

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:	The South African evaluator reported that the Nairobi workshop led to the development of the draft Nairobi Declaration on African Principles for Aid Effectiveness in Climate Finance which was then the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea later in 2011. As such, the evaluation study added important value to debates and discussions in the realm of climate finance in Africa. As only one stakeholder could be engaged for this assessment however, it is not known how widespread this view is held across a range of parties involved in the evaluation.
Rating:	3
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:	The evaluation study is particularly valuable in that it, at a high level, reflects on the origins, nature and dynamics of climate finance globally and in Africa. The concepts are not only clearly articulated but also coherently explained to the reader. It makes very concrete recommendations to key stakeholders: countries, governments, international funders and global institutions and thus could possibly have had a role in shaping policy and practice in the sphere of climate finance.
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:	As an engagement with Agulhas UK could not be secured for this assessment, it is not known whether a draft improvement plan was initiated based on the findings and recommendations of the evaluation.
Rating:	N/A
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 publicly available on the OECD's website at - http://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/48597031.pdf
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:	The South African evaluator reported that the Nairobi workshop led to the development of the draft Nairobi Declaration on African Principles for Aid Effectiveness in Climate Finance which was then the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea later in 2011. As such, it is viewed that the evaluation study has been put to instrumental use insofar as its recommendations have been shared with an audience beyond Africa and been used to reformulate thinking around climate finance on the continent.
Rating:	3

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:	The South African evaluator reported that the Nairobi workshop led to the development of the draft Nairobi Declaration on African Principles for Aid Effectiveness in Climate Finance which was then the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea later in 2011. As such, it is viewed that the evaluation study has had a positive influence on the evaluand insofar as those a party to the workshop including beneficiaries and donors. The full magnitude of the impact can however not be fully commented upon as an engagement with Agulhas UK was not possible and so an understanding of the post-evaluation impact is limited to discussions with the South African evaluator.
Rating:	N/A

References

Agulhas Applied Knowledge (UK). 2010. 'Realising Development Effectiveness – Making the Most of Climate Change Finance in Asia and the Pacific'. A synthesis report from five country studies in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. Prepared by Nigel Thornton for the Asia Pacific Climate Change Finance and Aid Effectiveness Dialogue (19th-20th October 2010).

Zingel, J. 2011. 'Climate Change Financing and Aid Effectiveness: South African Country Analysis'. Study commissioned by the OECD's Development Cooperation Directorate and the African Development Bank through Agulhas UK.

Agulhas Applied Knowledge (UK). 2011. 'Realising the Potential: Making the Most of Climate Change Finance in Africa – A synthesis report from six country studies: Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and Tanzania'. Pre-format edition.

List of Interviewees

Mr Jeff Zingel (Private consultant). Telephonic interview conducted on 17 June 2013. Follow-up email engagements on 8 and 9 July 2014.