

## **Procedural Equity in Decentralized Adaptation Finance in the Caribbean and Namibia**

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### **Abstract**

Calls for procedural equity in international adaptation finance are increasingly prominent. This recognises the need for inclusion of climate vulnerable and marginalized groups in decision-making processes at global, national, and sub-national levels, as well as increased transparency and accountability in projects and programmes.

Research to date highlights five dimensions in analysing procedural equity: 1) representation and participation, particularly of vulnerable and marginalized groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and the income poor; 2) decision-making authority, including leadership and power dynamics; transparency; accountability; and legitimacy. In particular, such research notes lack of equity in traditional models of adaptation finance, where vulnerable communities and households have limited representation and decision-making authority at various governance levels and therefore interventions lack legitimacy, accountability and transparency. However, most analysis has focused on the global allocation of funding (i.e., between countries), and there is limited understanding of whether adaptation finance reaches the most vulnerable within small island developing states (SIDS) and other developing countries.

We analyse procedural equity in adaptation finance at the national level, with a focus on the first two pilot projects of the Green Climate Fund's "Enhanced Direct Access" (EDA) programme in Namibia and the Caribbean SIDS (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada). Decentralised models, such as the EDA programme, have significant potential to improve equity by bringing decision-making closer to local levels and spreading benefits more widely than traditional models. On the other hand, national and sub-national political dynamics, capacity constraints and divisions within communities can continue to be significant obstacles to equitable adaptation finance. We present preliminary findings on the procedural equity of these two EDA projects, drawn from national workshops and semi-structured interviews conducted with national and local-level stakeholders in each country.

### **Policy Impact**

Despite the goal to double adaptation finance by 2025, concerns are growing that the benefits of funding are failing to reach the communities that need it most. Additionally, negotiations on a post-2025 climate finance goal under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have focused not only on quantity but also the quality of finance, including which access modalities enable equitable and effective adaptation.

We provide an analysis that policymakers and funders can use to better evaluate the procedural equity of funding allocation within countries, and help them answer the question: are our funding mechanisms and processes reaching and benefiting the most vulnerable communities?

By assessing the procedural equity of the first two pilots of the GCF's EDA programme, we also provide a preliminary indication of whether and how this experimental access modality enables a broader and more equitable allocation of finance to vulnerable communities. These findings will inform GCF and other multilateral and bilateral funds' decisions on how to improve the design and approach to EDA modalities with plans to expand the model. They will also inform ongoing discussions on how to improve the quality of adaptation finance to vulnerable countries.