

## African Development Fund (AfDF)

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:

MAR 2011: *Good Value for Money for UK Aid*



<b>Progress Assessment</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Reasonable progress in building partnerships, on results, particularly Bank's new annual reporting framework, and on tackling climate change. Some progress on gender issues, enhancing effectiveness in fragile states and cost and value consciousness.</b>
<b>Baseline</b>	
<p>African Development Fund, as part of the African Development Bank, supports poorer African countries in infrastructure, governance, regional integration, tertiary and vocational education, and agriculture and food security.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AfDF's geographical focus fits well with DFID's priorities.</li> <li>• It has a strong focus on wealth creation and governance.</li> <li>• It has generally good relationships with partner governments.</li> <li>• It has an independent evaluation department helping to shape policy.</li> </ul> <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delays and limited in-country capacity hinder performance.</li> <li>• It is not yet able to demonstrate outputs for all its programmes and projects and it is not always strongly focused on poverty.</li> <li>• A need to improve the mix and specialisation of skills of staff in fragile states.</li> <li>• There is weak performance on climate change, fragile states and gender.</li> </ul> <p>DFID's reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved focus on gender (particularly on results), enhanced effectiveness of programmes in fragile states and better defined policies on climate change – assessed under <u>attention to cross-cutting issues (gender, fragile contexts and climate change and environmental sustainability)</u>;</li> <li>• Embedded results framework in Bank's business and its culture focussed on results – assessed under <u>contribution to results</u>;</li> <li>• Improved effectiveness in administration budgets and value for money in programmes – assessed under <u>cost and value consciousness</u>;</li> <li>• Improved project performance and partner coordination through further decentralisation – assessed under <u>partnership behaviour</u>.</li> </ul>	
<b>Summary of Overall Progress</b>	
<p>Improvements that have been demonstrated in all reform components since the MAR are: Climate Change Action Plan finalised with more clearly defined objectives; staff presence in fragile states increased with some evidence of performance improving at the country-level; improved systems and frameworks in place to allow the AfDB to better measure AfDF's contribution to results; improved cost-effectiveness of project management and swifter</p>	

project delivery; and maintenance of strong partnership with its clients and improved standing and visibility with other donors. In three areas progress has been less than expected: a delayed new gender policy; limited progress in responding to the evaluation on fragile states; and limited dialogue on unit costs of programmes.

### Progress against Reform Priorities

MAR Reform Component	MAR 2011 Score	Progress Rating	MAR Update Score, if any change
<p><b>Attention to cross-cutting issues (gender)</b></p> <p>There is some evidence that gender is being considered in programme planning and results are being disaggregated by gender. A revised gender framework and action plan has been delayed by over two years.</p>		 Some progress	
<p><b>Attention to cross-cutting issues (fragile contexts)</b></p> <p>The decentralisation road map is mostly on-track and greater delegated authority to the field but there is slow progress in responding to some recommendations of fragile states evaluation.</p>		 Some progress	
<p><b>Attention to cross-cutting issues (climate change and environmental sustainability)</b></p> <p>The Climate Change Action Plan has been finalised and has more clearly defined objectives. There is mixed evidence on how much impact they are having at the country level, though still early days.</p>		 Reasonable progress	
<p><b>Contribution to results</b></p> <p>The most notable achievement has been the annual reporting of the Bank's results framework with thematic and country specific reports.</p>		 Reasonable progress	
<p><b>Cost and value consciousness</b></p> <p>There have been improvements in the costs of transactions and speed of delivery of AfDF projects – notably in fragile states. However, there is limited progress in improving the dialogue with clients on lower cost options in policy and programme choices.</p>		 Some progress	
<p><b>Partnership behaviour</b></p> <p>There is evidence of improvements in co-ordination with donors. There has also been good performance against the Paris Declaration targets. There is an agreed framework for engaging with civil society organisations.</p>		 Reasonable progress	