

21 March 2024

## Management response to the CCAM Review Report

March 18<sup>th</sup>, CISU received the report, 'Final Review of CCAM', submitted by Esbern Friis-Hansen who carried out document review, interviews and field visits during primo 2024. The main objective of the CCAM Review process is **to inform CISU and the MFA of the relevance of the CCAM modality and the elements of locally led adaptation**. This serves the purpose to inform CISU and the MFA in terms of **1) improvements on the support modality and 2) relevance in terms of further allocation of funds**.

Each recommendation is assessed hereunder by CISU in terms of how we can operationalize this further.

For elaboration of each recommendation, please see the full report by Esbern Friis-Hansen.

### Recommendations on adjustments to the CCAM as to further enhance climate adaptation interventions.

1. Strengthening quality of inclusive governance: 1) Undertake well-being ranking to identify vulnerable groups, 2) intentionally include them in project participation, 3) and empower them through group organization and decision-making roles.

CISU agrees with a continued focus on inclusive governance and local leadership. Through courses, experience sharing, advisory services and material development\* CISU already prioritizes strengthening the quality of inclusive governance and local leadership. CISU will continue this focus and analyze what further steps that we should take while striking the right balance between a programmatic and a contextualized and localized approach.

Empowering target groups through devolved decision making is a part of the ongoing revision of the Civil Society Fund and will also be reflected in CCAM.

2. Enhance local institutional sustainability and scale of outcome: Adopt a strategic mixed finance approach with a minimum 7-year funding period to support long-term decision-making structures and facilitate upscaling of successful interventions.

CISU agrees with the recommendation to enhance local institutional sustainability. As a follow-up on this, CISU will enhance focus on organizational development and the partnership role in strengthening the institutional sustainability of the local partners.

CISU agrees with the recommendation that long-term and predictable funding is beneficial in order to stimulate changes and sustainability.

All supported CCAM interventions with a budget above DKK 500.000 are required to include advocacy directed at local or national government to push for funding for local adaptation solutions. Several of the CCAM interventions include advocacy components and cooperation with local government seeking to attract government financing. However, we take note that the aspect of promoting partnerships and primarily implementing partner to aim for mixed financing, e.g. with local municipalities or other funds at national/local level could be more in focus for CISU to promote via courses, advisory services and particularly experience sharing sessions\*.

We take note that the review has found a good working relationship with the local government stakeholders/authorities and the implementing partners; evidencing there is a connection to further build on for stronger results on mixed financing and other advocacy elements.

The aspect of phased funding is commented below.

3. Improve quality of interventions by clarifying ambiguous black-box concepts: Avoid using buzzwords, focus on enabling informed decision-making by target groups rather than pre-selecting solutions.  
Lessons Learned for Improved Implementation: Short project lifespans hinder the achievement of project aims and institutional legacies.

CISU will revise formats to make sure that formats do not enhance or promote the use of buzzwords, and rather stimulate informed decision-making by participants.

CISU agrees that short project lifespans could hinder the achievement of project aims and institutional legacies. While the project lifespan may be short, the partnerships between the local and Danish partner is typically longer, and somewhat allows for the institutional legacies to be realized and project aims achieved in the long run. See below.

## Recommendations towards a renewal of CCAM framework and funding

4. Modify CCAM funding modality to allow for long-term strategic programs rather than short-term standalone projects.

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5. Renew CCAM framework and funding should be better aligned with LLA principles and promote longer-term strategic partnerships. This can be done by implementing a phased modality with pilot/inception, expansion, and consolidation phases to ensure relevance, scale, and sustainability of interventions.

We appreciate the reference to research and evidence that suggests long-term commitments. Supporting the exact model suggested of 7-year phased funding will require dialogue with the MFA and their ability and willingness to practically aim for a setup more deliberately informed by the LLA-principles of patient and predictable funding.

CISU would like to emphasize that in practice, several of the interventions have included an inception/first phase focusing on participatory baseline/climate vulnerability assessments informing the design of the adaptation activities. This is due more to the regular pooled funds framework that CISU operates by, and not something embedded in the CCAM framework.

In the detailed recommendation that unfolds the phased model of a renewed CCAM, the CISU Secretariat is considered a role to annually consolidate evidence-based outcomes from implementation. If this were to form the basis for a new disbursement/grant to the implementing partnership, CISU would have to include our external Assessment Committee in this process. Similarly, there is an expectation that we can link to [openaid.um.dk](https://openaid.um.dk). Currently, CISU has not received any invitation from the MFA to include our data in this database, although we see it relevant (p. 33).

Notably, CISU already operates with a 4-year programme modality for some partnerships that have a proven track record. CCAM is used as a supplement by these partnerships in this regard.

Furthermore, CISU is undergoing a reform process of the broader Civil Society Fund where there is a shift towards funding processes rather than projects, and being able to support more strategically, rather than being too project-bound. There will be a finished set of guidelines by Q3/early Q4 2024. A renewal of CCAM can be informed by this

process. The recommendation aligns with the principles that guide this reform process, and CISU aims to be able to stimulate/support an even higher level of localization and locally-led intervention design and implementation.

CISU agrees that the LLA-principles should be integrated more explicitly in a renewal of the CCAM framework. CISU is pleased to see the high level of funding going towards the communities (42% to communities, and 72% to implementing partners). We are also invested in ensuring that the softer elements of localization and locally-led adaptation are being pursued, such as those which the review highlights.

### **Recommendations for a dedicated funding stream to civil society actors to build capacity within the technical aspects of addressing loss and damage.**

#### 6. Recommendations for a dedicated funding stream to civil society actors to build capacity within the technical aspects of addressing loss and damage.

We appreciate the focus of the review to showcase the relevance of including civil society actors to localize the Loss and Damage agenda and be at the forefront developing *“localized models of adaptation that is institutionalized at the community level”*. It is CISU’s opinion that it is crucial to invest in civil society being responders to climate disasters and furthermore invest in the technical capacity of these actors to have better integrated response mechanisms, *practical* and *pragmatic* approaches and aim for a build-back-better approach in the *“borderline between adaptation and disaster risk management”* (p. 34).

We do however expect that the CCAM will maintain a primary focus on adaptation overlapping to responding to slow-onset events of loss and damage such as sea level rise, loss of biodiversity, land degradation etc. For responses to rapid onset events of loss and damage which are more humanitarian in its nature, it seems relevant to consider responses to rapid onset events of loss and damage to become part of the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF).

### **In conclusion, CISU will operationalize:**

- Recommendations 1 and 3 and elements of 2 into our ongoing interactions with our member organizations and their partners.
- Recommendations 2, 4 and 5 require a view to the more systemic framework that includes both the funding from the MFA, the reform process of CISU's Civil Society Fund and thereafter a reformulation of the specific CCAM guidelines.
- Recommendation 6 will be discussed further in relation to the DERF replenishment (related to rapid onset events of loss and damage).

### **\* Elements of capacity development, sharing of experience and best practices in interaction between CISU and applying partnerships**

- **Weekend seminar on Climate Adaptation and Monitoring**, April 20-21<sup>st</sup> 2024 with a focus on facilitating participatory monitoring of climate resilience at the community level. Tools to community participatory monitoring of climate vulnerabilities and resilience as well as MEL-systems with climate resilience indicators are in focus.
- Since primo 2023, CISU have organized **regular experience sharing meetings** in a Climate, Nature and Environment network that currently counts 32 member organizations.
- Capacity development **trainings with a climate adaptation focus** are carried out all through the year to enhance the knowledge and capacity of the applying organizations.
- CISU advisors facilitate guidance and feedback sessions one-to-one to the CCAM applicants where often both Danish CSOs and local implementing CSOs participate together. A total of 81 advisory sessions since the start of CCAM (34 prior to round 1; 47 prior to 2; implementing partner participated in 32 %).
- CISU is also an active member of various networks and working groups including the NbS knowledge platform; Global Focus' working group on Climate and Development Policy; the CBA community of practitioners facilitated by IIED, the Green Partnership facilitated by the Danish MFA and civil society actors; the Danish 92-group; and Partos' Climate Justice Community of Practice.