

Evaluation Summary

Evaluation of the ACT-DDP project's outcomes that had the strategic objective to raise the ambition for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by promoting dialogue between companies and state players, and supporting strategic thinking of companies regarding low-carbon transition, according to the specificity of their national context.

Countries : **Mexico and Brazil**

Topic : **Climate change - Pollution – Cities and territories**

Evaluator : **G.A.C. Group**
Evaluation Date : **July-September 2022**

Key data of FFEM support

Project Name : ACT-DDP PROJECT
Project Number : CZZ2304
Amount of FFEM funding : 761.770€
Date of grant : 20 October 2017
Duration : 28 months

Context

The Paris Agreement, built on a bottom-up approach, allowed the coordination of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through voluntary and non-binding commitments, seeking an increased involvement of civil society. It also permitted diversification of stakeholders, with a first official recognition of the contribution of "non-state" players to the negotiations together with an increased contribution of companies. It is now essential to strengthen existing mechanisms to promote exchanges between the political, entrepreneurial and financial spheres. ACT and DDP are two tools supporting this dialogue, to allow a mutual enhancement of decarbonization strategies, with the long term vision of a greater ambition and a phased deployment at a lower cost.

Stakeholders and procedure

ACT-DDP involved partners in France, Brazil and Mexico and improved, integrated and implemented two tools developed, one by IDDRI with local partners (COPE-UFRJ, Tempus Analitica, and CDP Latam) called DDP (Deep Decarbonation Pathway, defining trajectory of deep decarbonation at the global and sectoral scale to support dialogue and increase ambitions) and another one by ADEME called ACT (for evaluating and monitoring, at the company level, the alignment of companies with decarbonization scenarios, based on the sectoral specificity identified by DDP).



Objectives

The ACT-DPP project had the strategic objective of raising the collective ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by promoting on the one hand the dialogue between companies and state players, and on the other hand, by supporting companies in their strategic thinking regarding low-carbon transition, according to the specificity of their national context.

Specific objectives :

1. Respond to the lack of tools for dialogue and support responding to climate change
2. Respond to the lack of knowledge / appropriation of the dialogue's tools and methodologies by the stakeholders in developing countries.
3. Respond to the need to initiate discussion processes in some of the developing countries to facilitate a virtuous change of behaviour in favour of the climate

Performance assessment

Relevance

The project has been fully in line with the specific challenges of environmental transition in developing countries and with the new approach developed in COP21. The implemented bottom-up approach was necessary to tackle climate changes especially in developing countries, in a political context detrimental for climate action (limiting top-down ambitions), this approach, capitalising on companies and other stakeholders, gave room for discussion, awareness raising, eventually contributed to raise environmental performance and created the conditions for future actions, when the political context may evolve.

Coherence

The project fully fitted the overall international strategy to mitigate climate change set out in the Paris Agreement. But at national level, initial plans have been hampered by the changes in the political context. A mobilization from any actor at federal level ministry would have been a key asset to mobilize private players but the current administration was not so receptive to the evaluation. However, work has been engaged during the project to create synergies with other projects / initiatives.

Effectiveness

The key results from the project are visible at: <https://act-ddp.org/resources>, and include methodological notes, decarbonation scenario of 8 sectors, a data visualization tool, the publication of a report presenting the aggregated results of the ACT assessments and four sectoral analyses briefs of these results, 18 ACT training courses, qualitative working sessions, Open public conferences and Chatham House dialogues to support a climate engaged community as well as quite successful closing events, etc. Some difficulties were linked to the involvement of actors and the availability of information or the lack of understanding on the methodologies used. Also, a particular effort has been conducted to structure this data collection based on a software tool. Improvements on the tool are needed such as adapting it to the local context, clarify the functioning and calculations of the tool, etc.

Viability/Sustainability

The project has led to various assets: methodological components, knowledge, webpage, network, etc. and allow sustainability for potential future projects: methods are available with open source and project's results might thus be reused, the project was a pilot case of cross implementation of DDP and ACT and could be further exploited in other countries or other sectors. The strong community and relations created or enhanced during the project are ready to be involved when the political change will allow more climate change dialogue and strategy discussions.

Impact

The tools were improved and helped developing awareness on environmental challenges in Brazil and Mexico, facilitating dialogue between the business, civil and institutional spheres. The project supported the development of a community of actors concerned with climate change that can support further changes. It also helped companies to improve their strategy, getting an idea of the type of data needed for such strict evaluation. Showing they have a positive impact and promoting their actions. It also supported internal communication, and provided a better understanding on the real impact of the activity through a value chain perspective.

Added value of FFEM support

Various fundings have contributed to this project, FFEM of course, ADEME (Agence nationale de la transition écologique) and more generally auto-funding from the partners and companies involved. It is likely that the project wouldn't have been launched without the support of the FFEM.

Recommendations & lessons learned

Key good practices based on the analysis made in the evaluation have been gathered in 2 categories:

1. The project relevance:

- Where stakeholder engagement is key, the project preparation should include a formal preliminary engagement, even more when significant evolution is forecasted, and schedule should be tightened
- Stable countries selection is recommended
- Sectors selection based on a specific mapping to identify clear complementarity

2. The project implementation:

- A good project management is key, with clear objectives explained to all, a clear governance, clear partners' roles and well identified coordinator, regular consortium meetings, the setup of accurate project management tools, clear templates and guidelines for reporting, permanent and good communication with all partners, a clear operating mode, and a good control on the overall planning.
- An appreciated methodological implementation using back-casting method to explore scenarios, working with other SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) including wider targets beyond decarbonization (such as poverty and inequality reduction, safer environments...) for a vision of change that is desirable for everyone at a broader perspective, and a deepen definition on how to monetize climate risks.
- Concentrating on voluntary companies, harmonizing and mutualizing with other assessment campaigns to optimize the volume of information required from companies, ensuring confidentiality, making the tool user friendly, easily downloadable, adapted to companies' size and types and to the (political) context.
- To better involve stakeholders, working with them from start in a co-construction approach, showing them clear benefits (e.g., visibility). The Chatham House dialogues were very key, and also involving universities and subnational government levels. AFD teams can be more strongly involved to access their good local network. Bilateral meetings, with key actors can be more relevant than public dissemination. Presenting the results at the top level at the COP26 in Glasgow made a huge impact on the team and on the management. A public (federal) recognition helps getting companies engagement.