ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Pre-Concept for a Regional Project

Countries/Region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Project Title: Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)
Thematic focal area: Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems
Implementing Entity: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Executing Entities: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO), Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SA), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services or related Ministries of beneficiary countries
AF Project ID:
IE Project ID: **Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):**
Reviewer and contact person: Linda Ogallo **Co-reviewer(s):** UnaMay Gordon
IE Contact Person(s):

Technical Summary	The project Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA) aims to implementing the Integrated Drought Management (IDM) approach, aligned with the "Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia". This will be done through the five components below: Component 1: Drought monitoring, early warnings and drought risk and impact assessment (USD 9,000,000). Component 2: Integrated drought governance and regional cooperation (USD 3,000,000). Component 3: Community-level drought resilience (USD 6,000,000). Component 4: Capacity development for Integrated Drought Management (USD 4,000,000). Component 5: Knowledge & awareness on climate-resilient and inclusive Integrated Drought Management (USD 2,600,000).

	Requested financing overview: Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 2,460,000 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 27,060,000 Implementing Fee: USD 2,706,000 Financing Requested: USD 29,766,000 The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant and/or project formulation assistance grant of USD39,000. The initial technical review raises several issues, such as duplication with existing initiatives, the clarity in outcomes and outputs, concrete adaptation actions, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.
Date	November 17, 2025

Review Criteria	**Questions**	**First Technical Review Comments [November 17, 2025]**
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	**Yes.** All six countries are Parties to both the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
	2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	**Yes**. All six participating countries are developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The concept highlights the impacts of drought in each country.

Project Eligibility	1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	**Yes.** **Editorial and formatting comments:** Pre-concept is 7 pages excluding the cover page. It should not exceed 5 pages. Response: We shortened the pre-concept to 5 pages excluding cover page and endorsement/certification. As per the Endorsement letters dated • May 26, 2025 Bangladesh; • June 16, 2025 Bhutan; • May 26, 2025 Maldives, • August 3, 2025, Nepal, • June 04, 2025 Sri Lanka, • October 17, 2025 Pakistan.

	2. Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective?	**Yes, however further clarification is needed.** The concept gives a general overview with geographic and demographic context and describes country describing drought vulnerabilities. The concept also mentions the existence of SADMS, ICIMOD, RIMES, and SAHF that are currently functioning in the region but does not include an explanation they haven't prevented drought impacts and what specific capabilities are missing. Without demonstrating that existing initiatives are insufficient, this project appears duplicative. The Regional Strategy, referred to in the concept and national consultations represent recent, participatory assessments. Ignoring their findings suggests either (a) duplication of effort or (b) lack of country ownership. The proposal should build on, not replace, this existing investment. The pre-concept further describes drought impacts but does not analyze why these impacts are so severe or how the proposed interventions address root causes. Response: These comments are well noted and we respond below in detail and adapted the pre-concept accordingly. **CAR1**: Kindly provide in the background a thinking around the gaps of the existing systems to justify why additional investment is required. Response: While several drought monitoring tools exist in South Asia, they are largely tools that focus on specific segments of the drought risk management value chain without being embedded in coherent governance, financing, and community preparedness frameworks - which means they are not systematically used in planning or decision-making for drought impact reduction. As a result, sustainability and accountability are not assured, and no institution is formally responsible for maintaining or acting upon these systems. Coverage is also incomplete across the region. Overall, current monitoring efforts remain fragmented, lack harmonized standards, and are not linked to regional or national drought assessment, preparedness or response mechanisms. This fragmentation and lack of institutional anchoring explain why drought impacts remain and are increasingly severe in the region. Additional investment is therefore needed to establish a coherent regional–national structure, ensure clear mandates, improve interoperability, to reliably inform policy, planning, and early action. Furthermore, the emphasis on increasing availability of technical hazard information needs to be complemented by the ability for community and economic systems to improve corresponding preparedness, while using real-time information for enacting timely and

		effective responses. In this regard, we fully agree that this needs to build on the existing structures and it will be part of the process to evaluate closely with all stakeholders the needs and based on that develop the comprehensive drought monitoring architecture with the goal of effectively communicating drought risk and enabling action on drought preparedness and response. **CAR2:** Please explain how this WMO proposal aligns with or differs from the Regional Strategy implementation plans already under development by GWP/ADPC and using a brief sentence clarify why India (included in Regional Strategy) is excluded from this proposal. Can they at least benefit from learning and knowledge management aspects of Component 5? Response: We acknowledge that this point was not fully clear in the earlier pre-concept, and we have now clarified and adapted the text accordingly. To confirm, there are no other Regional Strategy implementation plans currently being developed by GWP or ADPC, and this proposal is the jointly agreed mechanism to initiate the Strategy's implementation. Regarding India, the country was assessed in the same manner as the other South Asian countries, but it became clear that its existing structures and advanced drought management arrangements do not fully align with the gaps and needs targeted by this proposal. India was engaged from the very beginning of discussions, and even though it was not possible for India to join the proposal at this stage, key institutions—particularly the NMHS—have confirmed their willingness to contribute technical expertise and to support regional collaboration. We greatly welcome the suggestion to involve India in the learning and knowledge-management aspects of the project, and we have reflected this in Component 5 to ensure India can both benefit from and contribute to regional knowledge exchange. **CR1:** Kindly clarify if this is this project the implementation mechanism for the Regional Strategy, or a complementary initiative. Response: We confirm that this project serves as the mechanism to implement key components of the Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia. The project explicitly operationalizes the Integrated Drought Management (IDM) approach outlined in the Strategy by addressing its recommended short-term actions

		(strengthening information and forecasting systems for rapid response; foundational capacity building), medium-term actions (reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience, integrating drought considerations into national development planning, implementing priority resilience-building measures, and advancing investment planning including domestic and private-sector finance), and by laying the groundwork for long-term actions (research and development and enhanced regional cooperation). As noted in the response to CAR2, these clarifications have now been made explicitly in the revised pre-concept. **CAR3**: Provide causal analysis explaining how the proposed investment will reduce the impacts droughts. Further demonstrate why a regional approach is necessary versus six national projects. Response: The drought risks in South Asia, which are increasing under climate change, are not proactively managed under the current institutional and technical arrangements, which was one of the findings of the Regional Drought Strategy. Drought monitoring remains fragmented across the region, and seasonal to sub-seasonal drought forecasting is not operationalized, meaning that even when emerging drought conditions are detected or anticipated, the information is not systematically linked to national drought policies or plans. Preparedness capacities are limited at all levels, especially at community level, where knowledge on how to reduce drought risk and potential impacts is often lacking. At the national level, countries generally lack cross-sectoral or interministerial drought committees that can review emerging risk information, coordinate measures across ministries, or guide preparedness. Information dissemination is not structured or tailored for different administrative levels, resulting in local stakeholders such as farmers, not receiving timely, actionable guidance. The proposed investment directly addresses these weaknesses by establishing a coherent chain from monitoring and forecasting to policy to early action, ensuring that increased drought risks are met with coordinated, informed, and timely responses. By creating clear institutional linkages and strengthening governance, the project enables drought information to effectively guide decisions at all levels and showcase on community level how to reduce long-term drought risk. We have adapted the proposal to make this pathway more explicit.

		Given these systemic gaps to address a transboundary hazard like drought, a regional approach is essential. A regional mechanism provides harmonized indicators, shared data and modelling, and consistent early warnings that feed into the strengthened national systems. Six separate national projects would not generate the interoperability, shared technical foundation, or coordinated architecture needed for sustainable and proactive drought risk management across South Asia that is envisioned in the Strategy. The project background section of the pre-concept was updated accordingly.

	3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?	**Yes, however further clarification is needed.** While the pre-concept note provides a basic structure of objectives, components, and budget allocation, there are substantial clarity and coherence issues that would require correction at the concept stage. Output 1.1.1 proposes "*Baseline drought risk assessments at the national level*" but national consultations were conducted in 2024-2025 as part of Regional Strategy development. Output 1.2.1 states "*Enhance and/or establish IDM and forecasting systems based on existing platforms*." The pre-concept does not state which countries will have new systems and which ones need enhancing. Output 2.2.2 proposes establishing a "*WMO Regional Drought Management Centre in a selected host country*." Response: Thank you for this comment. We have adapted and clarified the structure to enhance coherency. More details are provided below. **CR2**: Please clarify: 1. What drought risk assessments have already been completed through: ○ Regional Strategy development process ○ National consultations (Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan) ○ See comprehensive response under 3. 2. If assessments exist, why are new "baseline" assessments needed? See comprehensive response under 3. 3. If assessments don't exist, what was the basis for the Regional Strategy and national consultations? Response: During the preparation of the Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy, no comprehensive or systematic national-level drought risk assessments were undertaken. Instead, the Strategy relied largely on desk-based analyses that synthesized publicly accessible datasets, key-informant interviews (KII), focus-group discussions (FGD), in-depth interviews (IDI), regional assessment studies, and existing literature. While these inputs were valuable, they were limited in scope and did not provide the level of granularity or methodological rigor required to effectively guide

		national planning processes or inform investment decisions. Consequently, the information generated at that time cannot be considered full drought risk assessments. The analyses did not produce detailed baselines, nor did they generate the type of evidence necessary to design targeted, context-specific interventions. This gap remains significant: to date, no country in the region has completed a systematic, nationally coordinated drought risk assessment. For this reason, Output 1.1.1 continues to be both relevant and essential. The proposed assessments will establish consistent approach and methodologies across countries, ensure alignment with national development and sectoral plans, and create a harmonized platform for regional coordination objectives that were not achieved through the earlier desk reviews or the relatively brief consultations conducted during Strategy development. Following the launch of the Strategy, GWP and the respective Country Water Partnerships undertook additional short consultancies to further introduce and socialize the Strategy among stakeholders who had not previously been engaged. These engagements helped to uncover further information gaps and provided valuable insights that informed this pre-concept, reinforcing the need for more robust national drought risk assessments. Finally, we reaffirm that all outputs generated through this proposed AF project will build upon the national and regional baselines that exist at the time of implementation. We recognize that these baselines may continue to evolve, and subsequent project development phases will include a more detailed mapping of ongoing initiatives and existing knowledge resources that the project will enhance and complement. 4. Will Output 1.1.1 build on or replace existing assessments? Response: These earlier analyses provide valuable entry points, but they are not comprehensive and lack the granularity required for full drought risk assessments. Under the project, these initial findings will be expanded and strengthened through the application of consistent methodologies, more rigorous data collection, and direct engagement with national institutions, technical agencies, and community-level stakeholders. In this way, Output 1.1.1 will not replace the existing assessments; rather, it will build upon them, fill critical information gaps, and integrate all available data into coherent, usable, and up-to-date national baseline assessments. This approach will ensure that the new assessments are both technically robust and aligned with national priorities, while also providing a stronger foundation for targeted interventions and regional coordination.

		CR3: Please clarify: 1. Which countries will "establish" new systems versus "enhance" existing ones? ○ For each country, specify why existing systems (SADMS, ICIMOD, RIMES) are insufficient Response: For all involved countries except the Maldives, at least one regional drought monitoring product is currently available. These include the regional products developed by the University of Tokyo and the South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS, was not accessible when responding). Nepal additionally benefits from ICIMOD's Drought Watch, originally developed under the SERVIR Hindu Kush Himalaya (SERVIR-HKH) Initiative and still maintained by ICIMOD after the initiative's conclusion. Despite their usefulness, there is no single regional platform that consistently covers all countries in a harmonized way and could directly support coordinated regional drought management. As also noted in the response to CAR1, these regional products remain technical tools and are not anchored in national or regional policy frameworks. This creates challenges regarding accountability, as there is no formal mandate or institutional responsibility for their use in official decision-making. It also raises concerns about long-term sustainability, since these tools rely heavily on organizations such as ICIMOD or IWMI to continue their operation and maintenance. If funding or institutional priorities shift, the continuity of these regional products cannot be guaranteed. Moreover, the absence of institutionalized use limits the ability to evaluate whether these tools are translating into timely action or contributing to measurable reductions in drought-related losses. At the national level, capacities are even more limited. Only Pakistan has an operational national drought monitoring system. Nepal has a partial system (the National Agricultural Drought Watch), but this does not constitute a fully integrated national monitoring and forecasting framework. All other countries currently lack national drought monitoring and forecasting systems, even though national decision-making requires reliable, nationally owned systems. For Pakistan, adding a seasonal forecasting component is a key priority. Below is the summary of country status and needs: Bangladesh • Regional coverage: University of Tokyo; SADMS • National system: None

		• Need: Establish a national drought monitoring and forecasting system Bhutan • Regional coverage: University of Tokyo; SADMS • National system: None • Need: Establish a national drought monitoring and forecasting system Maldives • Regional coverage: None • National system: None • Need: Establish a national monitoring and forecasting system and extend coverage of an existing regional product to include the Maldives Nepal • Regional coverage: University of Tokyo; ICIMOD Drought Watch; SADMS • National system: Partial (National Agricultural Drought Watch) • Need: Establish a complete national monitoring and forecasting system Pakistan: • Regional coverage: University of Tokyo; ICIMOD • National system: National Drought Monitoring Centre (monitoring only) • Need: Integrate seasonal forecasting into the national system Sri Lanka • Regional coverage: University of Tokyo; SADMS • National system: None • Need: Establish a national drought monitoring and forecasting system The gap that this proposed investment is addressing goes much deeper than technical enhancement and expansion of geographical coverage of these tools – it emphasizes building on these tools to ensure an integrated architecture for drought monitoring, preparedness, and response is integrated into national, cross-sectoral institutions so that they can demonstrably influence reduction of drought impacts. 2. What is the technical difference between "enhancing" existing platforms and creating parallel WMO systems?

		Response: Thank you very much for the question. There is no intention to create parallel WMO systems. Our approach focuses on strengthening and operationalizing national drought monitoring and forecasting capacities, and—where needed—adding missing components. For example, in Pakistan this means integrating seasonal drought forecasting into the existing national system, rather than replacing or duplicating it. At the regional level, the project will not develop a new standalone WMO platform. Instead, an in-depth technical and institutional analysis of existing regional platforms will be carried out, including their governance arrangements, sustainability, and compatibility with national systems and national needs. Based on this assessment, a joint decision will be taken with the countries on the most suitable way forward—for example, by extending or enhancing one of the existing platforms so that it covers all South Asian countries. 3. Will this create new drought bulletins or improve existing ones (e.g., SADMS weekly maps)? Response: National drought bulletins play a central role in informing government processes, including discussions within **cross-sectoral and interministerial groups** on preparedness and response measures. They also enable relevant ministries—such as agriculture, water resources, and disaster management—to provide tailored guidance to their sectoral stakeholders. At present, only Pakistan regularly produces such a biweekly national drought bulletin, which is shared with other government institutions to support coordinated action. None of the other South Asian countries have such an operational bulletin in place. SADMS does not currently produce drought bulletins in the sense used for national decision-making. While SADMS provides valuable weekly drought maps, a drought bulletin is typically an NMHS product that integrates monitoring information, short- to medium-range forecasts, and an interpretation of current conditions and expected impacts. Such bulletins play a central role in informing government processes, including discussions within cross-sectoral and interministerial groups on appropriate preparedness or response measures. They also form the basis for the respective ministries—such as agriculture, water, and disaster management—to provide tailored guidance and advice to their stakeholders. In this context, the project aims to strengthen or support the development of national drought bulletins, ensuring their regular production is sustained and based and enables decision-making at national and subnational levels.

		CR4: Please clarify: 1. What will be the mandate/functions of the WMO Regional Drought Management Centre? Response: At this stage, it is being explored whether the Regional Drought Management Centre could potentially be designated as a WMO WIPPS Centre (WMO Information System for Subseasonal to Seasonal Prediction Services). If this option is pursued and approved through the relevant WMO governance procedures, the Centre would have the mandate to produce drought-relevant subseasonal-to-seasonal forecasting products for the region. This designation depends on formal WMO processes and will only be confirmed at a later stage. Regardless of the outcome of this governance process, it is foreseen to establish a regional drought management centre similar to the Drought Management Centre for South Eastern Europe (DMCSEE, https://www.dmcsee.org/), operated by the Slovenian Meteorological Service (ARSO). Following that model, the centre would support and coordinate drought monitoring, forecasting, and risk management across South Asia, without replacing national systems. 2. How will it relate to: ○ Existing SAHF coordination ○ SAARC mechanisms ○ The Regional Strategy coordination structure ○ Existing Regional Climate Centres The Regional Drought Management Centre will support and complement existing regional mechanisms rather than creating new ones. It will collaborate closely with RCC Pune and SASCOF, for example using their regional climate outlooks as the basis for drought-related information. Since SASCOF is strongly linked to SAHF and its Working Group on Climate Services and Impact-Based Forecasting, the Centre will use this structure to engage the key sectors affected by drought—agriculture, water resources, disaster management, and NMHSs.

		3. The pre-concept note does not state whether a host country has been identified, what the selection will apply, or how this new centre will differ from or add to existing institutions Response: No host country has been identified at this stage. The selection of a host institution will follow WMO's formal governance procedures and regulatory criteria, which ensure an open, transparent, and Member-driven process. This procedure is planned to take place over the coming year to be included then in the concept or full proposal preparation stage. 4. What is the long-term sustainability plan? Who funds it after project ends? Response: Long-term sustainability will follow WMO's established model for regional centres. Under WMO regulations, the host country selected through the formal governance process must commit to providing the core, long-term operational funding necessary to run the Centre beyond the project period. The project's role is to support the establishment and initial capacity development. After the project ends, the Centre's continued operation will be sustained through the host country's funding commitment, supplemented as needed by partnerships and Member contributions, consistent with WMO practices. 5. Will this Centre coordinate or compete with ongoing Regional Strategy implementation? Response: The Centre will coordinate with, not compete with, the ongoing Regional Strategy implementation. Its role is to provide the technical support and information needed to strengthen and operationalize the Strategy's activities on the long run. **CR5**: Kindly ensure the concept differentiate the technical baseline analysis in Component 1 from the institutional/policy gap analysis in Component 2. Kindly confirm whether the latter expands upon or merely repeat the findings already captured in the Regional strategy. Response: We confirm that the concept note will clearly differentiate between the technical baseline analysis in Component 1 and the institutional and policy gap analysis in Component 2. The latter will expand upon the findings of the Regional Strategy, going

		into greater detail and engaging national stakeholders more comprehensively to ensure that institutional mandates, policy linkages, and coordination mechanisms are fully understood and actionable. We will keep this distinction firmly in mind during concept development. **CR6**: Output 1.1.2: "Climate change responsive drought risk assessment and mapping methodology developed and agreed" Please clarify: 1. Who will "agree" on the proposed methodology? 2. How is this different from 1.1.1? 3. Is the project creating a new methodology or adopting an existing one? 4. Does "methodology" mean standardized approach for the region or country-specific? Response: Output 1.1.2 was indeed formulated in a misleading way. We have clarified the formulation accordingly. Please find the responses below: 1. The term “agreed” was misleading. The intention is not to seek a formal intergovernmental agreement. Rather, the methodology will be validated with national technical institutions (e.g., NMHSs, water, agriculture, disaster management agencies) to ensure it is fit for purpose and can be routinely applied by countries in future assessment cycles. 2. Output 1.1.1 focuses on conducting the initial national drought risk assessments and producing maps. Output 1.1.2 focuses on developing the methodology, a standardized, climate-change-responsive approach that countries can use every 3–5 years to update their drought risk profiles. Output 1.1.2 consequently builds on 1.1.2, but they are not interchangeable outputs. 3. The project will build on existing global and regional approaches but adapt them into a tailored and flexible methodology that reflects the South Asian context and can be used by all participating countries. It will consolidate best practices while allowing customization to national data availability, institutional capacities, and sectoral needs. 4. The methodology will provide a standardized regional framework while allowing for country-specific parameters and institutional arrangements. This ensures both regional coherence and national relevance. We have revised the wording of Output 1.1.2 to reflect this more accurately.

		CR7: Output 1.1.3: "Drought impact monitoring and assessment methodology established incl. innovative crowdsourcing" Kindly clarify what systems (institutions/platforms) will host and manage this? Response: In most countries including in South Asia, drought impacts are not monitored systematically, and where monitoring exists it often focuses primarily on agricultural aspects, while indirect, cascading, and socio-economic impacts are rarely captured. In recent years new methodologies and digital tools have been developed, allowing for a much more comprehensive understanding of drought impacts. Such approaches make it possible to assess the full range of consequences and for example to informing national investments in resilience. This broadened approach enables impact information to be directly linked to drought monitoring and risk assessment, allowing countries to interpret observed and forecasted drought conditions to ground truth impacts. A key function of improved impact monitoring is also to identify vulnerabilities and help governments target preparedness and support measures more effectively. The systems and institutions that will host and manage this methodology will depend on national arrangements, but in most countries this function is typically anchored in NMHSs or national DRR ministries/agencies, sometimes in collaboration with agriculture or water authorities. The project will therefore work with each country to determine the most appropriate institutional home, ensuring sustainability, interoperability with existing systems, and strong links to national decision-making processes **CR8**: Output 2.1.3 is a very long, unclear output statement That mixes "recommendations" with "policies supported" with "committees established"; these are different things. For clarity and monitoring, these functions should be separated into discrete deliverables. Response: We agree that the original formulation of Output 2.1.3 combined several distinct functions, which reduced clarity. For the concept note, we will separate these elements into two clear and monitorable deliverables (1) establishing or strengthening national drought committees, and (2) developing and supporting drought policy processes. To reflect this, the original output will be broken down into more precise sub-outputs:

		• 2.1.3 National drought committees established or strengthened in targeted countries, with defined mandates, membership structures, and operational procedures for drought coordination. • 2.1.4 National drought policy frameworks introduced or updated in targeted countries. This restructuring will ensure that each function is clearly defined, aligned with country needs, and easily tracked during implementation. We will incorporate this clarification in the concept development stage. **CR9**: Output 2.2.1: "Establishment/enhancement of regional institutional arrangements based on existing structures (e.g. SAARC and SAHF)" Please clarify what does "based on" mean? The proposal should specify whether the project will work through these entities or if it is creating parallel arrangements that mirror their functions. Response: The project will work through and strengthen existing regional structures, not create parallel or duplicative arrangements. Different aspects of regional drought management will be anchored in the most appropriate platforms: for example, monitoring and forecasting related functions will be supported through mechanisms such as the SAHF, while policy dialogue, coordination of drought response, and regional alignment are more suitably linked to SAARC processes. Where gaps exist, the project may support the establishment of focused working groups on drought within these existing entities, rather than establishing new stand-alone bodies. All regional coordination efforts will be aligned with the mandate and activities of the Regional Drought Management Centre to ensure coherence and avoid duplication. **CR10:** Kindly outline the differences between Output 3.1.1: "*Community-level climate-resilient drought risk management plans developed, based on gender sensitive risk assessments (pilot communities), methodology documented to ensure scalability*" and Output 3.1.2: "*Community-level action plans developed and tested*" kindly also clarify what is meant by 'tested'. Does it mean piloted or implemented or evaluated? The relationship between the two outputs should be clarified. Output 3.1.2 appears to be non-specific.

		Response: Thank you for this comment. We acknowledge that Output 3.1.2 indeed duplicated the intent of Output 3.1.1 at least partly. We removed Output 3.1.2 in the revised concept and made output 3.1.1 more explicit. Output 3.1.1 will include both long-term vulnerability reduction measures such as improved water harvesting techniques and climate-resilient agricultural practices, and as well as preparedness and contingency planning, ensuring that farmers and other community members know which actions to take when receiving a drought warning. This is fully aligned with Pillar 4 of Early Warnings for All on preparedness and response capacity. **CR11**: On output 3.1.3: "Drought risk financing strategies developed" kindly clarify: 1. The level of intervention: Community? National? Regional? 2. Types of financing envisaged (Pre-concept mentions microfinance, insurance, partnerships) 3. Who develops these? Who implements? 4. How will these align with national disaster risk financing strategies? Response: Thank you for this question. The intention is for these drought risk financing strategies to reach the community level while also addressing necessary interventions at the national. The type of financing depends on a number of factors that can only be determined during the project, including the type and quantum of financial sources available, the type of financial instruments suited to the particular intervention and the availability and capacity of financial intermediaries, amongst others. The financing strategies will be develop through an intersectoral approach that will include key ministries, private sector, financial service providers and financial intermediaries, CSOs and community members. Suitable implementation arrangements for the strategies will be identified as part of strategy development, and the strategies will align with national disaster risk financing strategies and any other relevant sectoral strategies (such as agriculture or water), and the most suitable entry point for each strategy will be identified at the early stages of strategy development, informed by the financing needs. The related output was accordingly adapted as well as the budget adapted to reflect the importance and resources needed for these processes. Regarding the types of financing: this will depend largely on the predominant needs identified. The objective will be to cover a range of financing options that cover risk transfer as well as financing locally-led adaptation.

		CR12: On output 4.1.1: "*Capacity development initiatives (incl. workshops/fellowships) for NMHSs, authorities, local pilot communities, and other key stakeholders conducted*" please clarify**:** 1. What specific capacities will be built? 2. Has a baseline of current capacities been conducted? Is a needs assessment already available to guide the training? Response: Thanks for the hint, we have added a capacity needs assessment as a missing output. This assessment will clarify in detail what capacities need to be strengthened for all stakeholder groups. Based on preliminary consultations, we already know that for NMHSs this will include the core skills required to produce operational drought bulletins, such as drought-indicator generation (SPI, SPEI, etc.), seasonal and sub-seasonal forecasting, data integration, and product preparation. Also a training of trainers programme is envisioned for the crowd sourcing components under component 1. For authorities and local pilot communities, the needs assessment will guide the design of trainings. All capacity-development activities will therefore be shaped by the results of the assessment. **CR13**: On output 5.1.1: "Engagement plan for key stakeholders developed and implemented", how will this differ from the stakeholder engagement plan to be done before the project starts? Response: Thanks for the advice, we were not aware that a stakeholder engagement plan is already part of the pre-project process and therefore removed this output. The engagement activities originally envisioned under Output 5.1.1 will now be integrated into the mandatory stakeholder engagement plan developed before project start, so there is no duplication. **CR14**: On output 5.1.2: "Gender action plans, incl. indicators and trainings developed and implemented" please clarify: 1. One plan or six (one per country)? 2. What if gender analysis shows different priorities per country?

		Response: There will be one overall gender action plan for the project, but it will include country-specific sections for each of the six countries. These sections will be informed by detailed country-specific gender analyses, which will be conducted using a project-level analytical framework. This framework ensures cross-country coherence—necessary for developing a consolidated regional gender action plan—while still allowing each country assessment to capture context-specific gender inequalities related to drought resilience and to identify country-relevant entry points for addressing these gaps. This approach provides a coherent regional structure but preserves the flexibility needed to reflect the broad cultural and socio-economic diversity across the region. As the analyses will likely identify different priorities and constraints in each country, the gender action plan will incorporate tailored actions, capacity-building needs, and engagement strategies that respond to these national contexts. This ensures that the project remains regionally consistent while fully responsive to country-level realities. **CR15**: On output 5.1.3: "Cross-regional knowledge management approach and community of practice (COP) on climate-resilient drought management established" Please clarify: • The need for duplication as UNCCD CLP for Asia. • What's "cross-regional"? South Asia to other regions? • Who manages this COP? • What is the link to Regional Strategy COP? Response: Thanks for the input, we agree that the UNCCD CLP is the perfect space for the envisioned purpose to sustain the knowledge and momentum generated by the project, and there is no need to create an additional platform. IDMP is already working closely with UNCCD on the CLP, and we intend to strengthen it through the project by adding for examples online trainings. Since UNCCD is supposed to be part of the Project board, we are sure that this will be aligned. We clarified this output accordingly. **CR16**: On output 5.1.4: "Dissemination of user-centric sectoral drought information enhanced through co-production of tailored products (e.g. regular drought bulletins for agriculture and water sectors, crop advisories, irrigation schemes)" please clarify: 1. "Enhanced" from what baseline? 2. SADMS already produces bulletins - is this enhancing those or creating new ones?

		Response: We have clarified in the pre-concept that this output focuses on establishing or enhancing user-centric sectoral products, while drought bulletins have been removed, as they belong under Component 1 and rather have an important role in the national governance and Early Warning structure. This output will support the co-production of additional tailored products like for example crop advisories, irrigation guidance or farmer-oriented drought information, also depending on the results of the capacity needs assessment and the specific requirements of agriculture, water and local user groups. This ensures complementarity and avoids overlap with existing products like the ones from SADMS.

	4. Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how: - it supports concrete adaptation actions? - it builds added value through the regional approach? - it promotes new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation? - it is cost-effective? - it is consistent with applicable strategies and plans? - it incorporates learning and knowledge management? - it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund? - it will take into account sustainability?	**Yes, however further clarification is needed.** The proposal mentions several action areas, and focuses mainly on early warning systems. There are very little links to response or action. Innovative approach mentioned is crowdsourcing for impacts of drought and integration of WMO Information System 2.0, though justification is not given as to how this is innovative. The Regional Strategy includes seven countries (including India). This proposal has six (excluding India) when India is the upstream nation on major rivers, and critical to regional coordination. Without India, the "regional" approach is incomplete for transboundary water management, regional climate forecasting, and cross-border drought impacts. The pre-concept note completely omits transboundary water management despite it being a thematic focal area and critically relevant to regional drought management in South Asia. The project references integrating all four pillars of EW4All but is limited in pillar 3 and does not have any outputs on pillar 4. As per component 5, it demonstrates an awareness and intent to integrate learning and knowledge management. Some indication of who will manage this is needed. As per page 5 Consultative process, it states key stakeholders will be involved. There is no language indicating consultation is beyond institutional (government and regional entities). The project concept shows awareness of types of sustainability issues but mechanisms ensuring continuity beyond project are generic. Note that a new Regional Drought Management Centre would entail capital and recurrent costs. Further clarity will be needed about cost-effectiveness. Response: Thanks for the constructive advice and for pointing out several important shortcomings. We appreciate this detailed feedback, and we have addressed each of the issues in the specific responses provided below. **CAR5**: Kindly clarify on how the project will achieve a regional integration without India, particularly given that the Regional Strategy includes India. Response: As indicated in response to CAR2, India was assessed in the same manner as the other South Asian countries, but its existing structures and advanced drought-management arrangements do not fully align with the specific gaps and needs targeted by this proposal. India was engaged from the very beginning, and although it was not possible for the country to join the proposal at this stage, key institutions—particularly the NMHS—have confirmed their willingness to contribute technical expertise and support regional collaboration. Furthermore, the project will ensure that the systems developed in

		the participating countries are complementary to and interoperable with the existing systems in India and we added that to the project Components 2. This alignment will enable smooth information exchange and strengthen the overall regional drought-management architecture. We also recognize India's role as an upstream country in transboundary river systems; however, drought in South Asia is not solely dependent on river flows. A large proportion of agriculture in the region remains rain-fed: current literature estimates that around 60% of agriculture in South Asia is rain-fed (Pratibha et al. 2025, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/chapter/bookseries/abs/pii/S006521132400110X). Because much of the agricultural system is rain-fed and thus vulnerable to rainfall variability and soil-moisture deficits, regional cooperation on early warning, climate information, agricultural advisories and resilience building remains very relevant even without full inclusion of every upstream country and justifies from our point of view a regional approach. For this reason, the project can still achieve meaningful regional integration among the participating countries, while as suggested, India remains actively engaged for example in the learning and knowledge-management aspects. This ensures India can benefit from, and contribute to, regional knowledge exchange even if its not official beneficiary country of this project. **CR17**: Kindly state how the regional drought project will address the shared river basins, which play a role in the impact of drought. Response: We agree that shared river basins are important drivers of drought impacts in South Asia and that they are relevant for a regional approach, particularly under Component 2. We have adapted the text accordingly to acknowledge their role. However, the region contains a very large number of shared basins, while two participating countries (Maldives and Sri Lanka) have none. It is therefore not feasible within the scope of this project to focus on basin-specific planning or to develop detailed transboundary basin agreements. Major river systems such as the Ganges, Brahmaputra or Irrawaddy would require dedicated and much deeper processes as can be done in such a regional project. At the same time, because agriculture across the region is predominantly rain-fed, higher-level transboundary considerations, such as coordinated drought early warning and coordinate drought policies, are the most practical and relevant contributions this project can make. For this reason, the project addresses transboundary aspects at a strategic regional level rather than through detailed basin-level interventions.

		CR18: Kindly clarify how the four pillars mention of EW4All will be integrated when preparedness and response is not mentioned anywhere in the outputs. Response: Thank you for this helpful comment. We agree that all four EW4All pillars and their interactions and governance aspects must be clearly reflected, and we have clarified this in the revised text for component 3. Pillar 1 (risk knowledge) is addressed in Component 1 through baseline drought risk assessments and the establishment of mechanisms to periodically assess and update risk. Pillar 2 (monitoring and forecasting) is also covered in Component 1 through strengthened observation networks, forecasting capacities, and integrated data systems. Pillar 3 (warning dissemination and communication) is reflected both in Component 1—particularly through Output 1.2.3, where end-to-end dissemination channels for drought warnings are established—and further strengthened in Component 3, which focuses on user-centred communication and access to drought information. Pillar 4 (preparedness and response capability) is addressed in two ways: at community level through Component 3, which supports community drought plans that include preparedness measures and strengthen local response capacity; and at governance level through Component 2, which ensures that institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and policies are in place so that all four pillars operate together coherently. These connections are now explicitly reflected to show full integration of the EW4All framework across the project. **CR19**: Regarding consultative process, please provide assurance in the pre-concept proposal that the consultation will be systematic, inclusive and gender-responsive. There is no evidence that community-level or vulnerable group voices will be consulted. Please also briefly list the key stakeholders and ensure the national gender machinery/gender remit and women's associations will be included in the project's design. Response: Thank you for the helpful suggestion. We have now incorporated this clarification into the description of the consultative process. The project will adopt a systematic, inclusive, and gender-responsive consultation approach throughout the design phase. This includes ensuring meaningful participation of community-level stakeholders, vulnerable groups, women, and youth, whose perspectives are essential

		for shaping effective drought resilience interventions. Targeted focus groups and dedicated outreach strategies will ensure that these voices are adequately represented. The consultation process will also engage key institutional stakeholders at both national and subnational levels. This includes the national gender processes, relevant gender focal points, and women's associations and women-led community groups, ensuring that gender considerations are fully integrated into all stages of project design. Key stakeholders to be consulted include: • National ministries and technical agencies responsible for drought management, climate resilience, water resources, agriculture, and environment • The national gender machinery and institutions with a gender mandate • Subnational authorities and local governments • Community-based organizations, including women's associations, youth groups, and farmer organizations • Vulnerable and drought-affected communities (smallholder farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous groups) • Technical partners, research institutions, and civil society organizations • Private sector actors involved in climate services, water management, and resilience solutions These measures will ensure a fully inclusive design process, and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will provide further detail on the methodology, tools, and processes guiding these consultations. **CR20**: Kindly indicate the budget split between regional and national activities or indicate that this will be done in the concept note. Please clarify in the pre-concept note if a financing plan will be developed to sustain the Regional Drought Management Centre's core functions and address post-project funding gaps. Response: Thank you for the suggestion, it is foreseen to provide the detailed budget split between regional and national activities at the concept note stage, when activity design and costing are further developed. Regarding the question on sustaining the Regional Drought Management Centre: as indicated in CAR4, it would be hosted by a WMO Member State, which includes a formal commitment

		to budgeting for, operating, and maintaining its core functions. This ensures long-term institutional and financial sustainability in line with WMO regulatory material and established procedures. Accordingly, the sustainability of the Regional Drought Management Centre will be assured through these existing host-country obligations.
	5. Does the pre-concept briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/programme at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged? Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?	**Yes.** The pre-concept note identifies key implementing and executing entities but lacks critical detail on coordination mechanisms, national institutions' roles, and NIE involvement. The involvements of MHSs (National Meteorological and Hydrological Services) and their respective ministries as NIEs is stated. Response: Thank you for the comment. We have adapted the implementation arrangements to better explain the coordination mechanisms and clarify the roles of national institutions. At the national level, NMHSs will serve as the national executing entities (NEEs), working closely with their respective ministries. Together with the Regional Executing Entities, they will coordinate the engagement and management of additional national partners to ensure coherent implementation and alignment with national priorities. Regarding the involvement of National Implementing Entities (NIEs), this will be further explored during the proposal preparation. At that time, we will assess which of the three currently existing NIEs operating in the project countries could be engaged at the national level (from https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/implementing-entities/national-implementing-entity/): • Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Bangladesh • Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTFEC), Bhutan • National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal Potential collaboration with these NIEs will be examined based on national context, institutional mandates, and added value to project delivery.

Resource Availability	6. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?	**Yes.** **CAR6:** The executing agencies in the PFG are the national 6 Meteorological or related agencies and an additional 3 regional/global institutions. There are three activities to be implemented that will be done by contracted experts and consultants. Kindly clarify in the PFG which activities the EE (if any) will be executing as they seem to be stakeholders and not EEs. Response: Thank you for the clarification. This was a misunderstanding and reflected the EEs of the overall project proposal. We have now updated the pre-concept to clearly and removed the NMHSs.

	7. Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?	**Yes.** The IE costs are at 10% while EE costs are 9.1%. of the project costs. All figures add up and rounded to who numbers – the amount request and project components and financing on pages 3-5 As this is a pre-concept note, the IE is utilising a 3-step approach. The IE is requesting 195k and will initially request 39k which falls within the eligible amount to develop the concept note. **CAR7:** Please amend the cover note of the proposal to indicate that $39,000 is the amount being requested at the Pre-concept stage. Response: Thank you, we amended it. **CR21:** 1. Please amend the start and end date of the PFG. 2. Please add the IE fee line to the PFG form. 3. Please clarify if WMO intends to execute the PFG, if yes please amend the EEs in the PFG request form. Response: Thank you for the comments. These revisions have now been made. The start and end dates of the PFG have been corrected, and the IE fee line has been added to the PFG form. We also clarify that WMO will execute the PFG; therefore, other executing entities have been removed, and the PFG request form has been updated accordingly.
Eligibility of IE	8. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	**Yes.** The project is submitted by the Multilateral Implementing Entity, World Meteorological Organisation. The accreditation expiration data is 30 March 2027.

ADAPTATION FUND

PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme:	Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)
Countries:	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Thematic Focal Area[1]:	Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems
Type of Implementing Entity:	Multilateral Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity:	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Executing Entities:	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO), Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SA), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) or related Ministries of beneficiary countries
Amount of Financing Requested:	29,766,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)
Project Formulation Grant Request:	Yes ☒ No ☐

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: ~~195~~39,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent) (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries: Yes ☒ No ☐

Stage of Submission:

☐This pre-concept has been submitted before

☒ This is the first submission ever of the pre-concept

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Please note that pre-concept should not exceed 5 pages (in addition to this first cover page)

[1] Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

Project Background and Context

South Asia spans over 5 million km² and features diverse climates, from southern tropical monsoons to northern alpine zones. It includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, about 11.5% of Asia's land area. With 24.15% of the global population, the region relies heavily on agriculture: 57% of land is farmed, and nearly 60% of people work in the sector. Despite its key role in food security and the global economy, South Asia faces major drought challenges.Drought adversely impacts food security, water availability, ecosystems, health, energy, and the broader economy.[2] Research indicates that frequency and severity of droughts in South Asia are expected to rise due to climate change[3] and thus strongly impact a region already characterized by the highest concentrations of at-risk populations, significant income disparities, and sociopolitical instability.[4] The region's dependence on agriculture, combined with its diverse climates and topographies, create complex challenges requiring coordinated responses, embedded in integrated water resource management. Droughts disrupt agricultural production, energy production, water availability, tourism, public health, economy as well as ecosystems. These impacts often disproportionately affect women, due to their roles in water collection, food production, and caregiving responsibilities, along with other groups with specific vulnerabilities, particularly in rural areas.[5] Moreover, droughts have indirect and cascading effects, such as heatwaves and wildfires that harm a country's development.[6] These cascading impacts underline the critical need for robust and timely drought-related information services to address social needs, mitigate economic losses,and enhance resilience to climate change and extreme events. However, under current institutional and technical arrangements, these increasing drought risks are not proactively managed, as monitoring remains fragmented, seasonal to sub-seasonal forecasting is not operationalized, and available information is not systematically linked to drought policies, plans, or preparedness measures.~~Existing~~

Drought affects all South Asian countries– all Members of WMO's Regional Association II (Asia), but its impact varies by each nation's geography and socio-economic conditions, influencing sectors like agriculture, energy, public health, and the economy differently. In **Bangladesh**, recurrent droughts particularly affect the northwestern regions, where water scarcity and declining groundwater levels threaten rice and jute production—key livelihoods for millions.[7] In **Bhutan**, shifting rainfall patterns and prolonged dry spells are impacting hydropower generation and water availability, threatening both domestic needs and export revenues.[8] In the **Maldives**, freshwater scarcity during the dry season is exacerbated by rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion, affecting drinking water supplies and the tourism sector.[9] **Nepal** is increasingly vulnerable to seasonal droughts, particularly in the Terai region, where delayed monsoons and dry spells are reducing agricultural productivity and straining water resources.[10] **Pakistan** suffers from chronic droughts in arid regions, where agricultural losses and water shortages have serious implications for food security and rural livelihoods.[11] In **Sri Lanka**, droughts have intensified over recent decades, especially in the dry zone, leading to reduced reservoir levels, crop damage, and heightened energy insecurity due to hydropower dependency.[12]

The proposed project focuses on implementing key components of the "Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia," developed under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by ADPC and adopted in 2024, explicitly addressing the strategy's short-term actions (information and forecasting systems for rapid response; foundational capacity building), medium-term actions (reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience, integrating drought into national development planning, undertaking priority resilience measures, and advancing investment planning including domestic and private-sector finance), while also laying the groundwork for long-term actions such as research and development and strengthened regional cooperation.~~The proposed project focuses on implementing key components of the "Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia," developed under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), which was launched and adopted in 2024~~.[13] Through this proposal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are undertaking a joint effort to implement the strategy at national and regional levels. It recognizes the linkages between drought and land degradation, contributing to a framework for incorporating land restoration as well as sustainable land management practices to achieve drought resilience and contribute to national and regional Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. While the strategy does not yet have a formal implementation plan in the respective countries, it was agreed during the preparation of the strategy that this project would be developed to support its implementation. As a contribution to the UN's Early Warnings

[2] Kafle, H., Khaitu, S., Gyawali, D., Shrestha, D., Koirala, D., Kamaruzzaman, M., Yamaguchi, Y., 2023. Historical drought and its trend in South Asia: Spatial and temporal analysis 2000-2020. APN Science Bulletin, 12(1).
[3] Naumann G, Alfieri L, Wyser K, Mentaschi L, Betts RA, Carrao H, Spinoni J, Vogt J, Feyen L., 2018. Global changes in drought conditions under different levels of warming. Geophysical Research Letters. 16;45(7):3285-96; IPCC, 2023. Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group II: Climate Change 2023 – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; FAO et UNEP, 2022. Global Assessment of Drought 2021–2022.
[4] Kafle et al. 2023; Naumann et al., 2018
[5] Mwale, N.S., Sievers, L.M., Bokal, S., Salman, M., Stefanski, R., Aich, V. 2025. Mainstreaming gender in national drought plans, national action plans and national policies. Rome, FAO.
[6] Zaveri,E.D.; Damania,R.; Engle,N. L., 2023. Droughts and Deficits - Summary Evidence of the Global Impact on Economic Growth (English). Water Global Practice Washington, D.C. World Bank Group.
[7] People's Republic of Bangladesh 2023. National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050)
[8] Kingdom of Bhutan, 2023. First National Adaptation Plan.
[9] Maldives, 2020. Update of Nationally Determined Contribution of Maldives.
[10] Nepal, 2021. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021-2050
[11] Pakistan, 2023. National Adaptation Plan Pakistan 2023.
[12] Sri Lanka, 2016. National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka.
[13] ADPC, 2024: Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia.

Field Code Changed

for All (EW4All) initiative[14], the project aims to strengthen/establish drought early warning systems (EWS) by integrating all four pillars of EWS (Diaster Risk Knowledge; Monitoring and Forecasting ~~Warning~~; Warning Dissemination and Communication; Preparedness and Response Capabilities) and improving governance at regional and national levels. Current drought monitoring efforts exist across the region, but they are not formally linked to policy processes, lack clear institutional mandates, and therefore face challenges in accountability and long-term sustainability. Given these systemic gaps in addressing a transboundary hazard like drought, a regional approach is essential. Only a shared mechanism can provide harmonized indicators, interoperable data, and consistent early warnings that strengthen and complement national systems. This project addresses these gaps by supporting countries in agreeing on a coherent structure in which regional monitoring enhances and complements national systems. Clear mandates and institutional arrangements will ensure stronger ownership, coordination, and lasting impact. The project further~~It also~~ seeks to boost regional coordination, collaboration and capacity for drought management in line with sustainable development and disaster risk reduction goals, with a strong emphasis on gender inclusion. Ultimately, it aims to enhance drought resilience, support livelihoods, and protect ecosystems across the region.

Project Objectives

The project focuses on implementing the Integrated Drought Management (IDM) approach, aligned with the "Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia". Guided by the well-established approach of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), and strengthen and integrating all the four pillars of EWS, key goals are:

1. **Enhance Capabilities and Capacities for Monitoring, Forecasting, and Early Warning**: Improve regional and national capacities for drought monitoring and forecasting to support drought EWS, ensuring timely and actionable information for decision-makers and communities. While several tools and initiatives exist in South Asia—such as those from WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and Regional Climate Outlook Fora, South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS), South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and the University of Tokyo, ~~and RIMES~~—they are not yet consistently linked to policy processes or supported by clear institutional mandates. This limits long-term sustainability, accountability, and comprehensive regional coverage. To address these gaps, the project will help establish a coherent regional–national structure with agreed mandates and improved interoperability, ensuring that drought information reliably informs planning and early action~~Improve regional and national capacities for drought monitoring and forecasting to support drought EWS, ensuring timely and actionable information for decision-makers and communities. This includes building on selected national initiatives like and products from Regional Climate Centers, the South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS), the South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF) the Regional Drought Monitoring and Outlook System by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Satellite-based Drought Monitoring and Warning System by the University of Tokyo, and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) shall also be leveraged, amongst others.~~
2. **Enhance Regional Collaboration and Governance:** Strengthen regional cooperation, incl. data sharing, enhance regional and national governance frameworks to enable coordinated engagement and inclusive IDM, ensuring that drought EWS are anchored in policy to effectively connect drought monitoring and warnings with action. These efforts will built on existing initiatives, integrate a multitude of stakeholders on national and regional level, and integrate collaboration with WMO's RA II, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)~~e.g., the South Asia Hydromet Forum (~~SAHF~~)~~, and other such mechanisms.
3. **Enhance Community-Level Drought Resilience**: Strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities (to be identified during project development) by promoting scalable, sustainable, and inclusive drought preparedness strategies with a strong focus on gender and diversity. Ensure communities are equipped to understand and act on early warnings to reduce drought impacts.

Project Components and Financing

Project Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US$)
1. Drought monitoring, early warnings and drought risk	1.1 Sustained mechanisms for drought risk assessments as well as drought impact monitoring established.	1.1.1 Baseline drought risk assessments at the national level, identifying vulnerable areas and sectors, including land degradation status 1.1.2 Climate change responsive drought risk assessment and mapping methodology developed	All	9,000,000

[14] See https://earlywarningsforall.org. Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Maldives were among the first 30 countries globally to receive targeted support and have developed comprehensive roadmaps to strengthen their multi-hazard early warning systems under the EW4All initiative.

and impact assessment *(IDM Pillar 1&2)*	1.2 Harmonised approach on national and regional level for drought monitoring, forecasting and early warnings established	and implemented for periodic national assessments~~and agreed~~ 1.1.3 Drought impact monitoring and assessment methodology established incl. innovative crowdsourcing 1.2.1 Enhance and/or establish IDM and forecasting systems based on existing platforms incl. opportunistic data 1.2.2 Drought early warning methodology in all target countries and integrated in national drought policies incl. regular drought bulletins 1.2.3 E2E dissemination channels for drought warnings established, tailored to key stakeholders' needs		
2. Integrated drought governance and regional cooperation *(IDM Pillar 3)*	2.1 National policies formulated ~~/drafted~~/updated aligning with the regional strategy 2.2 Regional WMO drought management body/center established	2.1.1 Analysis of drought risk related institutional and policy gaps based on 1.1.1. 2.1.2. Socio-economic benefits studies (SEB) undertaken to inform policies 2.1.3 National drought committees established or strengthened in targeted countries, with defined mandates, membership structures, and operational procedures for drought coordination. 2.1.4 National drought policy frameworks introduced or updated. ~~s2.1.3 Recommendations for national policy on drought risk management and drought policies supported where possible including the establishment or strengthening of national drought committees~~ 2.2.1 Establishment/enhancement of regional institutional arrangements based on existing structures (e.g. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and SAHF as well as basin organizations) 2.2.2 Establishment of WMO Regional Drought Management Centre in a selected host country	All	3,000,000
3. Community-level drought resilience *(IDM Pillar 3)*	3.1 Community-level, climate-resilient drought risk management and financing solutions for sustainable implementation implemented in pilot communities in each of the target countries and plans for scaling developed	3.1.1 Community-level climate-resilient drought risk management plans incl. contingency developed, based on gender sensitive risk assessments (pilot communities), methodology documented to ensure scalability ~~3.1.2 Community-level action plans developed and tested~~ 3.1.~~3~~2 National and Sub-national ~~Drought risk~~drought risk investment plans and financing strategies developed, based on identified investment typologies 3.1.~~4~~3 Nature-based solutions implemented to increase drought resilience in pilot communities 3.1.~~5~~4 Guidelines for implementation and scaling for above outputs developed incl. financing strategies	All	6,~~000~~600,000
4. Capacity development for Integrated Drought Management	4.1 Strengthened capacity for drought management on national, regional and community level	4.1.1 Capacity ~~development initiatives (incl. workshops/fellowships) for NMHSs, authorities, local pilot communities, and other key stakeholders conducted~~needs assessment for NMHSs, authorities, local pilot communities, and other key stakeholders conducted 4.1.2 Capacity development initiatives (incl. workshops/fellowships) for NMHSs, authorities, local pilot communities, and other key stakeholders conducted	All	~~4,0~~3,600,000
5. Knowledge & awareness on climate-resilient and inclusive Integrated	5.1 Partner engagement, communication and awareness increased on national & regional level	~~5.1.1 Engagement plan for key stakeholders developed and implemented~~ 5.1.~~2~~1 Gender action plans, incl. indicators and trainings developed and implemented 5.1.~~3~~2 Strengthened UNCCD Climate Learning Platform (CLP) as the central space for cross-regional knowledge exchange ~~Cross-regional knowledge~~	All	2,~~6~~400,000

Drought Management		~~management approach and community of practice (COP) on climate-resilient drought management established~~ 5.1.~~4~~ 3 Dissemination of user-centric sectoral drought information enhanced through co-production of tailored products (e.g. ~~regular drought bulletins for agriculture and water sectors,~~ crop advisories, irrigation schemes)		
Programme Execution cost (10%)				2,460,000
Total Project/Programme Cost				27,060,000
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (10%)				2,706,000
Amount of Financing Requested				**29,766,000**

Project Duration: 5 years

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Project Components

1. Baseline drought risk assessments will identify regional drought hazards, vulnerabilities, and impacts. Findings will inform a harmonized, methodology for assessment, monitoring, forecasting, and decision-making, guiding project other components and the enhancement/ establishment of monitoring networks for drought management and EWS. For drought monitoring, the project will strengthen regional observation networks, such as WMO's Regional Basic Observing Network, to improve real-time data access, exchange, and harmonization. Remote sensing data and products will be used ~~extensively in conjunction with ground-based measurements to monitor and plan mitigation activities~~to complement in-situ data. For drought forecasting, access to global and regional drought-relevant products from the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS) Centres will be ensured, incl. extended-range and sub-seasonal predictions as feasible, ~~subject to availability and potential further processing needs~~.
   This component will strengthen evidence-based decision-making in drought management at national and regional levels, ensuring improved preparedness, response, and resilience to drought events through an earth system approach. Existing global/regional drought products will be analyzed with the aim of defining standardized regional drought products that can be disseminated within the WIPPS, considering key user requirements. The project will support the adoption of the WMO Information System 2.0, enabling seamless exchange of hydrometeorological data to enhance regional monitoring and prediction capabilities, incl. the WMO Hydrological Observation System. The WMO Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System approach will be applied, integrating these monitoring, forecasting, and data-sharing components to provide comprehensive drought information. These efforts will be accompanied by capacity building efforts - component 4. A review of national and regional drought management institutions, policies, and strategies will be conducted using the IDMP Benefit of Action/Cost of Inaction Framework. To enhance long-term institutional capacity and sustainability, the project will support the establishment of a WMO Regional Drought Management Centre, leveraging and creating synergies with existing structures.
2. At the regional level, cooperation will be enhanced through the establishment or strengthening of institutional arrangements such as SAARC and SAHF, complemented by the creation of a WMO Regional Drought Management Centre, similar to the Drought Management Centre for Southeastern Europe, in a selected host country. Transboundary aspects of drought risk including shared river basins and regional climate drivers will be addressed at a strategic level through coordinated early warning and policies. At the national level, policies will be formulated or updated in line with the regional strategy, informed by institutional and policy gap analyses as well as socio-economic benefit studies. In addition, Drought Committees (with names depending on country context) will be established or strengthened, bringing together experts from drought-impacted sectors such as agriculture, forestry/wildfires, irrigation, and other relevant institutions to foster integrated collaboration and ensure a coordinated, systematic approach to drought risk reduction and resilience-building. While India is not a participating country in this proposal, the regional institutional arrangements and technical systems will be aligned so that they remain compatible with, and complementary to, India's existing drought-management frameworks, thereby supporting coherent regional information flows and wider collaboration.
3. At the community level, climate-resilient drought risk management plans will be developed in pilot areas, based on gender-sensitive risk assessments, with methodologies documented to ensure scalability. These integrated plans will combine risk management, preparedness and contingency planning (response capacity) in line with EW4All Pillar 4. User-centred dissemination channels developed under Component 1 will be applied at community level to ensure that drought information and warnings are timely and actionable (Pillar 3).~~At the community level, climate-resilient drought risk management plans will be developed in pilot areas, based on gender-sensitive risk assessments, with methodologies documented to ensure scalability. These will be complemented by community~~

~~action plans that are designed and tested on the ground~~. To strengthen resilience, nature-based solutions will be implemented, alongside localized drought risk financing strategies that will identify financing sources and match these with local finance needs, using using approaches such as community-based microfinance groups, cooperative insurance schemes, and partnerships with local private actors. Finally, guidelines will be produced to support the implementation and scaling of these approaches, including the financing mechanisms, so that successful models can be replicated more widely

4. Capacity-development for academic and non-degree professionals will directly leverage support mobilized under the other components through strengthening national and regional capabilities in drought risk assessment, monitoring, and forecasting. Additionally, national capabilities in utilizing Remote Sensing data, seasonal-to-subseasonal forecasting and other relevant application products will be enhanced through tailored capacity development activities. This will ensure that monitoring, forecasting, and data-sharing improvements are effectively sustained and integrated into institutional frameworks, strengthening evidence-based decision-making. Capacity building activities will be implemented on national and regional level.
5. Knowledge and awareness on climate-resilient and inclusive Integrated Drought Management will be strengthened through increased partner engagement, communication, and awareness at national and regional levels. This includes the development and implementation of stakeholder engagement and gender action plans (with indicators and trainings), the establishment of a cross-regional knowledge management approach and community of practice (COP) that will build on and strengthen the existing UNCCD Community of Learning and Practice (CLP) for Asia, and the co-production and dissemination of user-focused drought information products such as regular bulletins, crop advisories, and irrigation guidance. Given India's importance for regional drought monitoring, India will be included in the regional learning and knowledge-exchange activities; this may also include twinning arrangements to facilitate mutual learning and the sharing of India's advanced experience.

Other considerations

Consultative Process: Given the diversity of countries, the identification, engagement and commitment of key stakeholders at regional, national and community levels is essential for project development and implementation. Building on the stakeholders involved in the development of the Regional Strategy, the project will ensure an inclusive consultative process that also integrates gender-transformative and socially inclusive engagement, involving women's groups, vulnerable community representatives and other relevant actors to reflect diverse needs and perspectives.~~Given the variety of countries, identification, management and commitment of key stakeholders involved in drought management (regional, national and community level) is key in project development and implementation. Key stakeholders involved in the development of the Regional Strategy, will be involved.~~

Cost Effectiveness: A cost-effective, holistic approach integrating technical, social, economic, and environmental factors of each country will prioritize regional resilience over a single-country focus. Strategic pilot investments and local expertise will complement this approach and enhance national drought resilience. Synergies and alignment with other initiatives, e.g. the CREWS South Asia, WISER Asia Pacific, and other projects currently ongoing/planned will be sought to maximize financial efficiency.

Learning & Knowledge Management: Project activities will be underpinned by capacity development ~~initiatives~~, knowledge management and awareness raising ~~campaigns~~. COPs will foster informal collaboration. This project further strengthens knowledge exchange between the more advanced and lesser advanced target countries in the region and will be aligned with SAHF as well as built on an/or leverage ongoing regional and national activities.

Innovation & Coherence: Many projects address drought management, but this one offers a cohesive approach by building on the Regional Drought Strategy, linking local and national efforts and aligning with ongoing regional initiatives, such as amongst others Regional Frameworks for Climate Services and national EW4All Roadmaps. It promotes a shared understanding to effectively address drought and water scarcity, contributing to greater resilience and healthier ecosystems across the region.

SEB and Gender: SEB analysis' and a gender action plan, will guide the implementation. The project will generate SEBs through reduced losses, strengthened sectoral security, and protected ecosystems. It will follow Adaptation Fund and WMO environmental, social, and gender policies, using a user-centric approach to engage vulnerable communities and address gender issues.

Sustainability: Sustainability will be ensured through establishing governance mechanisms with sustainable financing, institutionalizing the regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy. Nature-based solutions will enhance ecosystem services and link them to livelihoods, while financing strategies will support scaling and sustainability. Institutional capacity on all levels will be enhanced though capacity development on decision-making for drought management and aligned with regional activities of e.g. SAHF, ensuring long-term results. The WMO Regional Drought Management Centre in collaboration with other regional institutions will coordinate ongoing, sustained implementation.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The initiative will be led by the WMO as the implementing entity, in close collaboration with executing partners to ensure effective implementation and inclusive stakeholder engagement. The Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) Technical Support Unit of the IDMP, supported by its network of Support Base Partners, will be responsible for designing technical solutions in cooperation with the executing entities. A dedicated project manager will oversee implementation, ensuring meaningful stakeholder participation, effective monitoring, and robust risk management. At the regional level, activities will be coordinated by ADPC and GWP South Asia, ensuring alignment with regional frameworks, institutions, and existing drought management initiatives.~~At the regional level, activities will be led by ADPC and GWP South Asia.~~ At the national level, implementation will be led by ~~National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (~~NMHSs~~)~~ and their respective ministries, in close coordination with local institutions and regional stakeholders. At local level~~,~~ ~~engagement with he tInternational Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and~~, the Country Water Partnership Network of GWP will help to connect and include local organizations ~~will be sought~~. Collaboration with national and regional stakeholders will be facilitated through workshops, formal agreements, and institutional arrangements. A ~~steering committee~~project board composed of key stakeholders, including ~~the~~ UNCCD who provides funding for project development, will provide strategic direction to the project. Implementation arrangements will be further developed/identified in the project development stage.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[15] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as annexes to the project/programme proposal.*

Dr Farhina Ahmed Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Bangladesh	Date*: 05/ 26/ 2025*
Tshering Dorji *Director* *Ministry of Finance* *Bhutan*	Date: 06/ 16/ 2025
Ahmed Waheed Director Ministry of Environment and Energy Maldives	Date*: 05/ 26/2025*
Suman Subedi *Under Secretary (Technical), Head,* *Adaptation Section* *Ministry of Forests and Environment* *Nepal*	Date:08/03/2025
Ms. Sameera Sheik Joint Secretary Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Pakistan	Date*: 02/28/2025*
K.R. Uduwawala *Secretary* *Ministry of Environment* *Sri Lanaka*	Date: 06/04/2025

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (……list here…..) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.
Moyenda Chaponda *Moyenda Chaponda* Implementing Entity Coordinator

Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

Date: *28/08/2025*	Tel. and email:+41 22 730 8646/ mchaponda@wmo.int
Project Contact Person: Valentin Aich	
Tel. And Email: +41 22 730 8494/	

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Meteorological Department
Meteorological Complex
E-24, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Phone : +88 02 41025705 / 41025730
Fax : +88 02 41025726 / 41025727
E-mail : info@bmd.gov.bd
swc@bmd.gov.bd
swcbmd@yahoo.com
Web : www.bmd.gov.bd

No. 23.09.0000.095.24.004.25.3612

Dated: 28 May 2025

From: Md. Nurul Karim (Mr.)
Deputy Director
Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)

To: Ms. Stephanie Gallasch
Project Officer
Development Partnerships Office
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
7bis, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Email: sgallasch@wmo.int

Sub: Signed Endorsement Letter of National Designated Authority (NDA), Bangladesh to the Adaptation Fund.

Dear Ms. Stephanie Gallasch,

Greetings from Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

With reference to your email dated 14 May 2025, please be informed that National Designated Authority (NDA), Bangladesh has signed in the endorsement letter for the pre-concept note of the 'Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)' Project. The singed endorsement letter attached herewith for your kind information and further necessary action.

Assuring you, our highest cooperation at all times.

With best regards,

28-05-25
(Md. Nurul Karim)
Deputy Director
For Director

CC to:

1. Mr. Valentin Aich, Senior Water and Climate Expert, WMO
   Email: vaich@wmo.int
2. Mr. Robert Stefanski, Chief, WMO Agricultural Meteorology Division, WMO
   Email: RStefanski@wmo.int
3. Mr. Jochen Luther, Scientific. Officer, WMO
   Email: JLuther@wmo.int
4. Mr. Md. Monowar Hossian
   Meteorologist, BMD and Focal Point for Bangladesh, IDM-SA Project.
   Email: monowar1577@gmail.com

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

No: 22.00.0000.000.072.99.0004.25.191 Date: 26/05/2025

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN N7-700
Washington, D.C., 20433
United States of America

Subject: Endorsement for the pre-concept note of the "Integrated Drought Management for South Asia" project.

In my capacity as the Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Bangladesh, I confirm that the above regional project aligns with the government's national and regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts and risks posed by drought in South Asia.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as well as other national and regional partners.

Sincerely,

Dr. Farhina Ahmed 26/05/2025
Secretary

དཔལ་ཚོགས་ལྷན་ཁག།
Department of Macro-Fiscal and Development Finance
Ministry of Finance
Royal Government of Bhutan

BHUTAN
Believe

MoF/DMDF/DCDMD/AF_DA/2024-25/**3103** June 16, 2025

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN N7-700
Washington, D.C., 20433
United States of America
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for the pre-concept note of the "Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)" Project

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Bhutan, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by drought in Bhutan.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by national and regional partners such as the National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) of the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

(Tshering Dorji)
Director/ Designated Authority to the Adaptation Fund

Copy to:
1. Director, National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology.
2. Director, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
3. Director, Department of Water, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.
4. Program Director, National Soil Services Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Ministry of Tourism and Environment
Male', Republic of Maldives

Date: 26 May 2025 No: 88-CCD/PRIV/2025/709

The Adaptation Fund Board,
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat,
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240

Sub: Endorsement for "Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)"

Your Excellency,

In my capacity as Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Maldives, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with our national priorities i.e Maldives NDC3, National Earlywarning Roadmap, and regional collaboration areas in implementing adaptation activities to reduce the adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the Maldives and South Asia.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project/programme will be implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and Maldives Meteorological Service.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Waheed,
Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund

+960 3018300 *secretariat@environment.gov.mv* *MoEnvmv* *www.environment.gov.mv*

Government of Nepal

Ministry of Forests and Environment

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forest and Environment
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu

P.O. Box No. 3987
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu

Ref. No. 29

जल तथा मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
दर्ता नं.: ४३४
मिति: २०८२।४।१९

Letter of Endorsement

Date: August 3, 2025

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: **Endorsement of the pre concept note for regional project "Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)"**

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Nepal, I confirm that the above pre concept note for regional project is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Nepal.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the pre concept note with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SA), Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) and relevant National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and related ministries of beneficiary countries in close co-ordination with the climate change focal ministry in these countries.

Sincerely,

Suman Subedi
Designated Authority, Adaptation Fund
Under Secretary, Adaptation Section
Ministry of Forests and Environment
Email:s_subedi2003@yahoo.com
suman.subedi@nepal.gov.np

Tel: +92-51-9245589

No. F1(1)2024-Misc/PCCA/2863
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION
(LG&RD COMPLEX, G-5/2)
*****

Islamabad, 17th October, 2025

JOINT SECRETARY
(CC&ENV.)

To:
The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MNS N7-700
Washington, D.C, 20433
United States of America
Email: secretariat@adaptation-fund.org

Subject: - **ENDORSEMENT FOR THE PRE-CONCEPT NOTE OF THE "INTEGRATED DROUGHT MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH ASIA" PROJECT TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

In my capacity as the designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Pakistan, I confirm that the above regional project aligns with the government's national and regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts and risks posed by drought in South Asia.

2. Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), as well as national and regional partners.

Sameera Sheikh

(Sameera Sheikh)
NDA for Adaptation Fund Pakistan

Copy to:

- PS to the Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
- Member Coordination, Climate Change Authority, Islamabad.
- Stephanie Gallasch (SGallasch@wmo.int)

පරිසර අමාත්‍යාංශය
சுற்றாடல் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Environment

"සොබාදම් පියස", අංක 416/සී/1, රොබට් ගුණවර්ධන මාවත, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
"சொபாதம் பியச", இல. 416/சீ/1, ரொபர்ட் குணவர்தன மாவத்தை, பத்தரமுல்லை, இலங்கை.
"Sobadam Piyasa", No. 416/C/1, Robert Gunawardana Mawatha, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.

Gen. Tel. +94-11-2034100

ලේකම්
செயலாளர்
Secretary
+94-11-2034121

ෆැක්ස්
தொலை நகல்
Fax
+94-11-2879944

මගේ අංකය / எனது இல / My No: ENV/CC/04/04/03/02/232

ඔබේ අංකය / உமது இல / Your No:

දිනය / திகதி / Date: 04.06.2025

The Chairman
The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

Dear Sir,

Endorsement for the Pre Concept Note
"Integrated Drought Management for South Asia" Project

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Sri Lanka, I confirm that the above regional project aligns with the Government's national and regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts and risks posed by drought in South Asia.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, Global Water Partnership (GWP), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as well as national and regional partners.

Sincerely,

K. R. Uduwawala
Secretary

Cc: Ms Stephanie Gallasch(World Meteorological Organization)- for your information please

ADAPTATION FUND

Revised PFG Submission Form[1]

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 8 December 2025

Adaptation Fund Project ID: ?
Country/ies: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Title of Project/Programme: Integrated Drought Management in South Asia
Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): MIE
Implementing Entity: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Executing Entity/ies: N/A

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	01 May 2026
Completion date of PFG	01 December 2026

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US$ Amount	Budget note[2]
Support in writing of the project concept by external consultant	Project concept well-coordinated with country stakeholders and in line with AF rules and regulations	24,000	Contracting of a consultant to support the coordination and writing of the concept at a daily rate of 400 USD for 60 days
Support of different experts within the implementing and executing entity in formulating the concept	Project concept in line with latest standards and state of the art methodologies	7,500	Contracting of experts to provide matter expert advice for concept at a daily rate of 500 USD for 15 days
Stakeholder consultations	Concept based on stakeholder needs	7,600	Support stakeholder engagement processes e.g. potentially travel

[1] As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.
[2] The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

Implementing Entity Fee[3] (Administration and management of concept preparation)	Project concept coordinate and submitted in time	2,900	This will support the proposal coordination officer
		500	This will support WMO Human Resources Support for hiring a consultant
		500	Administration for hiring a consultant
Total Project Formulation Grant		39,000	

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

1. **Support in writing of the project concept by external consultant:** An external consultant will be hired to support the writing process and coordinate with all national and regional stakeholders as well as the executing entities. This will ensure that all needs and expectations are well coordinated with country stakeholders and in line with AF rules and regulations. The amount allows to hire a consultant for 50 days at a daily rate of USD 500.
2. **Support of different experts within the implementing and executing entity in formulating the concept:** Different experts of the implementing and executing entities will be engaged in the process of preparing the project concept, providing expert input on different fields like Early Warning Systems (EWS), Monitoring etc. This amount is to compensate the different departments internally.
3. **Stakeholder consultation:** Stakeholder consultations will be carried out at national and regional levels, either online or in person, primarily making use of the contacts and networks of partners and the GWP. These consultations will ensure broad input, alignment with country priorities, and stakeholder ownership of the project concept.
4. **Implementing Entity Fee:** The 10% share will be used to support the coordination and administration within WMO.

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Mr. Moyenda Chaponda	Moyenda Chaponda	8 December 2025	Mr. Robert	+41 22 730 8305,	RStefanski@wmo.int

[3] 10% Implementing Entity Management Fee of USD 3,900 in total.

			Stefanski		