



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.26/3
22 September 2015

Adaptation Fund Board
Twenty-sixth meeting
Bonn, Germany, 8-9 October 2015

Agenda item 4

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

Background

1. As of the issuance of this document, this report lists the activities undertaken by the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat (the secretariat) during the period between the 25th and 26th meetings of the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board).

Finalization and posting of the report of the 25th Board meeting

2. Following the 25th meeting held in Bonn, Germany on 7-10 April, 2015, the secretariat supported the Chair in finalizing the report of the meeting, through both editorial revisions and summarizing its discussions. As agreed by the Board, the report was completed and circulated to Board members and alternates for comments and approval. The Board approved the report and it was posted on the website of the Adaptation Fund (the Fund) as document AFB/B.25/7.

Events and meetings

3. During the reporting period, the secretariat participated in, and presented at, the following events and meetings.

- (a) NAP Expo (14-15 April 2015, Bonn, Germany) & AC/LEG workshop (16-17 April 2015, Bonn, Germany): A member of the secretariat participated into the NAP Expo that was organized by the LDC Expert Group (LEG) supported by an Advisory group that includes the Adaptation Committee (AC) and several programmes and organization. It brought together LDC and other Parties, UN organizations and specialized agencies, other international organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, regional centers and networks as well as individual adaptation practitioners and experts, to discuss issues around selected themes on the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans. Following this event, the staff member joined the AC/LEG Workshop on “experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs”. The objectives of the workshop were twofold: to share and analyze experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs and; to explore options for enhancing reporting related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs.
- (b) 9th Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change – “Measuring and enhancing effective adaptation” (24-30 April 2015, Nairobi, Kenya): A member of the Secretariat participated into this event that provided an opportunity to share the latest developments in community-based adaptation with a wide international audience, especially in Monitoring and Evaluation. The staff member joined a panel discussion on “Measuring, linking and learning about adaptation effectiveness across scales: from communities to sub-national, national and global frameworks”, presenting how the Results Based Management system the Fund has supported and learned from community based adaptation. The member of the Secretariat has also supported the participation of a Board Member in delivering a closing speech, sharing the Fund’s experience with NEMA in Kenya and the Fund’s lessons learned in M&E. This event has also contributed to raise awareness of the Fund within the CBA community, and has created and strengthened relationships with various stakeholders.

- (c) Climate Finance Readiness Workshop (18-20 May 2015, Windhoek, Namibia) and bilateral meetings with Southern Africa representatives from key stakeholders (21st May 2015, Windhoek, Namibia, and Gaborone, Botswana) governments: As part of the Readiness Programme Seminar Series, the secretariat has partnered with Heinrich Boll Foundation (HSB) and the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN), which is a National Implementing Entity for the Fund, in organizing the Climate Finance Readiness Workshop for the Southern Africa region bringing together experts in the field of climate finance, and from different financing and supporting organizations along with representatives from accredited NIEs and 12 countries in the region, to share their experiences and lessons learnt with readiness activities. This 3-day event included one day of clinics (face to face short meetings between the accreditation and environmental and social safeguards experts and the requesting country/organization). It provided the participants with better knowledge about processes to become an NIE, about the full AF proposal development cycle including specific AF requirements and existing projects, and information on opportunities available through different initiatives to support countries with their accreditation and project development processes. Following this workshop, the Secretariat members have held bilateral meetings with key stakeholders in Southern Africa. The member of the Secretariat visited the DRFN headquarters and held strategic discussions on potential adaptation projects/programmes with senior staffs from the institution, and then traveled to Gaborone, Botswana, where they met with representatives from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Finance, and the Department of Meteorological Services.
- (d) The forty-second sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 42) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 42), as well as the June session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP2-9) (1-11 June 2015, Bonn, Germany): During these sessions the secretariat organized a dialogue with donor countries, which was presided by the Chair and well attended. The Dialogue included presentations by two of the Fund's National Implementing Entities (NIE) representatives (SANBI and NEMA) as speakers. The Manager participated as speaker in an event on complementarity among the multilateral climate funds, organized by the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs); and in an event on transparency and accountability in climate finance organized by Transparency International. The Manager and a Senior Climate Change Specialist joined the Chair and Vice-Chair in a number of bilateral meetings, including with the GCF Executive Secretary, the Standing Committee on Finance Co-Chairs, and the UNFCCC Secretariat. The secretariat provided targeted briefings on the Fund to a number of constituencies, including the G77 and China, Least Developed Countries, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the African Group, GRULAC, and the Eastern European Group. The secretariat also facilitated a session in the In-session Workshop on Long-term Finance.
- (e) The tenth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance (Bonn, Germany, 12-13 June 2015): The Manager and a Senior Climate Change Specialist joined the Chair at this meeting. The Fund complementarity with other funds and institutions under the UNFCCC was one of the items on the agenda. The day before this meeting started, the Chair and Vice-Chair, and secretariat participated in a dinner together with the SCF members, in order to raise awareness on the Fund.
- (f) The tenth meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board (6-9 July 2015, Songdo, Republic of Korea): The Operations Officer (Accreditation) participated as observer

in the meeting. She followed the plenary discussions as well as a meeting on the readiness and preparatory support coordination mechanism. She also met informally with several GCF Board members, implementing entities, and key staff members of the GCF secretariat.

- (g) “Adaptation to Climate Change Policy Challenges and Private Initiatives ahead of Paris Climate Summit” organized by Stockholm Environment Institute and the Embassy of France in Sweden (Stockholm, Sweden, 15 June 2015): The Manager participated as keynote speaker in the panel “How to finance adaptation to climate change?” Representatives of the private sector, the Swedish International Development Agency, one of the Adaptation Committee Co-Chairs, and UNEP participated as panelists.
- (h) Meeting with the Minister of Development Cooperation of Sweden, Ms. Isabella Loevin, and her staff (Stockholm, 15 June 2015): After the event above, the Manager and the current and one of the former Board members and Chair from Sweden, Tove Goldmann and Ambassador Jan Cedergren, visited Minister Loevin and discussed the latest developments in the Fund and its financial situation.
- (i) Meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DEZA) of Switzerland (Bern, Switzerland, 19 June 2015): The Manager met jointly with the three ministries that have responsibility on finance decisions in the Swiss Federal Government and made a presentation about the Fund’s operations and status of resources. The meeting was organized by the current Board member from Switzerland, Ms. Yuka Greiler. After the meeting, she participated in a lunch with Mr. Dominique Favre, Deputy Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Swiss Board member and her predecessor, Mr. Anton Hilber.
- (j) Webinar organized by the platform #adaptaccion, Inter-American Development Bank (23 June 2015): The Manager of the secretariat made a presentation about the Fund experience in financing adaptation projects/programmes.
- (k) Climate Finance Readiness Seminar for National Implementing Entities (28-30 July 2015, Washington DC, USA): The second Climate Finance Readiness Seminar for NIEs was part of the AF’s Readiness Programme for Climate Finance, whose overall objectives is to increase the number of accredited national implementing entities (NIEs) and the number of quality projects proposed and implemented by NIEs and regional implementing entities (RIEs). With the approval of an environmental and social policy in November 2013, the workshop also offered an opportunity for entities to gain familiarity with the policy and build capacity in managing and addressing environmental and social risks in project design and implementation. The seminar brought together representatives of 17 of the 19 AF National Implementing Entities (NIEs), giving them opportunity to meet and discuss their experiences and lessons learnt. They were joined by representatives from Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs), Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs) and practitioners of climate finance, to share experiences, exchange ideas and become more familiar with the AF’s procedures and operational policies and guidelines in order to efficiently design, propose and manage the full-cycle implementation of climate adaptation projects and programmes.

- (l) Workshop on Implementing Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Zones of Africa (24-26 August 2015, Dakar, Senegal): This workshop was a collaboration between the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO/IOC) and the Adaptation Fund, with the objectives to review trends in climate change, vulnerability, potential impacts and adaptation strategies in response to climate change impacts on the African coasts and oceans, and to provide training on the ways of preparing proposals for submission to the Climate Change Adaptation Fund. Representatives of 14 African countries member of IOC participated in the workshop. One of the Climate Change Specialists and a former Accreditation Panel expert participated as resource persons and facilitated several sessions of the workshop.
- (m) Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP2-10) (31 August – 4 September 2015, Bonn, Germany): One of the Climate Change Specialists participated as an observer in the sessions. He also facilitated, along with members of the UNFCCC secretariat, a meeting between two AFB members and the co-facilitators from the Standing Committee of Finance of the discussion on issues related to possible future institutional linkages and relations between the Adaptation Fund (AF) and other institutions under the Convention.

Preparations for the 26th Board meeting

Meeting arrangements

4. The secretariat issued letters of invitation to the Board members and alternates, and made travel arrangements for eligible Board members.

Meeting documents

5. The secretariat, working closely with the Board and Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and the trustee, prepared the documents for the 26th Board meeting and for the seventeenth meetings of the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC), and of the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC).

6. Documents prepared for the PPRC meeting include AFB/PPRC.17/3: Report of the secretariat on initial screening/technical review of project and programme proposals, and AFB/PPRC.17/4: Report of the secretariat on the intersessional review cycle, which outlines the screening/technical review process undertaken by the secretariat, as well as the following nine project/programme documents with their corresponding technical reviews, and one Project Formulation Grant document:

7. The documents for the PPRC meeting also include AFB/PPRC.17/5: Analysis of climate change adaptation reasoning.

AFB/PPRC.17/6	<i>Proposal for India (1)</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/7	<i>Proposal for Senegal</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/8	<i>Proposal for Ecuador</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/9	<i>Proposal for Guinea Bissau</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/10	<i>Proposal for Peru (1)</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/11	<i>Proposal for India (2)</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/12	<i>Proposal for Namibia (1)</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/13	<i>Proposal for Namibia (2)</i>

AFB/PPRC.17/14	<i>Proposal for Namibia (3)</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/15	<i>Proposal for Chile</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/16	<i>Proposal for India (3)</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/17	<i>Proposal for Namibia (4)</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/18	<i>Proposal for Peru (2)</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/19	<i>Proposal for Niger</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/20	<i>Proposal for Albania</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/21	<i>Proposal for Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Togo</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/22	<i>Proposal for Chile and Ecuador</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/23	<i>Proposal for Colombia and Ecuador</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/24	<i>Proposal for Cuba, Dominican Republic and Jamaica</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/25	<i>Proposal for Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda</i>
AFB/PPRC.17/26	<i>Proposal for Seychelles and Mauritius</i>

8. Documents prepared for the EFC meeting include:

AFB/EFC.17/1	Provisional agenda
AFB/EFC.17/2	Annotated provisional agenda
AFB/EFC.17/3	Evaluation of the Fund
AFB/EFC.17/4	Effectiveness and efficiency of the accreditation process: Proposed modifications
AFB/EFC.17/5	Compilation and analysis of gender-related policies and procedures of the Fund
AFB/EFC.17/6	Annual performance report for the fiscal year 2015
AFB/EFC.17/7	Adaptation Fund Trust Fund: Financial report prepared by the trustee (as at 30 June 2015)
AFB/EFC.17/8	Reconciliation of the administrative budgets of the Board and secretariat, and the trustee for the fiscal year 2015

9. The documents for the EFC meeting also include AFB/EFC.17/Inf.: UNFCCC Online platform for voluntary cancellation of CEFs (Presentation).

10. Documents for the 26th Board meeting include the regular activities of the secretariat and Accreditation Panel reports (AFB/B.26/3 and AFB/B.26/4); as well as document AFB/B.26/5: *Strategic discussion on objectives and further steps of the Fund – Potential linkages between the Fund and the Green Climate Fund.*

11. Six information documents prepared for the Board meeting are: AFB/B.26/Inf.1: *List of documents*; AFB/B.26/Inf.2: *Adaptation Fund Board members and alternates*; AFB/B.26/Inf.3: *List of observers*; AFB/B.26/Inf.4: *Trustee Presentation: Update on Status of Resources and CER monetization*; and AFB/B.26/Inf.5: *Agenda of the Civil Society Dialogue.*

Membership of the Board

12. The following includes a list of the changes in the membership of the Board:

- a) Ms. Su-Lin Garbett-Shiels (United Kingdom), Member for the Western Europe and Others Constituency, resigned from the Board. The nomination of her replacement is pending.

- b) Ms. Ana Fornells de Frutos (Spain), Alternate for the Annex I Countries Constituency, resigned from the Board. The nomination of her replacement is pending.

Intersessional decisions approved by the Board

13. The secretariat, in consultation with the Board Chair and Vice-Chair, prepared and circulated draft decision texts, of which fifteen were approved by the Board during the intersessional period. All the decisions listed below have been posted on the Fund website.

- B.25-26/1: Approval of second tranche of funding - Cambodia
- B.25-26/2: Approval of third tranche of funding - Ecuador
- B.25-26/3: Approval of request for programme extension - Samoa
- B.25-26/4: Approval of project in Indonesia
- B.25-26/5: Approval of budget revision and second tranche of funding - Colombia
- B.25-26/6: third tranche of funding - Tanzania
- B.25-26/7: Approval of second tranche of funding - Rwanda
- B.25-26/8: Non-approval of proposal for India
- B.25-26/9: Accreditation of the Environment Division of the Ministry of Health and the Environment – Government of Antigua and Barbuda
- B.25-26/10: Accreditation of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- B.25-26/11: Re-accreditation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- B.25-26/12: Assessing the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) fiduciary and environmental and social standards with recommendations on fast-tracking re-accreditation and potential accreditation applicants to the Adaptation Fund
- B.25-26/13: Approval of second tranche of funding - Egypt
- B.25-26/14: Approval of amendment to the project performance report (PPR) template
- B.25-26/15: Report of the Adaptation Fund Board to the Conference of the Parties serving as meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol as its eleventh session
- B.25-26/16: Report on project implementation: UNDP (Uzbekistan)

Implementation of decisions adopted by the Board at its 25th meeting and during the ensuing intersessional period

Arrangement of the intersessional review cycle

14. The secretariat informed implementing entities and other stakeholders about the updated arrangement of the intersessional review cycle, and made effective such amendment as of the first day of the review cycle between the 25th and 26th meetings of the Board.

Review of the accreditation process

15. The secretariat, in collaboration with the Panel, developed a proposal to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fund's accreditation process, which integrate any relevant recommendations or observations from the Fund's overall evaluation.

Options for improving the tracking of changes made between different versions of project/programme proposals

16. The secretariat requested the project/programme proponents to submit the proposal document to be considered at a Board meeting both in a clean version and one with highlighted text to reflect the changes made to the proposal submitted at the previous meeting of the Board; and a response table explaining where and how the observations made by the Board at its last meeting had been addressed by the proponent.

Capitalization of the Adaptation Fund's climate change reasoning

17. The secretariat prepared an analysis of how project and programme proposals approved by the Board have addressed climate change adaptation reasoning, especially at the local level, based on the review criteria approved by the Board.

Gender policy for the Fund

18. The secretariat prepared a compilation and analysis of any of the Fund's gender-related policies and procedures, including a proposal of gender policy, for consideration by the seventeenth meeting of the EFC.

Material changes in the budget allocation for the project in Maldives (UNDP)

19. The secretariat requested UNDP to provide with the necessary information on the budget breakdown in order for the secretariat to conduct a full review of the revised project. The secretariat also communicated to UNDP that the Board expects that during the project design phase implementing entities will give due consideration to all the factors that may impact the project design and budget. UNDP submitted a revised project for review. As of the issuance of this document, the secretariat is in the process of reviewing the project documents.

Amendment to PPR template

20. The secretariat sent a letter to the accredited implementing entities currently implementing projects/programmes requesting them to inform the secretariat of any investment income generated from the Fund's grant; thus far; and present it to the EFC broken down by implementing entity type (MIE/RIE/NIE) at its seventeenth meeting for further consideration. The secretariat presented, for consideration by the Board during the intersessional period, an amended project performance report (PPR) template that allows implementing entities to report on the investment income generated by the project grant on an annual basis. The amended PPR was approved by intersessional decision B.25-26/14.

Potential linkages with the Green Climate Fund

21. The secretariat had a video conference with the GCF secretariat and discussed potential collaboration on readiness support and accreditation. Representatives of the GCF secretariat participated in the readiness workshops in Windhoek and in the readiness seminar for NIEs in Washington, DC.

22. In the margins of the tenth GCF Board meeting, the Operations Officer (Accreditation) participated as observer in a meeting of the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Coordination Mechanism. The possibility for the Fund to become a partner of this

mechanism was discussed. The partnership requires to agree to the mechanism general principles, which the Board may want to consider.

Issues related to regional projects/programmes

23. The secretariat issued a call for regional project and programme proposals for consideration by the Board in its 26th meeting and subsequently received thirteen regional project and programme proposals from a number of Multilateral and Regional Implementing Entities, of which 7 were deemed eligible to be considered in the 26th meeting.

Issues arising from the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP20) and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP10)

24. The secretariat took decisions 1/CMP.10 and 2/CMP.10 into account when preparing the Adaptation Fund's report to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 11); the report was approved by the Board intersessionally.

Communications

25. In alignment with its communications strategy the secretariat continued to make available in digital and print format its new communications materials that tell the Fund story in clear and compelling ways. Materials continued to be translated into Spanish and French, and new communications elements created included a microsite and materials for "Climate Finance Ready," videos about the Fund's direct access modality, a new website for the Fund, Adaptation Stories, updated Fund flyers, timely press releases highlighting Fund projects and new accreditations, key announcements on Fund programs and a Social Media strategy, among other items. The Board has a fundraising toolkit of materials to support fundraising and other outreach activities and a media kit which are posted on the Fund website.

26. A new Fund website was launched in July with several added features to make the site more user-friendly and engaging with enhanced, relevant information and a fresh, clean, modern look. The secretariat is further in the process of developing a new mechanism to monitor website analytics, including monthly page views, user sessions, most popular pages, demographics such as pages viewed by country users, and bounce rate to obtain a clear picture on how the site performs going forward with the ability to adapt and enhance content even further.

27. A new Project Story was created for Georgia, bringing the total to four comprehensive, engaging Fund stories on different countries and adaptation sectors with color graphics and photos in multiple languages completed for print and the web. A new round of Project Stories has been planned and is in the development stages for Uruguay, Cuba and Mongolia that will focus on project beneficiaries and impacts.

28. The secretariat is in the midst of completing two video projects: 1) a series of short videos featuring NIE representatives from the 2nd Annual Climate Finance Readiness Seminar in Washington, DC; and 2) a larger narrative video that will feature stories on tangible, positive impacts of projects in many beneficiary voices from site visits to the field in Honduras, Argentina, Mauritius, Djibouti, Rwanda, South Africa and Pakistan.

29. In addition, the secretariat produced multiple videos about the Fund's Direct Access modality, using interviews that the communications staff conducted during the Readiness Programme's seminar in Washington, DC in 2014 – including six spotlight videos on individual NIEs and countries. These videos coupled with an earlier overall video produced on NIEs were posted on the Fund's YouTube channel. In all, 23 Fund videos have been posted to the channel garnering 5,617 views to date

30. In alignment with its communications strategy, the secretariat continued to foster positive relations with key media. This included consistent outreach to and interactions with Thomson-Reuters, the Thomson-Reuters Foundation, RTCC, the BBC, National Geographic and others to provide an overview of the Fund, and pitch story ideas about the Fund. Most recently, the secretariat has reached out to Voice of America and received initial interest in potentially covering Fund stories going forward. Voice of America has a weekly global audience reach of 164 million in 45 languages with news networks in many countries where Fund projects are located.

31. In alignment with reaching out to initiate and cultivate relations with the private sector, the secretariat fostered its ongoing relations with BBC Media Action, Climate Development & Knowledge Network (CDKN), Clinton Foundation, Coutts Philanthropy, Howard Buffett Foundation, Mary Robinson Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Royal Foundation, and SwissRe.

32. At events the secretariat and Board attended, as well as for other materials the secretariat provided communications support, ranging from providing outreach materials, updated Fund informational brochures and infographics, talking points and speeches, key content for a variety of relevant documents that better bring out the Fund's story, arranging for inclusion of Fund-related members on panels, providing social media and press outreach and liaising, organizing exhibit spaces, and other such activities as needed.

33. The secretariat has continued its activity on its primary social media channels, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Flickr, growing its audiences and disseminating information. Since summer 2013, its Twitter audience has grown over 560%, from 498 to 3,273, and its Facebook audience has grown over 4,000%, from 271 to 10,493. Since April 1, 2015, Twitter has continued to grow at a fast pace and reached 4,106 followers as of Sept. 10, 2015. More importantly a new Social Media strategy was adopted in August that includes more frequent daily tweets, story-focused tweeting highlighting more detailed key information, increased outreach to partners and the larger climate change adaptation community, more consistent tweeting of Fund stories and programs, and greater use of relevant, effective imagery. The new strategy is already showing results, with 18,800 tweet impressions over just the last 28 days – a 187% increase from the previous month, as well as 1,675 profile visits (159.8% increase); 41 tweets (up 272.7%); and 140 new followers since it began.

34. The secretariat continued to implement its communications and outreach strategy for the Readiness Programme on Climate Finance, forging a strategic partnership with the Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), and building a joint microsite "Climate Finance Ready" (<http://www.climatefinanceready.org>) This followed the secretariat's careful and thorough analysis of website resources related to climate finance readiness and identification of CDKN as a strategic partner for the programme's online knowledge exchange microsite.

35. The secretariat continued to retain the services of an IT consultant firm, REI Systems, to continue repairs and regular maintenance of the Accreditation password-protected website. The secretariat also retained the services of IT consultants to build the new website on an updated and stable platform, closely following the foundational documents (e.g. “blueprint”) for the site, and working through the World Bank Group (WBG)’s security and content reviews, as well as providing troubleshooting post-launch. The IT consultant also performed this work for the Climate Finance Ready microsite. The consultant firm REI Systems is being engaged to maintain both websites in FY16 and keep them compliant with World Bank Group (WBG) security and content requirements.

36. The secretariat supported the UNFCCC’s Procurement and General Services Unit in communicating the activities of the Fund to potential purchasers of Adaptation Fund CERs.

Support to the Accreditation Panel

37. The secretariat worked closely with the Panel Chair and Vice-Chair and assisted the Panel in its discussions. The 19th Panel meeting was held on 13-14 May 2015 in Washington DC, USA. The Panel also reviewed accreditation and re-accreditation applications. The secretariat facilitated the Panel’s completion of their reviews on two accreditation applications and two re-accreditation applications. Two entities (Government of Antigua and Barbuda – Environment Division as a National Implementing Entity and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as a Multilateral Implementing Entity) (Decision B.25-26/9 & 10), and two entities (the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme) were re-accredited through an intersessional decision (Decision B.25-26/11).

38. The twentieth Panel meeting was held on 6-7 August 2015 in Washington DC, USA. Four national entities were able to complete their applications for accreditation in time for the 20th Panel meeting (6-7 August 2015). The Panel reviewed four re-accreditation applications and had continued its review of the applications of nine National Implementing Entity (NIE) candidates, three Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) candidates. The secretariat prepared, in collaboration with the Panel, the document on the proposal for effectiveness and efficiency of the accreditation process as requested by the Board (Decision B.25/5). The secretariat facilitated the Panel’s completion of their re-accreditation review on the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) as a Multilateral Implementing Entity and submitted to the Board the Panel’s recommendation of re-accreditation of WFP as of the date of issuance of this document. According to The secretariat assisted the Panel in finalizing its report, contained in document AFB/B.25/4.

39. As of the date of issuance of this document and after the last Board meeting, the secretariat received four new completed NIE applications. All are currently under review by the Accreditation panel.

40. Since the inception of the accreditation process, the secretariat has received and screened 95 applications: 71 from non-Annex I Parties, 11 from regional organizations and 13 from multilateral organizations and development banks. The Panel has so far reviewed 63 applications: 41 from non-Annex I Parties, nine from regional organizations and development banks, and 13 from multilateral organizations and development banks.

Table 1: Status of accreditation applications submitted to the secretariat as of September 2015

	NIE	RIE	MIE
Accredited	20	4	12
Not accredited	8	1	0
Under review by Accreditation Panel	10	3	0
Screened by secretariat pending completion of accreditation application	3	1	0

(Table does not include unscreened, withdrawn, or closed applications)

Screening/technical review of project/programme proposals

41. The secretariat screened and prepared technical reviews of six fully developed project documents and three project concepts received during the reporting period. In performing this task, the dedicated team of officials of the secretariat was supported by GEF secretariat technical staff and an environmental and social expert.

Review of Project Performance Reports (PPRs)

42. The Secretariat has completed the review and cleared the fourth Project Performance Report (PPR) for the project implemented in Mongolia (UNDP, inception date: 22 November 2011), the third PPRs for the projects implemented in Ecuador (WFP, inception date: 29 November 2011), and Rwanda (MINIRENA, inception date: 2 June 2014), the second PPRs for the projects implemented in Colombia (UNDP inception date: 21 March 2013), Tanzania (UNEP, inception date: 21 October 2012), and Egypt (WFP, inception date: 31 March 2013), and the first PPRs for the projects implemented in Cambodia (UNEP, inception date: 21 May 2013) and Uzbekistan (UNDP, inception date: 26 May 2015). The project in Samoa separately requested the Board to approve the extension of the programme. The PPRs for Colombia and Egypt were submitted together with a request to the Board to approve a budget revision. The secretariat submitted these reports and corresponding reviews to the Board, and the Board approved through intersessional decisions subsequent financing tranches for the projects in Cambodia (Decision B.25-26/1), Ecuador (Decision B.25-26/2), Colombia (Decision B.25-26/5, including approval of budget revision) Tanzania (Decision B.25-26/6), Rwanda (Decision B.25-26/7), Egypt (Decision B.25-26/13, including approval of budget revision), Uzbekistan (Decision B.25-26/16), and the separate request for the projects in Samoa (Decision B.25-26/3). The PPRs were also made publicly available on the Fund's website. The secretariat is continuing the review of PPRs for projects in Madagascar (UNEP), and Turkmenistan (UNDP).

Personnel

43. Ms. Young Hee Lee, an Extended Term Consultant (ETC) supporting the secretariat on accreditation and legal matters, joined the secretariat on 1 August 2015.

44. Ms. Dima Reda, Operations Officer (Accreditation), resigned from the secretariat on 10 August 2015. The hiring process of a replacement is underway.

45. Mr. Mathew Pueschel, Short Term Consultant (STC), joined the secretariat on 3 August 2015, to support communications of the Fund.

46. The recruitment process of the Programme Manager (Readiness) has been finalized. The selected candidate will be joining the secretariat in early November 2015.