



## ADAPTATION FUND

27 September 2017

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Adaptation Fund Board

***Accreditation Panel recommendation on re-accreditation of Agence pour le Développement Agricole (ADA; Agency for Agricultural Development) as National Implementing Entity of Morocco***

Having reviewed the re-accreditation application of Agence pour le Développement Agricole (ADA; Agency for Agricultural Development), the Accreditation Panel recommended that ADA be re-accredited as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund.

A summary of the review can be found in Annex I.

***Re-accreditation Decision:***

Having considered the recommendation of the Accreditation Panel, and following the fast-track process described in Decision B.28/38, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to re-accredit Agence pour le Développement Agricole (ADA; Agency for Agricultural Development) as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) of Morocco of the Adaptation Fund for five years, as per paragraph 38 of the operational policies and guidelines for Parties to access resources from the Adaptation Fund. The re-accreditation expiration date is 26 September 2022.

**Decision B.29-30/14**

## **ANNEX I : REPORT OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL ON AN ASSESSMENT OF Agence pour le Développement Agricole (ADA) FOR RE-ACCREDITATION AS A NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (NIE) OF THE ADAPTATION FUND.**

### **Background**

- “Agence pour le Développement Agricole” (ADA), headquartered in Rabat, is the National Implementing Entity (NIE) of Morocco. It was established in 2009, has a staff of some 110 and is under the “tutorship” (i.e. term used in the law establishing the agency) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forestry. It was accredited by the Green Climate Fund (and received a grant of US\$ 40 Million) and was accredited by the AF in 2011. It has formulated and is implementing a successful project of the AF (Climate Change Adaptation Project in Oasis Zones for an amount of US\$ 9.97 million). It has also hosted workshops for French speaking applicants of the AF in Casablanca and has provided technical assistance to other French speaking AF applicants.
- It is fitting that COP22 was held in Morocco, which helped raise attention to the many climate change challenges faced by Morocco and the larger Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It is one of the world’s driest regions and is increasingly vulnerable to climate change, water scarcity and extreme heat. In Morocco, over 1.7 million people who are largely dependent on agriculture and livestock have been challenged by extreme dry weather, recurrent droughts, water scarcity, unsustainable use of water resources and forced seasonal migrations. As a result of the degrading ecosystem, locals who depend on the Moroccan oases are currently facing the additional challenge of climate change, which may bring with it even greater constraints

### **Assessment**

- The assessment for fast-track re-accreditation has, in accordance with AFB-EFC 19-7-Rev.1 (Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Accreditation Process) and the Secretariat’s advice to the ADA focused on the following criteria:
  - The Fiduciary Standard related to the legal status;
  - Policies and Framework to deal with financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice:
  - Evidence/tone/statement from the top management emphasizing a policy for zero tolerance for fraud, financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice by implementing entity staff or from any external sources associated directly or indirectly with the projects
  - Demonstration of capacity and procedures to deal with financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice

- Evidence of an objective investigation function for allegations of fraud and corruption.
- Commitment by the entity to apply the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy; and
- Mechanism to deal with complaints on environmental and social harms and gender harms caused by projects/programs.

The documents submitted by the applicant for re-accreditation were supplemented with documents obtained from the applicant's website where necessary. (<http://www.ada.gov.ma/>)

- Legal Status – There has been no change since the initial accreditation. The reviewer revisited the basis of the legal status and concludes that the applicant fully meets this fiduciary criterion.
- Policies and Framework to deal with financial mismanagement: A number of policies and procedures have been strengthened or formalized. The Agency states that it considers corruption, fraud and other misconducts as particularly harmful to the achievement of its missions. A statement from the top on zero-tolerance has been published on its website and the ADA has produced (in October 2016) a manual of policies and procedures for the prevention and the fight against corruption. It was also made clear that the manual, which is available in French and English, with a summary in Arabic, is being translated in Arabic. The ADA adopted a whistleblower protection policy and implemented preventive measures such as risk assessments (risk mapping). The Agency has also established a procedure to popularize the different measures of prevention for the internal staff and the external participants. Also, an email address is available to different participants to report any illegal act. In addition, there is a well-developed staff handbook and a Code of Ethics. They also have or can rely on an appropriate investigative capacity. The Panel is satisfied that the requirements of a zero-tolerance policy for fraud, financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice are met.
- Commitment by the entity to apply the Fund's Environmental and Social and Gender Policy: There have been a number of enhancements since the initial accreditation. A new policy manual and procedures to monitor environmental, social and gender policy standards (including in the project phase were developed). The development of ADA's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy reflected the Agency's vision which integrates the environmental and social dimensions in the project life cycle. The policy responds to the requirements of donors and the AF. The Policy was finalized/revised in August 2015 and was prepared in light of standards applicable to various components requiring special attention during the implementation of projects. The approach mitigates the negative effects that might affect the various components including natural resources, biodiversity, land use and involuntary resettlements, resource efficiency and pollution prevention, labor, working conditions and gender equity, climate change, community health and safety, indigenous peoples, and cultural heritage. The development of the Policy illustrates ADA's commitment to apply these Environmental, social and gender standards. Furthermore, the ADA supplied a number of illustrations how these standards are incorporated in different project phases. A review of the policy and the examples

provided illustrate the agency's commitment as well as its capacity to apply these standards. It is therefore concluded by the Panel that ADA has made the commitment to meet the environmental and social policy standards and gender policy standards and has the capacity to implement these standards.

- Mechanisms to address complaints on environmental and social harms and gender harms caused by projects/programs: there have been enhancements since the initial accreditation. Under the new policy, procedures were developed to address complaints. These can be filed on line and followed up. The procedures are fully developed and tested by the agency with an example of a complaint and follow up given. While the complaint related to a defective administrative procedure, it illustrates that the mechanisms is operational. It has thus been concluded by the Panel that ADA has a complaint mechanism that meets AF's standards.

## **CONCLUSION**

The applicant is considered to meet the standards evaluated under the fast-track approach, and should be recommended for re-accreditation to the Adaptation Fund Board.