



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.31/4  
12 March 2018

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Adaptation Fund Board  
Thirty-first Meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 22-23 March 2018

Agenda item 6

## **REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL**

## WORK OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

1. The Accreditation Panel (the Panel) continued its work reviewing both new and existing applications. On 6-7 February 2018 the Panel held its twenty-seventh meeting at the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat's (the secretariat) offices in Washington, D.C. The new Chair of the Accreditation Panel Mr. Antonio Navarra (Italy, Western European and Others Group) and new Vice-Chair Mr. Chebet Maikut (Uganda, Non-Annex I Parties) presided over the meeting. Mr. Daniel Nelson who succeeded Mr. Bert Keuppens joined the Panel meeting as an Accreditation Panel expert member for the first time.

2. For the twenty-seventh Panel meeting, the secretariat has received one new complete accreditation application. The Panel has continued reviewing nine re-accreditation applications (eight National Implementing Entities and one Regional Implementing Entity) and the applications of 10 potential National Implementing Entities (NIEs) and two potential Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs) that were previously reviewed but required additional information for the Panel to make its recommendations. Out of the ten potential NIEs, two applications that have been dormant for a long time. The Panel discussed the issue on the dormant applications under the agenda item of reflection on the accreditation experience and offered its views for the secretariat's preparation of the document on accreditation process.

3. After considering the recommendation by the Panel, the Board intersessionally approved re-accreditation of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) of India as NIE (decision B.30-31/8), accreditation of the Banque Agricole du Niger (BAGRI) of Niger as NIE (decision B.30-31/3) and accreditation of the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Management (BTFEC) of Bhutan as NIE (decision B.30-31/15).

4. 12 applications (10 for potential NIEs and two for potential RIEs) are currently under review by the Panel as per the following list. For purposes of confidentiality, only the assigned code is used to report on the status of each nominated Implementing Entity's application.

- 1) National Implementing Entity NIE044
- 2) National Implementing Entity NIE046
- 3) National Implementing Entity NIE057
- 4) National Implementing Entity NIE064
- 5) National Implementing Entity NIE066
- 6) National Implementing Entity NIE107
- 7) National Implementing Entity NIE113
- 8) National Implementing Entity NIE133
- 9) National Implementing Entity NIE136
- 10) National Implementing Entity NIE139
- 11) Regional Implementing Entity RIE008
- 12) Regional Implementing Entity RIE016

## GENERAL TRENDS

5. As at the date of this report, the total number of accredited implementing entities amounts to 46: 28 NIEs, six RIES, and 12 Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs) (Figure 1).

Among 28 NIEs, there are seven accredited NIEs that are from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and six accredited NIEs that are from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) (Figure 2). Out of 46 accredited implementing entities of the Fund, 15 entities (33%) have been re-accredited: four NIEs, one RIE and 10 MIEs. With respect to the geographic coverage of the 28 NIEs and six RIEs, 13 entities are from Latin American and the Caribbean region, 12 are from Africa region, eight are from Asia-Pacific region and one entity is from Eastern Europe region (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Accredited Implementing Entities by type

Figure 2. LDCs and SIDS among accredited NIEs

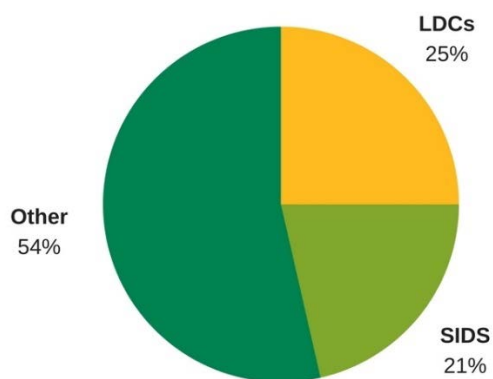
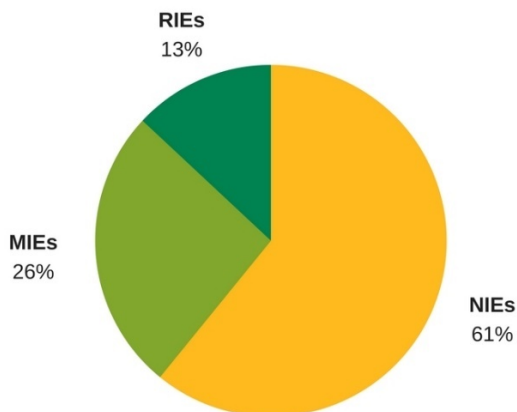
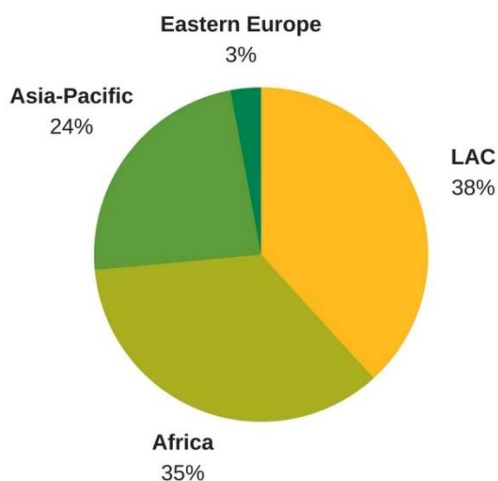


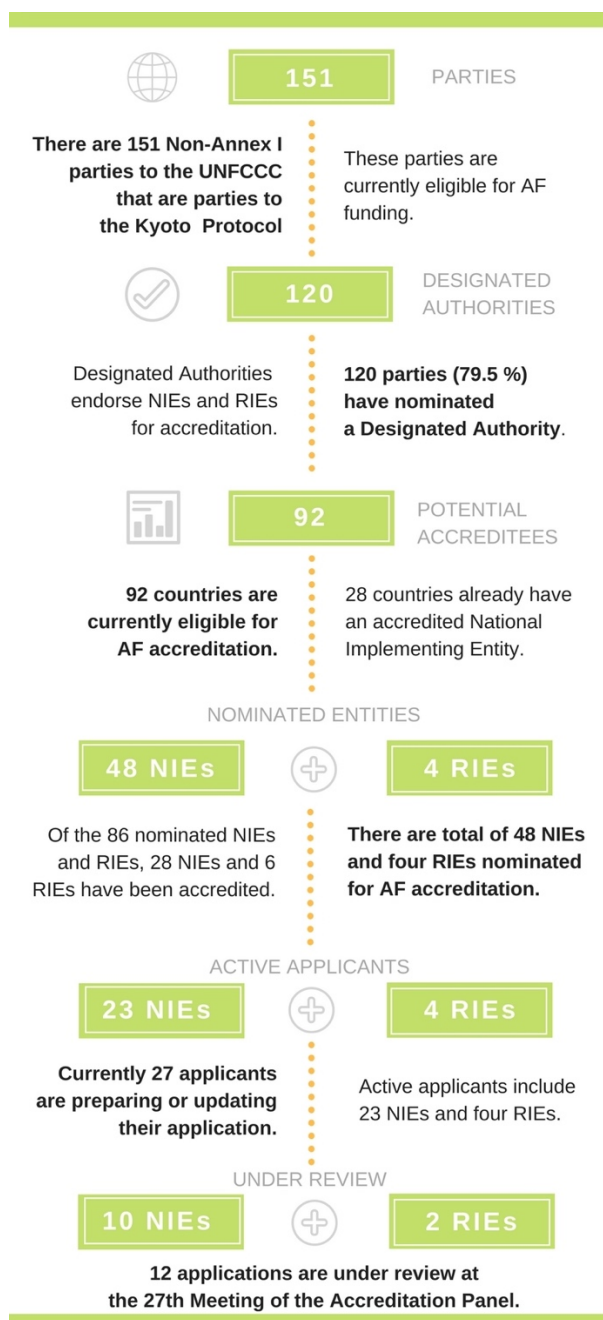
Figure 3. Accredited NIEs and RIEs by region



## ACCREDITATION PIPELINE

6. The following infographic (Figure 4) provides an update on the current accreditation pipeline which does not include re-accreditation applications.

Figure 4. The accreditation pipeline of the Adaptation Fund as of 6 February 2018



**STATUS OF APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW**

	<b>TIME OF FIRST APPLICATION</b>	<b>REFERENCE FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
<b>EXISTING APPLICATIONS</b>			
NIE044	Jan-13	AFB/B.30/.4	Following the secretariat request to the Designated Authority on March 9, 2016, to confirm the interest of the NIE to pursue the accreditation process, the applicant responded on 29 July 2016 indicating its willingness to continue the process and update the application form by uploading the outstanding information. The secretariat has followed up with the applicant by emails sent on 15 August and 13 September 2017.
NIE046	Dec-12	AFB/B.30/.4	On 29 December 2016, the applicant submitted the requested documents/information to enable the Panel to resume the review process after a long dormant period. A conference call among the secretariat, the Panel and the applicant was conducted in May 2017. Applicant's submission of the requested information and documentation is still pending. The secretariat's follow-up emails to the applicant in June, August, September 2017, and January 2018. A conference call with the applicant was conducted on 29 January 2018. The Panel recommended a field visit to facilitate the accreditation process.
NIE057	Feb-14	AFB/B.30/.4	The challenge that the applicant is facing is its lack of history of non-credit (grant) project funding and implementation. Following the AP22 meeting, the secretariat communicated with the applicant to facilitate applicant's understanding on the pending requirements for accreditation. The secretariat has been following up with the applicant by emails and conference calls in 2016 and June and August 2017. The applicant responded on 15 August 2017 that the entity's accreditation efforts are on hold and will resume when they are ready. Since then there has been no progress. The secretariat sent a follow-up email in November 2017.
NIE064	Apr-16	AFB/B.30/4	Upon the secretariat's follow-up email, the applicant replied on 12 January 2017 indicating that the government decided to put its NIE accreditation on hold to ensure that the NIE is equipped with its required institutional capacities and rules and procedures. The applicant deems that it will take some time to complete the process. The applicant will contact the secretariat to resume accreditation process again once the process is done.

NIE066	Apr-15	AFB/B.30/.4	<p>The applicant is a small organization with limited capacity. The accreditation process is officially under the streamlined accreditation. In the context of the AF South-South Cooperation Grants programme (approved by the Board in March 2016), the applicant has completed its application, initially submitted in August 2015, with the help of an AF accredited NIE in 2017.</p> <p>The applicant submitted part of the requested information on 5 February 2018. The Panel is reviewing the submitted documents.</p>
NIE107	Apr-16	AFB/B.30/.4	<p>Initial review of the application together with pending questions and information was shared with the applicant in April 2016. After the applicant has provided additional documentation in July-August 2016, the Panel completed and produced the second assessment of the application and communicated pending information/documents to the applicant on 22 December 2016. In September 2017, the applicant provided several additional documents. The Panel is currently reviewing these submitted documents.</p>
NIE113	Dec-15	AFB/B.30/.4	<p>On 27 April 2016, the Panel's initial review and a list of pending questions and information were sent to the applicant. The applicant submitted a letter signed by the Designated Authority on the agreement of pursuing streamlined accreditation process on 31 October 2016. The Panel provided feedback on the application under the streamlined process and requested the applicant to submit pending information on 6 April 2017. The applicant had received readiness support from the Fund's accredited NIE under the South-to-South Cooperation Grants Programme. A bilateral meeting between the applicant and the Secretariat during the COP23 in Bonn, Germany in November 2017. It submitted documents in June 2017 and January 2018. The Panel is currently reviewing the submitted additional documentation.</p>
NIE133	Feb-17	AFB/B.30/.4	<p>In October 2017, the Panel completed the initial review and sent a list of pending questions and information to the applicant. A facilitative conference call between the Panel and the entity was conducted on 5 December 2017. The applicant's submission of requested information is pending. Based on the information and documentations received so far, there are areas of concern including the type of entity that has been nominated as the NIE and whether the NIE applicant is suitable for accreditation due to its lack of track record of non-credit project. The Panel recommended that the secretariat would communicate this information to the Designated Authority.</p>
NIE136	Aug-16	AFB/B.30/.4	<p>The applicant has been receiving readiness support from the accredited NIE under the Fund's South-to-South Cooperation Grants Programme. A facilitative conference call between the Panel and the entity was conducted in July 2017. After the conference call, the applicant submitted additional documentation in early August 2017 and the Panel provided the entity with feedback in September 2017. Additional information has been provided by the applicant, which is currently under the Panel review.</p>

NIE139	May-17	N/A	The application was submitted on 30 May 2017 and following the screening by the secretariat sent back to the applicant with a request to update the pending information and supporting documents. The applicant re-submitted the application in July 2017. The applicant has maintained active communications with the secretariat and the Panel through emails, conference calls, and bilateral meeting during the COP23 in Bonn, Germany in November 2017. The Panel provided the applicant with feedbacks and a list of pending questions in January 2018. The entity may be eligible to be considered under the streamlined accreditation process. Currently, the entity's responses to Panel's questions are pending.
RIE008	Jan-14	AFB/B.30/.4	After a two year-long dormant period, the applicant's accreditation process continued by submitting the requested information/documentation in August 2016. On 24 January 2017, the applicant submitted new supporting documents and requested a conference call to clarify some pending information. The conference call was conducted in early March 2017. A bilateral meeting between the applicant and the Secretariat during the COP23 in Bonn, Germany in November 2017. The entity submitted additional documentation in the end of August 2017 and again on 8 December 2017. The Panel is currently reviewing these documents.
RIE016	Mar-17	AFB/B.30/.4	The Panel completed the initial review on 30 August 2017 and the results of the initial review and a list of pending information was communicated to the applicant on 6 September 2017. The applicant submitted supporting documents on 9 November 2017. A bilateral meeting between the applicant and the secretariat was held during the COP23 in Bonn, Germany in November 2017. On 10 January 2018, the Panel provided feedback on the submitted documents. The applicant did not submit some of the requested documents and indicated that those are only available at its headquarter. The second set of questions was sent to the applicant on 31 January 2018 and upon the applicant's request, a conference call between the Panel and the applicant was conducted on 20 February 2018.
<b>RE- ACCREDITATION</b>			
NIE002	Jun-16	AFB/B.30/.4	Accreditation expired on 21 June 2016. There have been positive developments, but a number of pending gaps still exist. A bilateral meeting between the entity and the Secretariat during the COP23 in Bonn, Germany in November 2017. A conference call with the entity was conducted on 12 January 2018 and the entity submitted additional information on 19 January 2018. The Panel is currently reviewing these documents.

NIE014	Sep-16	AFB/B.30/.4	Accreditation expired on 15 September 2016. The Panel completed its final assessment in June 2017 and communicated the pending gaps to the entity. A bilateral meeting between the entity and the Secretariat during the COP23 in Bonn, Germany in November 2017. The entity submitted additional documentation and information on 4 January 2018. The Panel is currently reviewing the submitted documents.
NIE015	Sep-17	N/A	Accreditation expired on 6 September 2016. In November 2017, the Panel completed the initial review and sent a list of pending information to the entity. The entity submitted the requested information on 6 February 2018. The Panel is currently reviewing these submitted documents.
NIE016	Aug-16	AFB/B.30/.4	Accreditation expired on 13 December 2016. Many of the documents were not in English. The entity submitted some of the requested documents in English in late April 2017, and the remaining documentations are pending as of May 2, 2017. The focal point of the entity has changed, and the secretariat, Panel and the new focal point and their team had a conference call to facilitate a smooth handover of re-accreditation work. Since then, the entity submitted some of the requested information in early and late August 2017, but other requested information is still pending. The secretariat sent a follow-up email on 23 January 2018.
NIE017	Nov-17	N/A	Accreditation expired on 15 April 2017 and the entity submitted the re-accreditation application on 21 November 2017. The Panel is in the process of completing the initial review report and will communicate the assessment and a list of pending gaps to the entity.
NIE020	Jul-17	AFB/B.30/.4	Accreditation expired on 13 December 2016. The entity has submitted its re-accreditation application on 26 July and, after the secretariat's initial screening and request to complete the application, it re-submitted on 31 August 2017. Due to ministerial reshuffle in September 2017, the re-accreditation process is currently on hold. The secretariat is communicating with the entity in this regard.
NIE030	Dec-16	AFB/B.30/.4	Accreditation expired on 15 March 2017. On 28 June 2017, the Panes completed the initial review. The entity submitted requested information and documentation in May and August 2017. The Panel provided the entity with feedback and a list of still pending gaps in August and November 2017. The entity's submission of the requested information is pending, and the secretariat sent a follow-up email on 23 January 2018.
NIE031	Aug-16	AFB/B.30/.4	Accreditation expired on 15 March 2017. On 28 March 2017, the Panel communicated to the entity of an interim review and provided a list of pending information. The entity submitted the requested additional information on 23 January 2018. The Panel is currently reviewing the submitted documents.
RIE004	Nov-17	N/A	Accreditation will expire on 10 October 2018. The Panel is in the process of completing the initial review and will communicate the assessment and a list of pending gaps.



## OTHER MATTERS

7. *Date and venue for the twenty-eighth Meeting of the Accreditation Panel:* 22-23 May 2018 in Washington D.C.

8. *Guidance for the Designated Authorities in selecting an NIE:* Following the twenty-sixth Panel meeting, the Panel discussed the way forward with this guidance document. The expert Panel members reiterated the importance of this guidance document as this would influence a quality entry point of accreditation process. The title of the document was changed from 'Guidelines' to 'Information Note.' With additional comments and suggestions made during the twenty-seventh Panel meeting, the information note for the Designated Authority in selecting an NIE was finalized at this meeting and is reported to the Board through the document of the Accreditation Panel Report to the thirty-first meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board.

9. *Reflection on re-accreditation process:* A document which includes background information and a list of suggested policy updates prepared by the secretariat was discussed at the twenty-seventh Panel meeting, in accordance with Decision B.30/1. The Panel had extensive discussions to identify need for updates or clarifications on the current re-accreditation process and proposed updates on the re-accreditation process. Accordingly, annex I to this report is presented, as an update of the re-accreditation process contained in the Annex III to the Report of the fourteenth meeting of the Accreditation Panel (Document AFB/B.22/4), to Board for its consideration and adoption.

10. *Reflection on the accreditation experience:* In accordance with Decision B.30/2, the secretariat had prepared a draft document on the accreditation experience, which drew on Panel members' views based on individual discussions, and was extensively discussed by the Panel at its twenty-seventh meeting. The Panel made several proposals to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the accreditation process based on the lessons learned and experiences gained through the accreditation process. The report on the experience gained and lessons learned from accreditation process (Document AFB/EFC.22/4) is prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with the Accreditation Panel and is presented to the twenty-second meeting of the Ethics and Finance Committee of the Fund in March 2018.

11. *Applications that have been dormant for a long time:* The Panel discussed how to deal with the applications that have been dormant for a long time and decided to make a recommendation to the thirty-first meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board. This recommendation has been included in the document of the report on the experience gained and lessons learned from accreditation process (Document AFB/EFC.22/4) to be submitted to the twenty-second meeting of the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) in March 2018.

12. *Issue of implementing entity 'ceasing to exist':* The Panel discussed the issue of how to address the situation where an implementing entity which was accredited ceases to exist due to institutional, legal or organizational changes, in the context of accreditation and re-accreditation. The Panel concluded that if the implementing entity ceases to exist and becomes a new entity through, *inter alia*, legal, organizational, and/or functional changes, the implementing entity will need to pursue an accreditation rather than 're-accreditation.' The Panel will assess the need on a case-by-case basis.

## **Recommendation of the Accreditation Panel**

### **Updated re-accreditation process**

13. The Accreditation Panel recommends that the Adaptation Fund Board consider and adopt the proposal of updated re-accreditation process contained in the Annex I to the Report of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Accreditation Panel (Document AFB/B.31/4).

***(Recommendation AFB/AP.27/1)***

## **ANNEX I: Proposed Update on RE-ACCREDITATION PROCESS**

### **Re-accreditation Process**

#### **Background**

1. As part of the Fund's Operational Policies and Guidelines (OPG), Accreditation is "valid for a period of five years with the possibility of renewal. The Board will develop guidelines for renewal of an implementing entity's accreditation based on simplified procedures that will be established at a later date (para. 38)." The five-year time frame for accreditation is consistent with other accreditation processes where accreditation is granted for three to five years (i.e. International Accreditation Forum (IAF), Accreditation process of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)).
2. At its twentieth meeting, the Board requested the Accreditation Panel to develop procedures for re-accreditation. The Panel discussed developing a proposal for the Board at its twelfth and thirteenth meeting with a goal of including a full proposal to the Board at its twenty-second meeting (October 2013). [At its twenty-second meeting, after considering the conclusions and recommendation of the Accreditation Panel, by decision B.22/3, the Board decided to adopt the re-accreditation process outlines in Annex III of the report of the fourteenth meeting of the Accreditation Panel \(Document AFB/B.22/4\).](#)
3. [Considering the gap analysis, as contained in document AFB/EFC/19/7/Rev.1, at its twenty-eight meeting the Adaptation Fund Board decided to fast-track the re-accreditation of implementing entities accredited with the Green Climate Fund \(GCF\) within a period of four years prior to the submission of the re-accreditation application to the Adaptation Fund as described in document AFB/EFC/19/7 \(Decision B.28/38\).](#)
4. [At its thirtieth meeting the Board requested the secretariat to prepare a document containing elements on potential need for updates of the re-accreditation policy. In this regard the Board decided to request the secretariat, in collaboration with the Accreditation Panel: \(a\) To reflect on the re-accreditation process in order to identify any need for updates or clarifications at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Accreditation Panel; and \(b\) To present to the Board at its thirty-first meeting, the conclusions of the Accreditation Panel's discussions on paragraph \(a\) and, if necessary, an update of the re-accreditation process adopted by decision B.22/3.](#)
5. The Panel concluded that the re-accreditation process should require a new application for every applicant. Applicants will be requested to describe any changes that have occurred since the entity was accredited and provide the most up-to-date supporting documentation and any other document requested by the Accreditation Panel in compliance with the re-accreditation criteria. All substantial changes within the organization in the last five years in the areas of i) Its constitution, ii) Major policies and processes/procedures, and iii) Key management positions should be highlighted by the applicant at the time of submitting an application for re-accreditation. In this way the Panel would bring the same rigor, uniformity and consistency in the way work is

done. The Panel also noted that an organization can change significantly in five-years and therefore the process of accreditation renewal must be commensurate with any potential changes to the organization.

### Overview of **Updated** Re-accreditation Process

6. The process and time lines are set out to try to the extent possible to avoid a major gap between accreditation expiration and the granting of re-accreditation.

#### *Deadlines*

7. It is strongly recommended to meet the suggested deadlines to facilitate the re-accreditation process and avoid a major gap between accreditation expiration and achievement of re-accreditation.

- (1) Notification by the secretariat: The secretariat will continue to send out notification letters to accredited entities **18 months** prior to the expiration of the entity's accreditation. In addition, the online accreditation system generates an automatic notification to the implementing entities.
- (2) Submission of re-accreditation application: The implementing entity is strongly recommended to submit its re-accreditation application and supporting documentation through the online accreditation system maintained by the Secretariat, **12 months** prior to its accreditation expiry date. If the entity does not submit the application by its accreditation expiry date, the Panel will make a recommendation to the Board to change the status of the entity from "Accredited" to "Not-Accredited" at the accreditation expiry date.
- (3) Acquisition of re-accreditation: The implementing entity is strongly recommended to achieve re-accreditation within **three years** from its accreditation expiry date. If the entity does not achieve re-accreditation within three years from its accreditation expiry date, the Panel will make a recommendation to the Board to change the status of the entity to "Not-Accredited."

#### *Status of an Implementing Entity*

8. Considering the re-accreditation policy, the statuses of an implementing entity can be categorized into three: "Accredited," "In Re-accreditation Process," and "Not-Accredited."

- (1) "Accredited": When an implementing entity achieves accreditation following a Board decision, its accreditation is valid for five years
- (2) "In Re-accreditation Process": When an implementing entity submits its re-accreditation application before the accreditation expiry date, it acquires a status of "In Re-accreditation Process" at its accreditation expiry date, until it achieves re-accreditation within three years from the accreditation expiry date.
- (3) "Not-Accredited": If an implementing entity does not submit re-accreditation application by its accreditation expiry date, or the entity does not achieve re-accreditation within three years from the accreditation expiry date, it acquires the status of "Not-Accredited" following a Board decision.

### *Implications of a status of an Implementing Entity*

9. As summarized in the table below, the status of an implementing entity will determine the entity's eligibility to submit a new funding proposal, to participate in the Adaptation Fund activities as an implementing entity, and to be included in the Adaptation Fund communications.

	<i>Eligible to submit a new funding proposal</i>	<i>Eligible to participate in AF activities as IE</i>	<i>Eligible to be included in AF communications</i>
<b>(1) "Accredited"</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>(2) "In Re-accreditation Process"</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>(3) "Not Accredited"</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

### *Options for an Implementing Entity which acquired "Not-Accredited"*

10. After addressing gaps identified by the Accreditation Panel, the implementing entity may apply for 'accreditation.' For a national implementing entity (NIE) which acquires the status of "Not-Accredited," the Designated Authority may nominate a new NIE to submit an accreditation application. These are in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Fund's operational policies and guidelines (OPG).

### **Effective date of an updated re-accreditation process**

11. The updated re-accreditation process takes effect as of the date of the decision by the Adaptation Fund Board to approve it. A 'grandfather policy' will apply to Implementing entities which have submitted a complete re-accreditation application before the date of the Board decision to approve the updated re-accreditation policy. Accordingly, these implementing entities need to achieve re-accreditation **within two years from the date of the Board decision** to approve a revised re-accreditation process. Otherwise, it will acquire the status of "Not-Accredited" following a Board decision.

### **Focus areas of review of a 'regular' re-accreditation**

12. Following the decision B.28/38, re-accreditation can be categorized into two: (i) 'regular' re-accreditation; (ii) 'fast-track' re-accreditation.

13. Review of a 'regular' re-accreditation will focus on three aspects (i) continued compliance with the Fund's fiduciary standards, (ii) compliance with the Fund's environmental and social

policy<sup>1</sup> and the Gender Policy<sup>2</sup> and (iii) the results of the assessment of the implementing entity's performance regarding quality at entry and project/programme implementation.

#### *Fiduciary Standards*

14. The implementing entity (IE) seeking renewal of accreditation will be required to submit an application via [the online accreditation system](#).<sup>3</sup> The application includes the information that applicants are currently required to provide as well as any approved changes to the application pertaining to compliance with the environmental and social policy [and the gender policy of the Fund](#).

15. The description of how an entity meets the fiduciary standards should focus on any changes that have occurred within the organization since the original accreditation. The most recent supporting documentation must be submitted. For example, the latest internal and external audit reports, new policies adopted, key personnel changes (in particular, changes at the management level), including any changes to the organizational structure, that have occurred over the past five years. For each competency area where no changes have occurred, the applicant should explicitly state that the policies in place have not changed and are being complied with since its original date of accreditation and state which documents from the original application continue to be applicable or alternatively resubmit the necessary documents. Examples of documents demonstrating capacity such as those related to the project management cycle should reflect recent experiences.

#### *Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP)*

16. The Board approved an environmental and social policy for the Fund [at its twenty-second meeting and the Gender Policy and Action Plan of the Fund at its twenty-seventh meeting](#). The associated changes were reflected in the accreditation application template. Subsequent accreditation and re-accreditation of IEs will need to reflect the capacity and commitment of entities to assess and manage environmental and social risks and mechanism to deal with complaints on environmental and social harms and gender harms caused by projects and programmes.

17. [In order to strengthen the capacity of currently accredited implementing entities to comply with the Fund's new environmental and social policy, technical assistance grants are available under the Fund's readiness programme.](#)<sup>4</sup>

#### *Quality at Entry and Project/Programme Implementation Performance*

18. For the renewal of accreditation, an additional element will be provided by the secretariat's project/programme review team based on any Fund approved projects/programmes. The assessment will be two-fold (i) an assessment of quality at entry (QAE) of projects and (ii) an assessment of project performance.

<sup>1</sup> Approved in November 2014 and amended in March 2016. Available at [https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Amended-March-2016\\_-OPG-ANNEX-3-Environmental-social-policy-March-2016.pdf](https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Amended-March-2016_-OPG-ANNEX-3-Environmental-social-policy-March-2016.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Approved in March 2016. Available at [https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/OPG-ANNEX4\\_Gender-Policies-and-Action-Plan\\_approved-in-March-2016-1.pdf](https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/OPG-ANNEX4_Gender-Policies-and-Action-Plan_approved-in-March-2016-1.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> <http://accredit.adaptation-fund.org/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/readiness-grants/technical-assistance-grants/>.

19. For quality at entry the secretariat will provide an assessment of the quality of project/programme proposals submitted and for the assessment of project performance the secretariat will provide information on how a project/programme or multiple projects/programmes are performing on the ground.

20. The secretariat will develop a scorecard for assessing QAE and for performance that will be provided to the Panel as part of an IE's re-accreditation application.

### **Focus areas of review of a 'fast-track' re-accreditation**

21. Under the fast-track re-accreditation process approved by the Board (Decision B.28/38) the review will focus on (i) the fiduciary standard related to the legal personality; (ii) commitment by the implementing entity to apply the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP); and (iii) Mechanism to deal with complaints on environmental and social harms and gender harms caused by projects/programmes.

22. Along with these three criteria, some additional criteria can be applied to fast track re-accreditation. First, criteria related to conditions attached to fast-track accreditation with the GCF will be assessed. Second, from the second-time fast-track reaccreditation with the Fund, financial mismanagement and integrity criteria of the fiduciary standards<sup>5</sup> will be assessed along with the aforementioned three criteria.

### **Next Steps**

23. Based on the above process, the next steps for the Secretariat and the Panel will be to:

- (1) Develop a fast-track reaccreditation application;
- (2) Update the current re-accreditation application by making it consistent with the current accreditation application (amended in October 2016);
- (3) Apply an updated re-accreditation process from 23 March 2018 following a Board decision to approve an updated re-accreditation process; and
- (4) Inform the Implementing Entities of the updated re-accreditation policy.

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<sup>5</sup> For easy reference, Section II. 2-4 of the accreditation application form available at [https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/OPG-Annex-6\\_Accreditation-Application-Form\\_amended-in-Oct-2016.pdf](https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/OPG-Annex-6_Accreditation-Application-Form_amended-in-Oct-2016.pdf).

## ANNEX II

## Information Note for Designated Authorities to select a National Implementing Entity candidate for accreditation with the Adaptation Fund

The purpose of this information note is to assist [Designated Authorities](#) in selecting the most suitable National Implementing Entity (NIE) candidate for the country to seek accreditation with the Adaptation Fund. The information below describes the essential capabilities and system that an NIE candidate is expected to demonstrate during the accreditation process. For further information, please contact [afaccreditation@adaptation-fund.org](mailto:afaccreditation@adaptation-fund.org).

The Designated Authority should consider the following aspects:

1. The nominated NIE can demonstrate and give evidence of its fiduciary abilities and obtain the accreditation from the Adaptation Fund. The Designated Authority is encouraged to refer to the accreditation fiduciary standards that NIEs must meet during the accreditation process, which are available at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/accreditation/>.
2. The nominated NIE is the most capable and suitable within the country to take responsibility and accountability for the full climate change adaptation project cycle in an agile, efficient and effective manner.
3. The nominated NIE has the appropriate processes and management for implementing climate change adaptation projects, which in most cases means that implementation of these projects is one of its significant or core activities.
4. The nominated NIE promotes a zero tolerance for fraud and corruption that is clearly demonstrated by its top management; has the ability to take on the responsibility of the full climate change adaptation project cycle in an environment free from direct and indirect fraud and corruption from its own staff and from third parties; has its own avenue and/or other structures to address any allegations thereof in a transparent and competent manner - involving relevant authorities as needed.
5. The nominated NIE can demonstrate its commitment and capacity to comply with the Environment and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund in the implementation of the Fund's projects or programmes. Furthermore, it has mechanism in place to address Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy complaints.
6. The nominated NIE is able to work together with government entities, leveraging co-financing organizations and other stakeholders within the country in order to identify, appraise, implement, monitor and evaluate projects – including those related to climate change adaptation.