



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.31-32/4  
22 May 2018

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Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION  
DATE: WFP (ECUADOR)**

## **Background**

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its thirteenth meeting, approved a five-year project titled “Enhancing resilience of communities to the adverse effects of climate change on food security, in Pichincha Province and the Jubones River basin” in Ecuador, submitted by the World Food Programme (WFP) for a request amount of US\$ 7,449,468 (decision B.13/11). The overall objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability and food insecurity of communities and ecosystems, related to the adverse effects of climate change, in the most vulnerable cantons of Pichincha Province and the basin of the river Jubones. The project’s components are: i) to develop awareness and knowledge capacity at the community level on climate change and food insecurity related risks; and ii) to increase adaptive capacity and reduce recurrent risks of climate variability at the community level. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and WFP.

2. The first tranche of disbursement for the implementation of the project was released following signature of the agreement in April 2011. The first project performance report (PPR) for the project was submitted in November 2012 and cleared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) in May 2013. The second, third, fourth and fifth PPRs were cleared by the secretariat in January 2014, April 2015, April 2016, and April 2017, respectively. As of May 2018, a total amount of US\$ 7,449,468 had been disbursed to the project by the Board’s Trustee (corresponding to 100% of the total project funding). The project went through a mid-term evaluation (MTE) process, with a MTE report finalized in September 2015.

3. This is the second request for an extension of the project completion date. The expected completion date of the project, following decision B.27-28/4, is 29 May 2018. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.29-30/3/Rev.1) amended by the Board in October 2017 (Decision B.29-30/15), a request for an extension of project completion date must be submitted by the implementing entity at least six months prior to the official completion date. However, WFP had submitted such request through the Secretariat on 22 May 2018, hence at a date beyond the expected completion date, for an extension of the completion date until 15 June 2018 (see Annex 1).

4. The reasons for this project extension request, as outlined by WFP, include the fact that the project experienced delays in the last three procurement processes related to the systematization of best practices and lessons learned, project closure event, and project final financial audit. With the change in the national political administration, the final revisions of these processes took, in fact, longer than expected.

5. According to WFP, the requested extension of the completion date would allow sufficient time to finalize the three pending above-mentioned procurement processes, as per the IE’s procurement rules.

### **Secretariat’s review of the request**

6. Following a review of the request, the secretariat finds that given the delays incurred in these procurement processes due to exogenous reasons, and given the importance of finalizing these documents for a smooth closure of the project, this request for a 17-days extension is justified.

7. Lastly, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity and the Designated Authority has been notified, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays.

### **Recommendation**

8. Therefore, the Board may consider and decide to approve the request for a 17-days extension of the project completion date for the project "*Enhancing resilience of communities to the adverse effects of climate change on food security, in Pichincha Province and the Jubones River basin*" as requested by the World Food Programme (WFP), from 29 May 2018 to 15 June 2019.

### **Annexes**

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from WFP.

**Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date from WFP****Request for extension of project/programme completion date**

<b>Implementing Entity Name:</b>		World Food Programme	
<b>AF Project/programme ID:</b>		Grants 10029210/10022008	
<b>Project/programme Title:</b>		Enhancing Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change on Food Security in Pichincha Province and the Jubones River Basin in Ecuador	
<b>Country:</b>		Ecuador	
<b>Project/Programme Approval (date):</b>		2011 (Inception workshop took place on November 2012)	
<b>Expected Project/programme Completion (date):</b>	May 29 <sup>th</sup> 2018	<b>Proposed Revised Completion (date):</b>	June 15 <sup>th</sup> 2018

**Reasons/justifications for the extension of project/programme completion**

Through decision B.27-28/4, the Adaptation Fund Board approved in April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the extension of the programme completion date from November 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 to May 29<sup>th</sup> 2018.

As stated on the rationale for the original request for extension in time, the actual implementation was meant to take place between November 2016 and November 2017, while the last 6 months running from December 2017 to May 2018 were planned for final closure activities such as gathering of lessons learned and best practices, project closure event, financial closure and audit and evaluation, among others. As these are key final outputs that will reflect the achievement of results to external audiences, the corresponding terms of reference were carefully prepared and reviewed by the interested parties.


Unfortunately, the final revisions by high level government authorities from the Ministry of Environment took longer than expected due to the upcoming first year of the new government that implied a huge demand of official information for the preparation of the President's first rapport of activities, along with the uncertainty regarding the continuity of high level authorities. In practical terms, this delay caused that the last three procurement processes related to the systematization of best practices and lessons learned, project closure event, and project final financial audit will not be able to be committed as per WFP's procurement rules before the completion date set on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

For this reason, we kindly request the extension of the completion date till June 15<sup>th</sup> 2018. This extension will guarantee the full completion of the project final activities.

**Implementing Entity certification**

This request has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, has been agreed by participating executing entities, and the designated authority (DA) has been notified.

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Date: May, 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

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