



ADAPTATION FUND

22 January 2019

Adaptation Fund Board

Accreditation Panel Recommendation on Re-accreditation of the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) as National Implementing Entity for Belize

Having reviewed the re-accreditation application of the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), the Accreditation Panel recommended that the PACT 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, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to re-accredit the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) of Belize as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) 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 21 January 2024.

Decision B.32-33/13

ANNEX I: REPORT OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL ON ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION TRUST (PACT) OF BELIZE FOR REACCREDITATION AS A NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (NIE) OF THE ADAPTATION FUND.

Background

The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) was first accredited in November 2011 as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund. Since accreditation, and as Belize's AF-accredited NIE, PACT has provided 'fiduciary assistance' for the Belize component of the Adaptation Fund-financed project, titled "Marine Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative." This project is a multi-year, single project, funded by Adaptation Fund's grants, implemented by the World Bank that shortly will be completed. The Belize component that involved PACT amounts to some USD 6 million.

Assessment

The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (hereafter referred to as PACT or the applicant) has applied for re-accreditation. The Panel reviewed the application for the following three parameters:

1. Assessment of whether PACT continues to meet the Adaptation Fund's Fiduciary Standards:

The applicant has indicated that there have been multiple changes since accreditation. Over the AF reaccreditation review process, PACT has undertaken significant reform: it has revised its strategy; implemented reforms; revised or approved new policies; revised its procedures; reconfigured its human resources; and worked on its financial capacity to deliver on its strategic objectives. It has also, in this process, addressed the 2011 AF conditionalities¹ satisfactorily.

Panel also benefitted from a site visit to Belize. During the visit the Panel was able to interact with PACT leadership and board as well as other stakeholders; observe in PACT and at a project site how PACT interacted with its project partners and used its enhanced operational capabilities. The Panel believes that PACT has improved many aspects of itself compared to the time when it was accredited in 2011.

Overall, the Panel is satisfied with the results of this reaccreditation review. Irrespective of Adaptation Fund's reaccreditation requirements, PACT's management, and its board are on track to finalize the few remaining items by year-end. For reaccreditation purposes,

¹ See Decision B.15/2 available at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/AFB%2015%20report.pdf>.

the Panel believes that ***PACT fully or substantially meets Adaptation Fund's reaccreditation requirements.***

2. Assessment of whether PACT meets the Adaptation Fund's Environmental & Social, and Gender Policies:

A review of the information provided shows that PACT's new and newly revised E&S and Gender Policies align sufficiently with those of the Adaptation Fund and that they are in line with national policies. PACT has also taken steps to integrate these policies into its operations throughout the project lifecycle. It has done so by incorporating them in its recently updated Conservation Investment Programme (or Operations Manual) that has tools to help staff focus on E&S and Gender objectives, risks, and controls. Importantly, PACT has recruited operational staff - and is training them - to ensure compliance both in PACT and on the ground at the project level.

One enhancement – beyond what the Adaptation Fund requires - is that PACT is about to finalize arrangements leading to the establishment of its Independent Expert Advisory Group. This group of independent technical experts will improve project identification and project appraisals in ways that, if done well, will increase the prospects of better project outcomes and impact downstream.

3. Assessment of whether PACT meets the Adaptation Fund's requirements on transparency, self-investigative powers, anti-corruption measures and has a mechanism to address complaints about environmental & social as well as gender harms caused by projects:

The applicant meets all the Fund's requirements on transparency, self-investigative powers, anti-corruption measures and mechanism to address complaints about environmental & social, and gender & equality harms caused by projects.

In its Internal Control Statement and under 'Prohibited Practices' on its main webpage, PACT clearly shows it has a zero tolerance for fraud & corruption. Also, in its revised Anti-Fraud Policies and Procedures it articulates its views on anti-money laundering & counter terrorist financing.

Finally, there is in place a complaints mechanism to deal with fraud and corruption and related topics as well as E&S and Gender issues, and PACT has the resources - or can obtain them, to investigate allegations of wrongdoing, should it be needed. To date, no one has complained.

Recommendation

The Accreditation Panel recommends that the Protected Areas Conservation Trust be reaccredited as an NIE of the Adaptation Fund.