



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.33-34/3
26 March 2019

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
INSTITUTE (SANBI)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its twenty-fourth meeting, approved a four-year project titled "Taking Adaptation to the Ground: A Small Grants Facility for Enabling Local Level Responses to Climate Change", submitted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) for a requested amount of US\$ 2,442,682 (decision B. 24/15). The project entails the implementation of a small grant finance mechanism to address the adaptation needs. The Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility (SGF) will increase climate resilience in rural communities and socio-economic systems in two pilot district municipalities in South Africa, by working directly with local stakeholders and anticipated beneficiaries through a small granting mechanism. The overall goal of the project is to ensure that vulnerable, rural communities in the project target areas have reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to the anticipated impacts of climate variability and change. The objective is to incorporate climate adaptation response strategies into local practices so that assets, livelihoods and ecosystem services are protected from climate-induced risks associated with expected droughts, seasonal shifts and storm-related disaster events.

2. The project will do so through three main components: i) Providing small grants to vulnerable communities that deliver tangible and sustainable benefits; ii) Empowering local institutions to identify and implement adaptation response measures; and iii) Compiling and sharing lessons learned to facilitate future scaling up and replication of small grant-financing approaches.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and SANBI.

4. The first tranche of disbursement for the implementation of the project was released following signature of the agreement in October 2014. The first project performance report (PPR) for the project was submitted in November 2016 and cleared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) in February 2017. The second PPR was submitted in March 2018 and cleared by the secretariat in April 2018. As of March 2019, a total amount of US\$ 2,104,354 had been disbursed to the project by the trustee, corresponding to 86% of the project funding.

5. This is the first request for an extension of the project completion date. 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. SANBI had submitted such request through the secretariat on 8 March 2019, hence in compliance with the Policy, for an extension of the completion date until 30 June 2020 (see Annex 1).

6. The reasons for this request for an extension of project completion date, as outlined by SANBI, include the fact that:

- The project experienced delays in the project solicitation and development processes for the small grants. As a result, Small Grant Recipients were only contracted by mid-2018;
- It will allow sufficient time to finalize and complete project reporting of the small grants' recipients; and
- The extension request was also recommended in the mid-term evaluation report.

Secretariat's review of the request

7. Following a review of the request, the secretariat finds that this request of a nine-month extension is justified. Finally, 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, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

8. Therefore, the Board may consider and decide to approve the request for a nine-month extension of the project completion date for the project "Taking Adaptation to the Ground: A Small Grants Facility for Enabling Local Level Responses to Climate Change" as requested by SANBI, from 30 September 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Annex

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

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date from SANBI

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| Implementing Entity Name: South African National Biodiversity Institute | | | |
| AF Project/programme ID: ZAF/NIE/Multi/2013/2 | | | |
| Project/programme Title: Taking Adaptation to the Ground: A Small Grants Facility for Enabling Local Level Responses to Climate Change | | | |
| Country: South Africa | | | |
| Project/Programme Approval (date): 10 October 2014 | | | |
| Expected Project/programme Completion (date): | 30 September 2019 | Proposed Revised Completion (date): | 30 June 2020 |

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

SANBI would like to request a nine month no-cost extension for the project entitled: Taking Adaptation to the Ground: A Small Grants Facility for Enabling Local Level Responses to Climate Change.

The reasons/ justifications for this are as follows:

- Small grant making is complex and project solicitation and development processes took much longer to conclude than was anticipated when the project was developed.
- As a result, many Small Grant Recipients were only contracted in mid-2018 and now require additional time in order for them to be able to complete their projects.
- Once Small Grant Recipient projects are completed, SANBI and the Executing Entity will need sufficient time to wrap up and complete the project reporting.
- The proposed no-cost extension is also an implicit recommendation of the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), and is captured in the MTE management response.

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.

Name & Signature



Project/programme contact person: Dr Mandy Barnett

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