



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.33-34/13
13 August 2019

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (MAURITANIA)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its eighteenth meeting, approved a four-year project titled “Enhancing Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change on Food Security in Mauritania”, submitted by the World Food Programme (WFP) for a requested amount of US\$ 7,803,605 (decision B. 18/20). The overall goal of the project is to improve adaptation in the area of food security in Mauritania by assisting the government in improving technical services at the community level so that village residents, who will be most affected by climate change, can undertake their own analysis of climate change impacts and prepare detailed adaptation plans – including harmonized plans for livestock, land and water management and the overall use of natural resources. The project will also promote climate resilience by protecting threatened resources, such as dunes, community fuel wood forests, and water sources. Finally, villages will be encouraged to explore ways to diversify the sources of livelihood and receive training, coaching, and asset investments to do so. With respect to investments, the project will ensure that the assets created represent the most appropriate choice of technology, allowing the desired production, storage and marketing of outputs by villages and households. This will ensure future sustainability, including repair and replacement with local know-how and resources.
2. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and WFP.
3. The first tranche of disbursement for the implementation of the project was released following signature of the agreement in October 2012. The first project performance report (PPR) for the project was submitted in January 2016 and cleared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) in April 2016. The second and third PPRs were cleared by the secretariat respectively in June 2017 and June 2018. The final PPR, corresponding to the project’s completion report, was cleared in December 2018. As of July 2019, the totality of the project funds had been disbursed to the project by the trustee.
4. This is the third request for an extension of the project completion date. The expected completion date of the project, following decision B.33-34/31, is 13 August 2019. 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 9 August 2019, hence at a date beyond the expected completion date, for an extension of the completion date until 15 September 2019.
5. The reasons for this request for an extension of the project completion date, as outlined by WFP, include the fact that the tendering process for the project’s audit is taking longer than expected. The international auditing firms consulted to participated in the tender have not presented an offer to the WFP Country Office, and additional time is required to complete the necessary steps (receiving/evaluating the offers, negotiating and signing the contract) to complete the tendering process for the two audit firms that could be eligible to undertake this work.

Secretariat's review of the request

6. Following a review of the request, the secretariat finds that given the explanation provided by WFP, the request can be recommended for approval. The extension of the project completion date would, in fact, allow to finalize the project financial audit process in accordance with WFP procurement rules.

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

1. Therefore, the Board may consider and decide to approve the request for one-month extension of the project completion date for the project "Enhancing Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change on Food Security in Mauritania" as requested by WFP, from 13 August 2019 to 15 September 2019.

Annexes

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

Annex I: Request for an extension of the project completion date from WFP.

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Implementing Entity Name: United Nations World Food Programme			
AF Project/programme ID: MTN/MIE/Food/2011/1/PD			
Project/programme Title: Enhancing Resilience of Communities to the Adverse effects of Climate Change on Food Security in Mauritania			
Country: Mauritania			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	July 23 rd , 2012 (inception August 14 th , 2014)		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	August 13 th , 2019	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	September 15 th , 2019

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

Through Decision B.33-34/31, the Adaptation Fund Board approved, in July 25, 2019 the extension of the project completion date from 14 July 2019 to 13 August 2019. This extension was requested only to allow us to finalize the tendering process for project's audit in accordance with WFP procurement rules before the project's completion date.

Unfortunately, the tendering process is taking longer than expected. None of the five international auditing firms consulted to participate in the tender has presented an offer to the Country Office so far. We have now found two audit firms that would be eligible for this work, but some additional steps are needed to complete the tendering process, including receiving/evaluating offers, negotiating and signing the contract. This means that it is highly unlikely that the tendering process can be finalized before project closure, on the 13th of August, especially considering that the 12 and 13th of August are official holidays in Mauritania.

For this reason, we kindly request the extension of the project closing date from August 13th, 2019 to September 15th, 2019. This will guarantee the completion of the project financial audit tendering process.

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: August 8th, 2019

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