



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.34-35/8
29 January 2020

Adaptation Fund Board

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

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its nineteen meeting, approved a three-year project titled “Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities Living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka”, submitted by the World Food Programme (WFP) for a requested amount of US\$ 7,989,727 (decision B.19/16).
2. The overall objective of the project is to secure community livelihoods and food security against climate change-induced rainfall variability leading to longer droughts and more intense rainfall. This project directly addresses these climate induced impacts through: i) Developing household food security and build resilient livelihoods for rain-fed farming households; and ii) Building institutional capacity in village, local, regional service delivery to reduce risks associated with climate-induced rainfall variability.
3. The project original completion date was 28 August 2017. In April 2017, WFP applied for an extension of the project completion date until 28 February 2019, which the Board approved through decision B.29-30/3. On 2 October 2018, WFP had submitted a second extension of the completion date until 28 February 2020, which was approved by the Board through decision B.32-33/1.
4. On 10 January 2020, WFP had submitted a third request for an extension of the project completion date from 29 February to 30 June 2020 (see Annex 1), hence at a date beyond the deadline, according the Adaptation Fund policy for Project/Programme Delays (AFB/B.29-30/3/Rev.1).
5. At the time the second no-cost extension was requested and approved, it was expected that all the project activities would be concluded by end of February 2020. Due to two external factors, namely the Easter Sunday bombings in April 2019 and the unscheduled Presidential Election that took place in late 2019, project implementation was disrupted and accused delays during the year.
6. As of January 2020, a total amount of UDS 7,887,014 had been disbursed to the project by the trustee, corresponding to 98.7% of the project funding. The project went through a mid-term evaluation (MTE) process which report was finalized and submitted to the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat (the secretariat) in July 2018. In addition, the implementing entity submitted its fourth project performance report (PPR) on January 2019 which was cleared by the secretariat in July 2019. The fifth PPR was submitted to the secretariat on December 2019 and which review and clearance will be done after the Board consideration of this request for extension of project completion date.

Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request and considering the explanation provided by WFP, the secretariat believes that this request of a further four-month extension is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by WFP (Annex 1), it is noted that the project implementation is almost at completion stage, and this extension will allow the project to complete all activities, including the development of 10 case studies and 5 policy briefs. In addition, this extension will also ensure a smooth handover of the community assets and other assets to the appropriate authorities. Finally, it will allow time to undertake the project closure including the completion report and the independent terminal evaluation.

8. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity and endorsed by the Designated Authority, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

9. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for a further four-month extension of the project completion date from 29 February 2020 to 30 June 2020 for the project “Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities Living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka” as requested by WFP.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from WFP;
2. Government endorsement letter for the project extension request.

Annex 1: Request for an Extension of the Project Completion Date

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Implementing Entity Name: World Food Programme			
AF Project/programme ID: LKA/MIE/Rural/2011/1			
Project/programme Title: "Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities Living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka"			
Country: Sri Lanka			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	21 December 2012 (Official project start date 11 August 2014)		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	29 February, 2020	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	June 30, 2020 4 Month NCE

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

<p>About the Project: The project 'Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities Living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka' targets rain-dependent farming families in two hazard-prone areas of the country.</p> <p>The overall objective of the project is to secure community livelihoods and food security against climate change-induced rainfall variability leading to longer droughts and more intense rainfall. To directly address these climate-induced impacts, the project aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop household food security and build resilient livelihoods for rain-fed farming households 2. Build institutional capacity in village, local, regional service delivery to reduce risks associated with climate-induced rainfall variability <p>Rationale for the extension: The implementation of the project significantly accelerated after January 2018, once the Programme Management Unit (PMU) of the Executive Agency was fully staffed in April 2018 and UNDP joined as an implementing partner.</p> <p>On 6 November 2018, the Adaptation Fund Board approved a no-cost extension of 12 months, from February 2019 to February 2020, to compensate for the delay in project implementation and to achieve the project targets. This additional time allowed for a series of infrastructure and livelihood development programmes, including three agriculture development initiatives, a commercial cashew and coconut cultivation programme, rain water harvesting, three livestock development programmes, one agroforestry and watershed management programme, two minor tanks and eco-restoration programme, two lift irrigation schemes, three drinking water projects with one agro-well and poly tunnel construction in all three target Divisional Secretariat Divisions. Furthermore, the extension allowed the project to rehabilitate 9 water storing tanks, 19 irrigation canals and anicuts, 17 agri</p>
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roads and prioritized handloom and handicraft production, as well as two farmer markets in both Districts. Overall, the results of implementation have become clearly evident, where vulnerable communities are applying adaptive strategies, alternative livelihoods are further diversified, and food security is improving.

Unfortunately, Sri Lanka has experienced two significant external factors that disrupted implementation over the past year, namely the Easter Sunday bombings in April 2019 and the unscheduled Presidential Election that took place in late 2019. Due to the country being under a state of emergency until August 2019 following the attacks, and the post-election changes in the government led to limited field travel and slower approval processes for procurement, which ultimately delayed monitoring efforts and implementation.

Based on these factors, the Executing Entities have requested a two month extension of the operational period to complete the following:

- 10 case studies and 5 policy briefs
- Final completion and handover of the community assets and project capital assets to appropriate authorities
- Final Completion Report

In addition, 36 community enterprises have been developed and are currently transitioning to become self-sustaining. The extension period would allow the Executive Entities to monitor their progress, support in strengthening their market linkages, and register them into a cooperative entity to safeguard their sustainability.

In parallel, WFP has launched the procurement process to hire the External Evaluator and Independent Auditing Firm. This process will need to extend beyond the operational period, and subsequently WFP is requesting a 4 month extension to complete these deliverables, as per the guidelines in the Adaptation Fund Agreement.

For these reasons, we kindly request an extension of the project completion date from February 2020 to June 2020.

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 and Signature



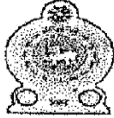
Andrea Berardo
WFP Country Director a.i.
Sri Lanka

Project/Programme contact person
Andrea Berardo

Date: January 10th, 2020

Tel. and Email:
+94 767091381
Email: andrea.berardo@wfp.org

Annex 2: Government Endorsement Letter for the Project Extension Request



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Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources
පරිසර අංශය சுற்றுநடல் பிரிவு Environment Division

"සමතුලිත වනජීවී" යන 416/071, සංවර්ධන අංශයේ පාලන කාර්යාලයේ, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව "සමතුලිත වනජීවී", ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ 416/071, සංවර්ධන අංශයේ පාලන කාර්යාලයේ, කුරුමිගොඩ, කුරුමිගොඩ "Sobaludu Pivasa", No. 416/071, Robert Gunawardana Mawatha, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka Gen. Tel: +94-11-2034100	දුරකථන 071 258 1001 Secretary +94-11-2034121	ෆැක්ස් 071 258 7944 Secretary +94-11-2579944
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Ms. Brenda Barton
 Representative/ Country Director
 World Food Programme
 Jawatte Avenue
 Colombo 05

02 JAN 2020

Dear Ms. Barton,

Project on "Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka"

- **Request for Extension of the Duration of the Project by two months, until April 30th 2020.**

Your kind reference to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat letter no: 2018/481, dated on 06th of November 2018 informing that the Adaptation Fund has extended the project completion period until 28th February 2020.

This extension has allowed the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources (formally known as Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment), together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to accelerate implementation and achieve most of the project outputs throughout its life cycle in an effective and sustainable manner, despite some setbacks at the beginning of the Project. As a result, the financial and physical progress of the project has reached 96% and 94%, respectively by 31st December 2019, ultimately benefiting 15,052 households, achieving over the target which was 14,000 households.

According to the recommendation of the two Executing Agencies (Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources and UNDP) and endorsed by the National Project Steering Committee, a two month no-cost extension is kindly requested. This will allow the Project Management Unit and UNDP teams to complete the handover process and produce several key deliverables (10 case studies, 5 policy briefs, Final Completion Report and Final Financial) which are currently underway.

It would be highly appreciated if you could request a two month extension from the Adaptation Fund for the Project on "Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka" which will reflect a completion date of 30th of April 2020.

Your kind cooperation and assistance extended in this regard is highly appreciated.

J.M.C. Jayanthi Wijethunga
J.M.C. Jayanthi Wijethunga
 Secretary

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 "All life on earth and the flora on it equally belong to the man and the birds flying in the sky, the quadrupeds and all creatures living on earth"