



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35.a-35.b/7
19 March 2020

Adaptation Fund Board

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

WORK OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

1. The Accreditation Panel (the Panel) continued its work reviewing both new and existing applications. The Panel held its thirty-third meeting on 6–7 February 2020 at the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat's (the secretariat) offices in Washington, D.C. The Chair of the Accreditation Panel Ms. Eleonora Cogo (Italy, Western Europe and Others) presided over the meeting.

2. For the thirty-third Panel meeting, the secretariat has received two new complete accreditation applications for two potential Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs). The Panel has continued reviewing 11 re-accreditation applications (5 NIEs, 1 RIE and 5 MIEs) and 16 accreditation applications of 13 potential NIEs and 3 potential RIEs that were previously reviewed but required additional information for the Panel's review. Four NIE candidates' applications have been dormant as of the AP33 meeting. Therefore, in accordance with Board Decision B.31/26, the secretariat sent a letter on 30 January 2020 to the Designated Authorities (DAs) of two of the dormant NIE applicants informing them of the removal of the accreditation applications from the accreditation pipeline. Two other letters were sent on 30 January 2020 to the DAs of the remaining two dormant NIE applicants informing the inactivity of the applicant entity.

3. After considering the recommendations by the Panel, the Board had intersessionally approved during the period from 12 October 2019 to 19 March 2020: fast-track re-accreditation of the General Directorate of Sectoral and Special Programs and Projects (DIPROSE) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina (MAGyP), Successor Entity of the Unidad para el Cambio Rural (UCAR) as NIE for Argentina (Decision B.34-35/13); and fast-track re-accreditation of the National Fund for Environment and Climate (FNEC) as NIE for Benin (Decision B.34-35/24).

4. Before the thirty-third meeting of the Panel, 16 accreditation applications (13 for potential NIEs and 3 for potential RIEs) were under review by the Panel as per the following list. For purposes of confidentiality, the assigned code is used to report on the status of each nominated Implementing Entity's application.

1. National Implementing Entity NIE018
2. National Implementing Entity NIE044
3. National Implementing Entity NIE046
4. National Implementing Entity NIE057
5. National Implementing Entity NIE064
6. National Implementing Entity NIE065
7. National Implementing Entity NIE066
8. National Implementing Entity NIE113
9. National Implementing Entity NIE133
10. National Implementing Entity NIE140
11. National Implementing Entity NIE141
12. National Implementing Entity NIE142
13. National Implementing Entity NIE145
14. Regional Implementing Entity RIE008

- 15. Regional Implementing Entity RIE016
- 16. Regional Implementing Entity RIE017

GENERAL TRENDS

5. As at 19 March 2020, the total number of accredited implementing entities amounted to 49: 31 NIEs, 6 RIEs, and 12 MIEs (Figure 1). Among the 31 NIEs, there were nine accredited NIEs that were from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and seven accredited NIEs that were from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) (Figure 2). Out of the 49 accredited implementing entities of the Adaptation Fund (the Fund), 25 entities (51%) had been re-accredited: 12 NIEs, 3 RIEs and 10 MIEs. With respect to the geographic coverage of the 31 NIEs and 6 RIEs, 14 entities were from Latin America and the Caribbean region, 14 were from Africa region, 8 were from Asia-Pacific region and 1 entity was from Eastern Europe region (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Accredited Implementing Entities by type

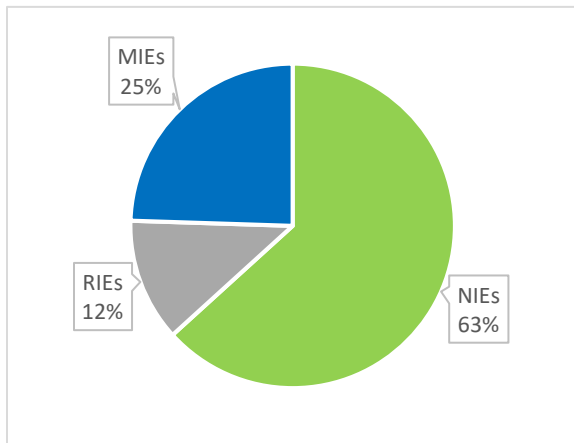


Figure 2. LDCs and SIDS among accredited NIEs

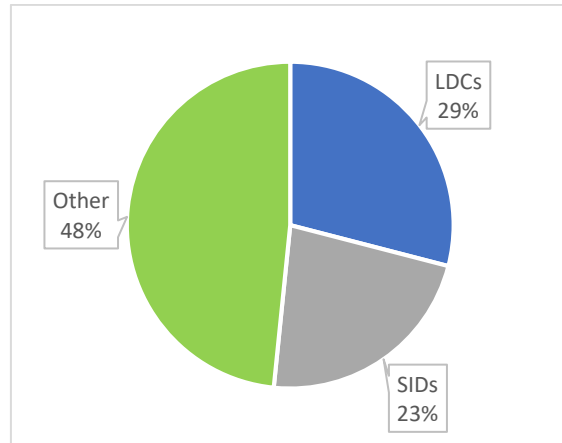
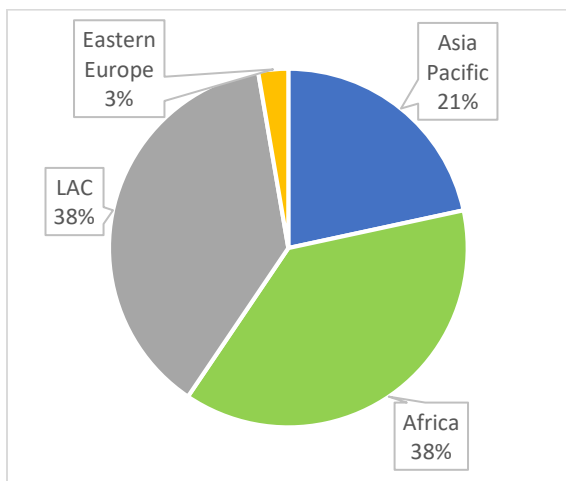


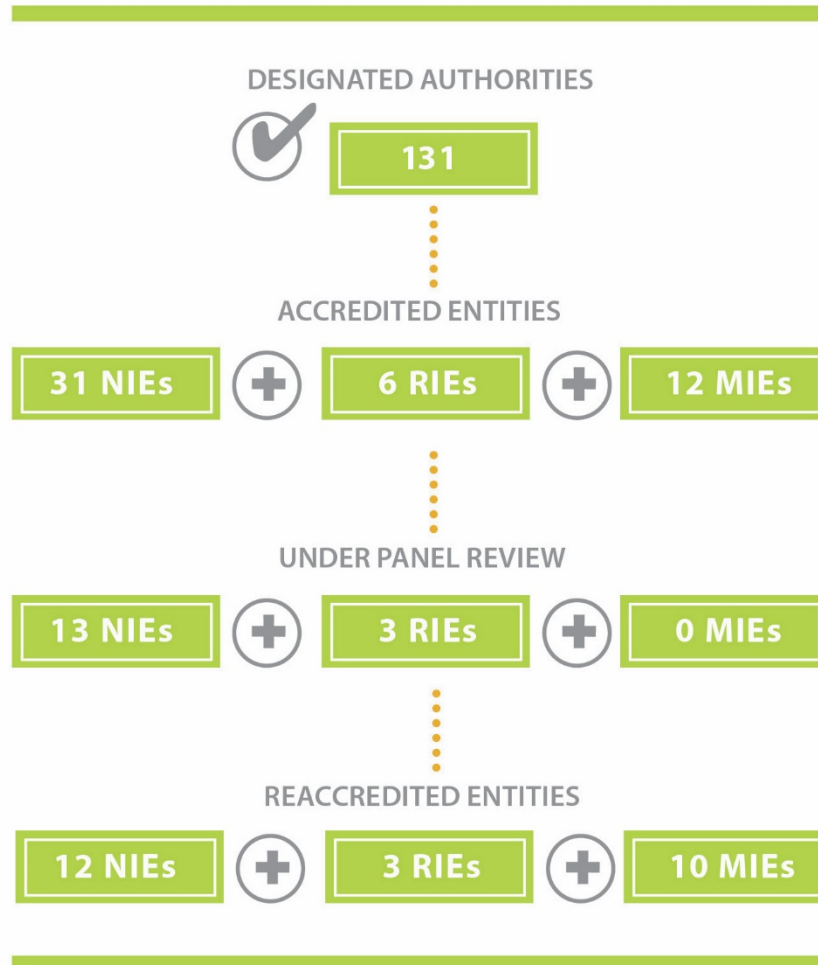
Figure 3. Accredited NIEs and RIEs by region



ACCREDITATION PIPELINE

6. The following infographic (figure 4) provides an update on the current accreditation pipeline which does not include re-accreditation applications.

Figure 4. The accreditation pipeline of the Adaptation Fund as of 4 February 2020.



STATUS OF APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

	SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION	REFERENCE FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION	CURRENT STATUS
EXISTING APPLICATIONS			
NIE018	Aug-18	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	After the applicant submitted its application in August 2018, the secretariat screened the application and sent the application back to the applicant with comments. The applicant resubmitted its application on 12 December 2018. After receiving evidence document including the Designated Authority's (DA) letter related to the legal capacity of the applicant, the application was sent to the Panel for review. The Panel completed initial review and produced a list of pending questions on 23 August 2019. As of AP 33 meeting, the applicant's submission of the requested information is pending.
NIE044 (Dormant Application)	Jan-13	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Despite secretariat's follow-up emails, there has been no progress since AP23 meeting in August 2016. In accordance with AFB Decision B.31/26, this application is considered as 'dormant,' and the secretariat sent a letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the applicant for the first time on 22 May 2018. Due to inactivity for another six months, the secretariat sent the second letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the entity on 16 January 2019. The third letter was sent to the DA on 21 May 2019. In accordance with Decision B.31/26, as the six-month period of inactivity has reached four times in a row, the accreditation application has been removed from the accreditation pipeline. A letter was sent to the DA on 30 January 2020.
NIE046	Dec-12	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	The applicant submitted several supporting documents on 13 September 2019. The Panel completed a review of the submitted documents on 29 September 2019 and shared a list of pending issues to be addressed by the applicant. The secretariat reached out to the applicant on 15 January to request for further information regarding the accreditation application. As of AP33 meeting, the secretariat has received no further updates from the applicant.
NIE057	Apr-14	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	The applicant had been on 'dormant application status' in accordance with AFB Decision B.31/26 from 22 May 2018 to 28 August 2019. The accreditation process resumed with the submission of supporting documents on 29 August 2019. Following the request for updates from the secretariat on 15 January 2020, the applicant reached out to the secretariat on 29 January 2020 reiterating its commitment to pursuing and finalizing the process of its accreditation with the Fund.
NIE064 (Dormant Application)	Apr-16	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	The applicant had been on "dormant application status". In accordance with AFB Decision B.31/26, the secretariat sent a letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the applicant for the first time on 22 May 2018. Due to inactivity for another six months, the secretariat sent the second letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the entity on 16 January 2019. The third letter was sent to the DA on 21 May 2019. As of AP33 meeting, there has been no progress with this application. In accordance with Decision B.31/26, as the six-month period of inactivity has reached four times in a row, the accreditation application has been removed from the accreditation pipeline. A letter was sent to the DA on 30 January 2020.

NIE065	Aug-18	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Following the submission of additional documentation by the applicant on 7 March 2019, the Panel reviewed the documents and requested the applicant to address additional questions and issues on 23 June 2019. The secretariat sent the applicant a request for updates on the requested information on 15 January 2020. The applicant submitted a number of supporting documents on 22 January 2020.
NIE066 (Dormant Application)	Apr-15	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	This applicant had been on “dormant application status”. The secretariat sent an official letter to the DA of the country sharing the Panel’s concerns and suggestion on 8 January 2019. The applicant communicated its willingness to continue the process on 20 February 2019, and there was a call among the applicant, the Secretariat and the Panel in June 2019 but no additional document has been submitted since then. In accordance with Decision B.31/26, the secretariat sent the first letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the entity on 30 January 2020.
NIE113	Dec-15	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Following the submission of 4 additional documentation by the applicant, the Panel updated its assessment report and shared a list of pending questions with the applicant on 13 May 2019. As of AP 33 meeting, the applicant’s submission of the requested documents is pending.
NIE133 (Dormant Application)	Feb-17	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	The main concern of the Panel about this applicant is related to its capacity to meet some of the accreditation criteria: the applicant’s corporate mandate and strategies appear to be purely focused on financial and banking goals. The Panel’s summary report on the review of the application was shared in the official letter from the secretariat to the country’s DA on 18 January 2019. On 25 January 2019, the secretariat received a note from a person introducing himself as a new DA for the country. The secretariat has however, not received a formal letter of nomination yet. In accordance with Decision B.31/26, the secretariat sent the first letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the entity on 19 June 2019. The second letter was sent to the DA on 30 January 2020.
NIE140	Sept-19	N/A	The Panel completed the initial review of the application on 4 November 2019 and shared the list of pending questions and information with the applicant on 11 November 2019. The applicant’s submission of the requested information is pending.
NIE141	Dec-17	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	The secretariat received a letter from the DA on 22 January 2020 informing the secretariat that the original NIE applicant was split into two Ministries. A new Ministry was endorsed as an NIE applicant to resume the accreditation process with the Fund. The applicant appointed a new focal person. The secretariat plans to hold a teleconference call with the new focal point of the NIE applicant to resume the accreditation process.
NIE142	Feb-19	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	On November 14, 2019, the Panel had a phone conversation with the applicant to discuss updates on the application and to understand the progress the applicant has made regarding the issues and questions raised. As of AP33 meeting, there have not been any response from the applicant on the requested information.
NIE145	Mar-19	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Following the Panel’s update of the initial assessment report and request for the applicant to address pending questions, the applicant submitted supporting documents in early November 2019. As of the AP 33 meeting, the secretariat has tried to facilitate a conversation between the panel and the referees provided by the applicant.

RIE008	Jan-14	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Following the communication on the Board Decision B.32/1 (fast-track accreditation), the applicant communicated its interest in resuming the accreditation process with the Fund. During the GCF Global Programming Conference in Songdo, Korea in August 2019, the secretariat had a bilateral meeting with the representatives of the applicant, including a new focal point. The applicant confirmed to resume the accreditation process. The secretariat tried to facilitate a call between the Panel and the applicant to seek updates on the application on 23 January 2020.
RIE016	Mar-17	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	In April and May 2019, the applicant additionally submitted 5 supporting documents. The Panel reviewed the documents and updated the assessment report as well as a list of pending questions on 16 May 2019. The applicant submitted some of the requested documents on 11 November 2019. The Panel has reviewed the submitted documents and is actively corresponding with the Applicant on the outstanding questions.
RIE017	Jan-19	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Upon the request of the Panel, the applicant submitted additional documents on 21 May 2019. The Panel reviewed them and updated its assessment report as well as a list of pending questions on 17 June 2019. Applicant submitted additional supporting documents on 16 December 2019. The Panel has reviewed the submitted documents and communicated the outstanding questions to the Applicant.
RE- ACCREDITATION			
NIE016	Aug-16	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Accreditation expired on 13 December 2016. During the Climate Change conference (COP24) in Poland in December 2018, the secretariat had a bilateral meeting with the delegation from the applicant's country to discuss the re-accreditation process. Conference calls among the secretariat, the entity and the Panel were also held on 13 June 2019 and 14 January 2020. Applicant submission of the requested documents is pending.
NIE034	Aug-19	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Accreditation expired on 13 August 2019. Upon the request of the Panel, the applicant submitted additional documents in late June 2019. The Panel updated the report and produced a list of pending questions in August 2019. The project performance report submitted by the entity was shared with the Panel and the Panel requested that a list of pending information be provided by the applicant on 5 November 2019. The entity's submission of the additional information is pending.
NIE037	Jan-19	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Accreditation expired on 18 November 2017. The entity submitted the re-accreditation application on 19 January 2019. After screening by the secretariat, the Panel started an initial review on 20 February 2019. The Panel completed the initial review and prepared a list of questions to be addressed by the applicant. The entity submitted additional supporting documents on 10 and 28 June 2019. The Panel had a tele-conference call with the entity on 2 December 2019 to seek updates and offer clarification on the requested documentation. As of AP33 meeting, the applicant's response to the Panel's queries is still pending.

NIE042	Jun-18	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Accreditation expired on 20 March 2019. After the resubmission of the application by the applicant on 9 July 2018, the Panel completed the initial review and shared a list of pending documents with the entity on 17 October 2018. As of the time of the AP 33 meeting, no further updates or documentation have been received from the applicant.
NIE051	Jan-20	N/A	Accreditation expires on 30 July 2020. Applicant submitted the application on 29 January 2020. As of AP33 meeting, the application is under screening by the secretariat.
RIE006	Jan-19	Doc. AFB/B.34/4	Accreditation expired on 31 March 2019. The entity submitted the application on 29 January 2019 and resubmitted it on 17 June 2019. After screening by the secretariat, the Panel initiated the review on 8 July 2019. The Panel completed the initial review and produced a list of questions on 24 August 2019. The entity submitted additional information on 5 September 2019. On 9 October 2019 and 31 January 2020, conference calls were organized with the entity. As of AP 33 meeting, the Panel is in the process of drafting a report.
MIE005	Jan-20	N/A	Accreditation expires on 1 October 2020. Applicant submitted the application on 24 January 2020. As of AP33 meeting, the application is under screening by the secretariat.
MIE006	Dec-19	N/A	Accreditation expires on 30 July 2020. Applicant submitted the application on 19 December 2019, and then after screening by the secretariat, the application was passed onto the Panel for their initial review on 27 December 2019. Panel is preparing the initial set of questions as of the AP 33 meeting.
MIE007	Sept-19	N/A	Accreditation expires on 30 March 2020. Applicant submitted the application on 7 September 2019, and then after screening by the secretariat, the application was passed onto the Panel for their initial review on 9 September 2019. Panel completed the initial review on 23 October 2019. The applicant is currently responding to questions and issues raised by the Panel.
MIE011	Mar-19	N/A	Accreditation expired on 20 March 2019. Applicant submitted the application on 15 March 2019, and then after screening by the secretariat, the application was passed onto the Panel for their initial review on 13 September 2019. Panel completed the initial review on 23 October 2019. As of AP 33 meeting, the applicant was responding to questions and issues raised by the Panel.
MIE014	Sept-19	N/A	Accreditation expires on 30 July 2020. Applicant submitted the application on 11 September 2019, and then after screening by the secretariat, the application was passed onto the Panel for their initial review on 23 September 2019. Panel completed the initial review on 23 October 2019. As of AP33 meeting, the applicant is responding to questions and issues raised by the Panel.

OTHER MATTERS

7. **Discussion on how to classify IE applicants as RIE or MIE taking into account relevant Board discussions on designation of MIE and RIE at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth meetings as recorded in documents AFB/B.23/7 and AFB/B.24/7:** This discussion is related to the Board Decision B.34/2 to “request the secretariat to prepare a document which contains an analysis on how to classify IE applicants as MIE or as RIE taking into account relevant

Board discussions on designation of MIE and RIE at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth meetings as recorded in documents AFB/B.23/7 and AFB/B.24/7 and to present it to the twenty-sixth meeting of the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) for consideration.” During the thirty-third AP meeting, the secretariat presented the initial analysis of the criteria for classifying applicant entities as MIEs and RIEs which was developed by the Accreditation Panel member. The Panel had a discussion on the criteria for classifying IE applicants as MIE or RIE applicants and concluded that a questionnaire contained in the analysis could serve as a guidance tool to help the IE applicant which applies for RIE applicant to make self-assessment on whether it could fit in as a RIE applicant of the Fund. Matters related to the designation of IE applicants as RIE and MIE will be presented to the next EFC meeting.

8. Discussion on the commitment letter from IE’s top management which is required for compliance with the Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP) in the accreditation process: The secretariat reiterated the importance the Board attaches to IEs submitting high-level letters of commitment to comply with the Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP). The correspondence the secretariat received from one of the IEs was also tabled for discussion and panel members were invited to share their thoughts.

9. Discussion on common issues of AML/CFT, investigation and procurement procedures. This discussion took place with a view to ensuring consistency in the Panel’s review of the relevant criteria, specifically on matters related to their respective AML/CFT, investigation and procurement procedures. Members discussed their unique experiences dealing with different IEs on the subject matter and provided suggestions on how to effectively obtain the most pertinent information and assurance from the entities. In the case of the entities applying to be fast-track accredited to the Fund, it was acknowledged that the documentation requirements for accreditation application at the GCF and the Fund are similar. Consequently, the Panel suggested that IEs could be requested to submit similar information and documentation on AML/CFT, investigation and procurement procedures which were shared in their respective accreditation applications to the GCF.

10. The Panel observed that some of the re-accreditation applications, including ones following the fast-track re-accreditation process, entailed detailed consideration that benefited from the involvement of a co-reviewer alongside the lead reviewer. The secretariat would agree on the use of a co-reviewer for such applications on a case-by-case basis.

11. The thirty-fourth meeting of the Accreditation Panel will be held on 9-10 September 2020 in Washington DC.