



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35.a-35.b/11
5 June 2020

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
(CAMBODIA)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its eighteenth meeting, approved a five-year project titled “Enhancing Climate Resilience of Rural Communities Living in Protected Areas of Cambodia” submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for a requested amount of US\$ 4,954,273 (decision B.18/11).

2. The overall objective of the project is to address the vulnerability of rural communities living in selected protected areas (CPA’s) in Cambodia to the climate change-induced hazard of erratic rainfall which is reducing food supplies as a result of an increased frequency of droughts and loss of topsoil during intense rainfall events and flooding. The project is comprised of three main components, namely: i) develop protocols for eco-agriculture interventions; ii) concrete ecoagriculture adaptation interventions; and iii) institutional capacity, awareness raising and upscaling of eco-agriculture interventions.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and UNEP in July 2012.

4. UNEP submitted the first no-cost extension request in May 2018 which was approved by the Board through decision B.31-32/3, postponing the project completion date from 31 May 2018 to 1 December 2019. UNEP submitted a second no-cost extension request in September 2019, which was approved by the Board through decision B.34-35/2, postponing the programme completion date from 1 December 2019 to 31 May 2020.

5. On 28 May 2020, UNEP submitted a third request for extension of the project completion date from 31 May 2020 to 30 June 2021 (see Annex 1). As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.29-30/3/Rev.1; Decision B.29-30/15 and Decision B.34-35/12), a request for an extension of the project completion date must be submitted by the implementing entity at least six months prior to the official completion date. However, due to late processing of the request at the entity level and the COVID-19 outbreak, the request was received only after the deadline aforementioned.

6. The implementing entity submitted six project performance reports (PPR) to the secretariat. As of 5 June 2020, the total project funding for an amount of US\$ 4,954,273 had been disbursed by the trustee, including the implementing entity fees. At execution level, a total of US\$ 3,905,050 has been disbursed, which corresponds to a 85.5% execution rate.

7. The reason for an additional request for programme completion date extension, as outlined in the memo shared by UNEP, includes the fact that the project could not finalize the remaining activities due to the COVID-19 and the restrictions imposed within provinces in Cambodia. The activities to be completed are: i) one training on Community Protected Areas management and natural resources conservation for the government staff; ii) final validation workshop for the policy revisions and upscaling strategy to ensure ownership of project results by the government; iii) handover of field level interventions to the communities and final collection of monitoring and evaluation data; and iv) project finalization documents and activities (terminal evaluation and final workshop to share lessons learned and best practices).

Secretariat’s review of the request

8. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by UNEP related to COVID19 outbreak, the secretariat believes that this request of a

further thirteen-months extension is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by UNEP (Annex 1), it is noted that this request for extension will ensure the finalization of all the aforementioned project activities and the terminal monitoring and reporting. Moreover, as outlined by UNEP, no additional management costs are required for these additional months of project extension.

9. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost programme 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

10. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an additional thirteen-months extension of the project completion date from 31 May 2020 to 30 June 2021 for the project “Enhancing Climate Resilience of Rural Communities Living in Protected Areas of Cambodia” as requested by UNEP.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from UNEP.
2. Email by the Implementing Entity about late submission of the Request for an Extension of the Project Completion Date.

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

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

AF Project/programme ID: AFB-5060-1111-2H81			
Project/programme Title: " <i>Enhancing Climate Change Resilience of Rural Community Living in Protected Area in Cambodia</i> "			
Country: Cambodia			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	11 July 2012		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	31 May 2018 Revised to 31 May 2020	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	30 th June 2021

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

- In September 2019, the project was granted a no-cost extension until 31 May 2020 to finalise field level interventions and complete institutional strengthening and awareness-raising activities planned under Component 3.
- In this regard, significant progress has made to: i) complete field interventions, including the finalization of all reforestation, homegardening and agroforestry interventions; ii) complete project-level monitoring and research activities; iii) prepare a draft policy gap analysis, including proposed revisions to incorporate the ecoagriculture adaptation approach into relevant policies and strategies; and iv) prepare a draft upscaling strategy for ecoagriculture across Cambodia.
- While the project has made significant progress towards finalizing the above activities, due to COVID 19 and the restrictions surrounding movement within provinces in Cambodia and banning of large gatherings, we are unable to finalise all the planned activities by May 2020.
- The following activities still need to be completed.
 - One training on CPA management and natural resource conservation aimed at Government staff to be able to sustain project interventions past the project's lifetime.
 - Final validation workshops for the policy revisions and upscaling strategy to ensure government ownership.
 - Official handover of field level interventions to the communities and field trips by the team, as well as the final collection of monitoring and evaluation data needed to complete the terminal report.
 - Final closing workshop of the project to disseminate project reports, lessons learned and best practice.
 - Lastly, the Terminal Evaluation TOR were developed and shared with the PMU, but the TE process had not yet begun given the COVID 19 travel restrictions.
- A no-cost extension until 30 June 2021 is therefore requested to enable the project to complete all of its planned activities. The extension will also ensure that the project is able to

finalise all its terminal monitoring and reporting. To ensure that the remaining activities can be completed without major budget revisions, the project management unit have kindly agreed to continue working at half-salary for the remainder of 2020. No additional management costs are required as the money saved during the COVID lockdown periods will be used to operational costs for the remainder of the project.

- The Terminal Evaluation is expected to take place following technical completion of activities

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.

Jessica Troni,
Senior Programme Officer, Climate Change Adaptation Portfolio Manager
Tel: [254-20] 762-3794
Mobile: [254] 795 751 062
Email: jessica.troni@un.org

Signature:



Date: 28 May 2020

Name & Signature

Project/programme contact person: Atifa Kassam, UN Environment Task Manager



Date:
28 May 2020

Tel. [254 -20] 762-3507
Email: atifa.kassam@un.org

Annex 2: Email by the Implementing Entity about late submission of the Request for an Extension of the Project Completion Date

[External]

Dear Martina,

We were very aware of project delay policy when submitting the request, however in December 2019 (the required 6 months prior) we were still on track to complete all project activities. Delays and uncertainties due to COVID 19 were only made apparent when the country started to lockdown in March this year. Following this we had several internal discussions with the country team, and agreed to wait to see if the situation improved, and if it did not we planned to submit an extension request.

We have requested for a one year extension due to the uncertainties at the moment with COVID 19.

We hope that the board will consider our request given the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in at the moment.

All the best,

Atifa

Atifa Kassam Manji
Programme Officer
Climate Change Adaptation Unit
Ecosystems Division

UN Environment
Telephone: +254 207623507
Mobile: +254 735122233
atifa.kassam@un.org
Skype: atifa3
www.unep.org

