



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35.a-35. b/14
23 June 2020

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
(MAURITIUS)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its fifteenth meeting, approved a five-year programme titled "Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius" submitted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a request amount of US\$ 9,119,240 (decision B.15/19).
2. The overall objective of the programme is to increase climate resilience of communities and livelihoods in coastal areas in Mauritius (all islands), through the following programme components: i) Application of adaptation measures to protect currently vulnerable coastal ecosystem and community features (at three priority sites on the island of Mauritius); ii) Development and implementation of an early warning system for incoming surge on ROM; iii) Training to promote compliance with climate-proofed planning, design, and location guidelines; iv) Policy mainstreaming; and, v) Knowledge dissemination and management.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and UNDP in November 2011.
4. The first tranche of disbursement for the implementation of the programme was released following signature of the agreement in January 2012. The first programme performance report (PPR) for the project was submitted in April 2014 and cleared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) in May. The second, third and fourth were cleared by the secretariat in January 2015, November 2015 and November 2017. The fifth and sixth PPRs were submitted together in March 2019 and cleared by the secretariat in May 2019.
5. This is the third request for an extension of the programme completion date. The original completion date was 30 August 2017. Following the approval of the first extension request through decision B.23-24/5, the expected completion date was 30 August 2018. The project expected completion date, following the second extension request and through decision B.31-32/1, was 30 August 2019.
6. As of June 2020, a total amount of US\$ 9,119,240 had been disbursed to the programme by the Board's Trustee (corresponding to 100% of the total programme funding). At the execution level, a total of US\$ 8,219,881 has been disbursed, which corresponds to a 90.1% execution rate.
7. The reason for the remaining balance of US\$184,949, as ascertained through the audit conducted for the programme, owed to the Mauritian Rupee depreciation against the US Dollar. The depreciation of the Mauritian Rupee resulted in the value of contracts in Mauritian Rupee becoming lower in US dollar terms, consequently the USD value of the payments decreased which led to a surplus.
8. At the time the third no-cost extension was requested, all the project activities were concluded in 2019. At the end of 2019, the only pending activities and payments under the project were the Audit, the Terminal Evaluation and the payment of the salary of the project assistant who was facilitating the closure of the project. No new contracts for the project Outcomes were issued following the project operational completion date. The Terminal Evaluation has been completed. However, the completion of the Audited Financial Statement has been delayed by the outbreak of COVID-19.
9. All project activities as stipulated in the agreement between the programme and the Board have been completed. However, the Executing Entity has requested the use of remaining

funds (US\$ 184,949) to enhance the functionality and capacity of the Refuge Centre at Quatre Soeurs, which was completed in 2019 (Output 1.3).

10. The reason for an additional request for programme completion date extension, as outlined in the memo shared by UNDP (Annex 1), includes the justification that since the project ended in 2019, the use the surplus amount, if authorized by the Board for the proposed activities, can only be implemented through official extension of the project.

11. The Government of Mauritius has submitted a letter (Annex 2) in support of the extension request and clarifying that this extension is not to undertake originally planned project activities that were not been completed during the life of the project, but to add value and enhance the impact of the project outputs that have been completed.

12. The executing entity has requested a further two month no-cost extension (Annex 1) to utilize the balance funds to undertake the following additional activities that will complement the complete activity under Output 1.3: (i) Purchase of a vehicle dedicated for the Refuge Centre; (ii) Providing additional beds for the Refuge Centre and. (iii) Installing PV system on the roof of the refuge centre.

13. The no-cost extension will also enable the completion of the audit financial statement.

Secretariat's review of the request

14. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by UNDP related to COVID19 outbreak, the secretariat believes that this request of a further two months extension is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by UNDP (Annex 1), it is noted that the Refugee Centre at Quatre Soeurs is one of the highlights of the project that is providing a safe haven to the exposed communities in the event of extreme events and is the first in its kind for small Island developing states.

15. It is also noted as per the rationale provided in the memo provide by UNDP (Annex 1), further investments in mobile communication, equipment as well as health-enhancing facilities at the center would have wider benefits under the recent outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic which has also affected Mauritius.

16. As evidenced by the memo provided by UNDP (Annex 1), it is further noted that this request for extension will ensure the finalization of the aforementioned additional project activities and the audited financial statement reporting. Moreover, as outlined by UNDP, no additional management costs are required for these additional months of project extension

17. 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

18. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an additional two months extension of the project completion date from 30 August 2020 to 30 October 2020 for the project "Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius" as requested by UNDP.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from UNDP.
2. Letter from the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change to request utilisation of balance funds to enhance the Refugee Centre and to request a no-cost extension to the AF Board.

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

Annex I: Request for extension

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

AF Project/programme ID: 000 80227			
Project/programme Title: Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius			
Country: Mauritius			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	14 November 2011 (AFB Fifteenth Meeting) AFB/B.15/8		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	30 August 2019	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	30 October 2020

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

The purpose of this exceptional request is twofold:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval to utilize the balance of funds to undertake activities identified by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, the Executing Agency for this project. These funds originated from exchange rate gains. The original project activities themselves have been completed. 2. An exceptional extension to utilize this balance given that the project activities have now been completed. 	
The project activities stipulated in the Adaptation Fund Project Document were completed in 2019, as summarized in the status table below. The Executing Agency has however requested the use of remaining funds to enhance the functionality and capacity of the Refuge Centre at Quatre Soeurs, which was completed in 2019.	
Outcome 1: Application of Adaptation Measures for Coastal Protection	Current Status
Construction of Refuge Centre at Quatre Soeurs	Completed
Coastal Adaptation Works at Riviere des Galets	Completed
Coastal Adaptation Works at Mon Choisy	Completed
Outcome 2: Early Warning System	Completed
Outcome 3: Training	Completed
Outcome 4: Policy Mainstreaming	Completed
Outcome 5: Knowledge Dissemination & Management	Completed
As at end of 2019, the only pending activities and payments under the project were the Audit, the Terminal Evaluation and the payment of the project assistant salary, who was facilitating the closure of the project. No new contracts for the project Outcomes were issued following the project operational completion date. The Terminal Evaluation has now	

been completed, while the Audit was initiated but delayed by the outbreak of COVID-19. The Project Assistant has also completed his contract and left the project.

During the implementation of the project, contracts for most of the activities were denominated in the local currency, the Mauritian Rupee. Owing to the Mauritian Rupee depreciating against the US Dollar, the value of contracts in Mauritian Rupee became lower in US dollar terms, hence the USD value of the payments decreased, leading to a surplus. Through the audit, we have ascertained that there is a balance of USD 184,949. This is the amount that we request authorization from the Adaptation Fund to utilize through activities that are aligned to the original objectives of the project, and contributing specifically to existing project Outcomes. Since the project ended in 2019, and if the authorization to use the surplus amount is granted, the proposed activities can only be implemented through official extension of the project, thus this request. It is important to highlight that this extension is not to undertake originally planned project activities that were not been completed during the life of the project, but to add value and enhance the impact of the project outputs already completed.

The Government request in support of the extension is annexed to this exceptional extension request. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic situation which among other things is delaying the completion of the audit report, the final completion date has been proposed for October 2020.

Proposed activities and use of the surplus funds

Output 1.3. The Refugee Centre at Quatre Soeurs is one of the highlights of the project, providing a safe haven to the exposed communities in the event of extreme events. It is now operational, and is the first in its kind for small Island developing states.

Feedback received from partners, including the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health and Wellness recommends further investments in mobile communication and awareness equipment as well as health-enhancing facilities at the center, for which it is proposed to utilize the remaining project balance. Specifically, it has been noted that in the event of a disaster, there is need for a dedicated vehicle mounted with communication equipment to reach out to communities and complement the communication system that is already in place. Also, the Center itself will need to be augmented with additional facilities such as additional beds and back-up solar energy. An additional awareness activity following the completion of the center is also recommended to keep beneficiary communities up-to-date and oriented towards disaster response. The proposed activities will be implemented under Outputs 1.3 of the project document, and would have wider benefits beyond just the construction of the Centre.

The current outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic which has also affected Mauritius, has demonstrated the value added of the proposed activities as the Refuge Centre has immediately been used on a pilot basis since February 2020 as a Quarantine facility by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, providing firsthand experience on how the project and the Center would perform under an extreme climate event. These will be taken into account when implementing the proposed activities.

In view of this, the proposed additional activities comprise of:

- (i) Purchase of a vehicle dedicated for the Refuge Centre
- (ii) Providing additional beds for the Refuge Centre
- (iii) Installing PV system on the roof of the refuge centre

Estimated Cost of Activities: USD 184,949

Provide an overview of the remaining AF grant: Remaining Project Funds as of ****			
Origin	Approved prodoc budget	Total expenditure as of Dec 2019	Balance
AF grants	\$8,404,830	\$8,219,881	\$184,949

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.	
Amanda K. Serumaga UNDP Resident Representative Mauritius and Seychelles	
Project/Programme contact person	
Signature :	 
Date: 19 May 2020	Tel. : 00 230 212 37 26 Email: amanda.serumaga@undp.org

Annex 2: Letter from the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change to request utilization of balance funds to enhance the Refugee Centre and to request a no-cost extension to the AF Board

In reply, please quote:
ENV/CL/FUND/KYOTO/QS/IT4



**Ministry of Environment,
Solid Waste Management
and Climate Change**

8th Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Barracks Street,
Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius
Tel: (230) 203 6200; Fax: (230) 212 9407

10 June 2020

**Mrs. Amanda Serumaga
UNDP Resident Representative
6th Floor, Anglo Mauritius House
Port Louis**

Dear Madam,

**Request for extension of completion date - Climate Change Adaptation
Programme in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius**

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change wishes to put the appreciation of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for the fruitful development partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Adaptation Fund regarding the implementation of the 'Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius'.

This project is considered highly important in view of strengthening the resilience of the island state of Mauritius. It is noteworthy that the various components of the project under the Adaptation Fund have been completed and these have largely contributed towards building the adaptive capacity at both community and national levels.

This Ministry is hereby, requesting that the completion date of the above project be extended to up to 30 October 2020, so that further enhancement may be brought to the Refugee Centre in order to improve its capacity and functionality. The remaining balance of funds to the tune of USD 184,949/- which became available as a result of exchange gains, will be used for the purpose.

The remaining balance became evident at the time that the financial reconciliations were being made, after the completion of all activities. The amount was also confirmed during the audit of the project, which was initiated after the completion of the project.

The Refugee Centre, which is first in its kind for Small Island Developing States, is particularly important to the vulnerable communities as it is expected to contribute to ensuring a safe haven for the exposed communities. Its functionality will be enhanced through the following additional activities proposed to be implemented during the extension period: -

- a) purchase of a vehicle dedicated for the Refugee Centre;
- b) provision of additional camp beds for the Refugee Centre; and
- c) the setting up of PV system on the roof of the Refugee Centre to cater for lighting needs.

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The above proposed activities will not require additional environmental and social assessments such as an Environmental Impact Assessment under Mauritian legislation. Furthermore, this Ministry will hold consultations with relevant national stakeholders to obtain their consent on the proposed activities.

A work plan, together with a breakdown of cost in respect of activities to be carried out under the requested extension up to 30 October 2020, for the total amount of USD 184,949/-, is accordingly enclosed (**Annex**).

The Ministry wishes to highlight its keen interest in achieving a greater impact through investing in further activities intrinsically linked to the objectives of the Adaptation Fund Project and hopes that its request will be positively considered.

Thanking you for your usual collaboration.

Yours faithfully,



N. Soobratty
Permanent Secretary

Copy to: Financial Secretary (Attn: Mrs R. Ramsurn)