ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Pre-Concept for a Regional Project

Countries/Region:	**Sri Lanka and India**
Project Title:	**Strengthening resilience of vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka and India to increased impacts of climate change**
Thematic Focal Area:	**Food security**
Implementing Entity:	**World Food Programme (WFP)**
Executing Entities:	**Sri Lanka: Government of Sri Lanka** **India: Government of India**
AF Project ID:	**ASI/MIE/Food/2020/1**
IE Project ID:	**<IE to fill out>**
Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):	**13,995,524**
Reviewer and contact person:	**Imèn Meliane** Co-reviewer(s): **Yuki Shiga**
IE Contact Person:	**<IE to fill out>**

Technical Summary	The project "Strengthening resilience of vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka and India to increased impacts of climate change" aims to strengthen the climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable households facing similar climate risks within both countries utilizing a regional, integrated approach. This will be done through the two components below: Project/Programme Background and Context: Component 1: Strengthening last-mile access to climate and weather information to manage climate variability and change (USD 3,180,000). Component 2: Strengthening adaptive capacities of local communities to climate variability and change (USD 8,600,000).

	Requested financing overview: Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 1,119,100 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 12,889,100 Implementing Fee: USD 1,096,424 Financing Requested: USD 13,995,524 The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant of USD 20,000. The initial technical review raises several issues, such as the need to provide further details on the project objectives and components, to specify the adaptation measures that will be implemented, and to provide more details on the project justification, including with regard to cost-effectiveness and regional approach, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review sheet.
Date:	25 August 2020.

Review Criteria	**Questions**	**Comments**	
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol?	Yes.	
	2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	Yes.	

Project Eligibility	1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	Yes.	

	2. Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective?	Yes, largely. However, the project concept mentions rural farming and fishing in very broad terms, without further specification to potential target crops or fisheries, or to specific vulnerabilities of the communities. **CR1:** Please provide more information with regard to particular crops, fisheries, or specific regions that would be targeted by the project as well as the vulnerabilities of the target communities.	**CR1**: The project is expected to target the areas of the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka (North, North-central and Eastern regions of the country) and the States on East Coast region of India (Odisha, Andhra and Tamil Nadu). The selected regions of both countries share the same climate risks originating from the Bay of Bengal, similar typographies and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Targeted areas within these broader regions will be defined at concept note stage based on extensive consultations with national and sub-national stakeholders, to assess vulnerabilities and avoid overlap with other investments. Within the selected regions, the project will target rain-fed farming communities that practice inland fisheries in nearby irrigation ponds. The main livelihood of these communities is rainfed agriculture, focusing mainly on paddy cultivation as well as other field crops (such as maize, millet, ground-nut), which makes farmers extremely vulnerable to changes in rainfall patterns. In addition, these communities are vulnerable to water scarcity, environmental degradation, limited income generating opportunities in their localities. Climate change has increased the frequency and severity of droughts and flooding, affecting their agricultural livelihoods and stretching their coping mechanisms. Barriers to adaptation for these vulnerable communities include limited access to knowledge and inadequate adaptation capacities to address short and long terms impacts of climate change. This is compounded by limited capacity of extension services to provide climate information in a simple way that prompts action by farmers. In addition, gender based barriers are prevalent in these communities. Women often have a triple burden (productive, reproductive and community engagement). They have limited access, control and decision making hence women farmers will be given priority to meaningfully participate in local adaptation planning, benefit from technical training to improve their farm productivity i.e soil conservation practices, irrigation management, access to improved seeds, climate resilient varieties of rice and other crops including millets, options for fishing, linkage to markets and skills training for non-farm livelihoods and climate proofing of assets. Exact project locations and target communities will be selected during full project preparation, based on vulnerability assessments and in a consultative manner. Within the selected communities, project beneficiaries will be selected through participatory rural appraisal activities. The background context section has been revised to include additional information on target beneficiaries. To avoid exceeding the page limit for pre-concept, some information on climate change in the target regions has been summarized.

	3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?	No. The project objectives and components are very generally worded and do not give a good idea on what the project intends to deliver and how. **CR2:** Please provide further details on the project objectives and components. Specifically, clarify what aspects of climate data access will be targeted and how, and also specify what specific complementary adaptation options will be used in component 2 (the text says, "using methods such as ecosystem-based adaptation, community-based adaptation and conservation practices" this is too vague, please specify the adaptation options).	**CR2**: The project's main goal is to strengthen the climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in the dry zone of Sri Lanka and the states in eastern coast of India utilizing a regional, integrated approach. Specifically, the project aims to: 1) Strengthen last mile access to reliable, timely climate and weather information and related advisory services to enable communities to make informed decision and better plan their livelihood strategies in the short, medium and long term. Under component one the project will strengthen last mile access to climate and weather information using data on historical and future projections on flood inundation, rainfall forecast, vegetation health and temperature variations. The project will also facilitate access to additional information that is crucial for livelihood decision making, such as the extent of arable land conducive to specific drought resistant crops, population exposure to climate hazards, livelihood mapping data, seasonal crop selection and calendar, agriculture market information. In both countries, this information is available with various government actors but not regularly updated. As described above, farmers do not have the resources to take informed decisions on their livelihoods. Therefore, this project will look to streamline and improve information to be timely, succinct and geared towards specific actions to be taken, by coordinating with relevant agencies such as the Departments of Agrarian Development, Agriculture, Irrigation, Meteorology and Environment in both countries to consolidate data into advisory products - simplified climate information in the format of key messages. A strategy of co-development and dissemination of information will be developed to receive continuous feedback from end users, ensuring information is tailored to the needs of each community and group. Appropriate dissemination channels will be selected, paying special attention to the development of local institutions and extension workers on how to best advise farmers so that they can make risk informed decisions. 2) Improve the adaptive capacity of vulnerable households, through support in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation plans that – informed by the information shared under component one – will include improved practices, diversified and more resilient livelihoods and financial strategies to ensure long-term sustainability beyond the life of the project. Building on component one, the second component of the project will project will support communities in the development and implementation of adaptation plans and options. During the development of the concept note and full proposal, a menu of adaptation options will be developed using a participatory approach. A first list of potential activities is listed under CR3 below. The project will also explore further options to develop climate resilient livelihoods for farming communities, including

			improved storage facilities, introduction of post-harvest technologies, strengthening of market linkages, livelihood diversification (including non-farm) and effective use of digital technology. Communities will be supported in the implementation of the plans and in the development of financial strategies to ensure long term sustainability. To this end, the project will support access to existing financial services and will encourage households and communities to build financial reserves through savings groups. The structure of the two components has also been revised and outcome and output statements have been reformulated for better clarity. Additional text has been included in the pre-concept, providing further details on what the project intends to deliver and how.
	4. Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how: - it supports concrete adaptation actions? - it builds added value through the regional approach? - it promotes new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation? - it is cost-effective? - it is consistent with applicable	No. The detail provided in the concept document is very insufficient to evaluate this. **CR3**: Further elaboration is requested on all elements of question 4, in particular the concrete adaptation actions to be utilised, an initial estimation of their cost-effectiveness and the justification of the choice of the options over others. Please also provide initial considerations on gender, vulnerable groups and compliance with the Environmental and Social policy of the Fund.	**CR3**: As discussed under CR2 above, during the next stages of project design, a set of options of adaptation activities will be developed. During project implementation, each community will prioritize the most adequate options through the community adaptation plan development. The project will accompany this exercise and support the implementation. The menu of options will be designed in consultation with national, sub-national and local stakeholders and local communities and vulnerability assessments. Based on the results of such consultations, the project design team will assess the feasibility of each option, including cost-effectiveness. Given the importance of this broad consultation exercise, it is not possible to provide a detailed description of adaptation actions at this stage. However, based on WFP experience in the two countries and preliminary consultation with stakeholders, it is expected that options might include improvements to water management and harvesting, community-based natural resource management, introduction of agro-forestry, green belts and infrastructure, eco-system restoration, crop diversification and encouraging resistant crop and seed varieties, livelihood diversification, improved storage facilities, introduction of post-harvest technologies, asset creation and climate proofing, strengthening of market linkages and access to financial services. The selection of adaptation options and strategies will also be based on a gender assessment, to be carried out during project preparation to assess the needs and barriers of men, women, youth and their intersecting identities (age, abilities, location, ethnicity, language, gender, social class). Based on the outcomes of the consultations, project activities will be designed to accommodate women and people with different abilities while also considering their availability and care responsibilities. Consultations at all levels will be undertaken in a gender sensitive manner. The proposed project's log frame will also include gender specific indicators that measure access, control and decision making of women and young people. All adaptation

	strategies and plans? - it incorporates learning and knowledge management? - it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund? - it will take into account sustainability?	It is also not clear how this project will add value through the regional approach. The document highlights the importance of and the potential of the regional approach. However, it is not clear how this approach will be put into action and how the synergetic added value from the regional approach will be achieved; for example, knowledge sharing mechanism and implementation arrangement for the regional approach are not clear. Although this is pre-concept phase, the proponent is requested to at least provide further information on the plans on how they will address and elaborate on this aspect by the full concept, considering that this is one of the key factors for the successful regional projects. **CR4**: Provide further information on the value added for the regional approach.	options identified will be pre-screened for environmental and social risk during project design, in compliance with the Adaptation Fund ESP policy, and a risk management plan will be developed, with related indicators, budget, and clear roles and responsibilities. The uniqueness of the project will be in introducing an evidence-based approach to adaptation at community level. By enabling last mile access to detailed, downscaled and up-to-date climate and weather information, and making it easy to understand and readily actionable, the project will allow the most remote and vulnerable communities to effectively plan and chose the most appropriate adaptation options for their specific context. The regional approach provides opportunities for innovations, testing its applicability and rapid expansion and scale-up in the two countries and the region. Additional information was added to the pre-concept to further elaborate on these aspects. **CR4:** Regarding the regional approach, since rural communities in target areas in Sri Lanka and India face common vulnerabilities and shared climatic risks, it will be cost-beneficial for both countries to sustainably build common climate resilient and last mile adaptation approaches to implement like technologies and practices among communities. The regional approach is key to cost effective knowledge transfer and scalability. First of all, the two countries will be able to cost-share expertise and technical support to develop common approaches. The regional approach will also allow collective learnings to address cross boundaries' climate change challenges. Over the years, the two countries have addressed these challenges separately and continue to develop capacities in different fields, including early-warning systems and response such as monitoring and assessment of weather hazards and their impact on food security and livelihood and climate change adaptation strategies (ex: improved water management – rehabilitations major and minor irrigation channels, de-siltation, eco-system restoration). Emphasizing the regional approach will allow both countries to learn from each other, share strengths and knowledge, optimising resources to generate solutions for communities in both countries. By developing mechanisms for cross-border sharing of knowledge and experiences both at institutional and community level, and by nesting these mechanisms in the existing regional forums, the project will set the ground for scale-up at national and possibly more broadly across the SAARC region. Further information on the value added for a regional approach has been added to the pre-concept.

	5. Does the pre-concept briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/programme at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged? Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?	No. **CR5:** Please give an indication of the organizations that will be involved in the project, especially the potential executing entities which are now not yet defined, including possibility to engage private sector entities from both countries and to maximize multi-sectoral or cross-sectoral partners.	Executing entities for this project will be the Ministry of Environment on Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in India. Other partners for specific activities will be identified in the next phases of project design and may include: i) For India, the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer Welfare, Ministry of Earth Sciences/Indian Meteorological Department, Fisheries, State governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions (Local Self Governments at village level), likely non-government entities in research and academics such as The Energy Research Institute (TERI), MS Swaminathan Foundation ii) For Sri Lanka, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Meteorology, Department of Irrigation, Department of Agrarian Development, Ministry of Public Administration. The project will also explore collaboration with international or regional partners, including RIMES, UK Met, and other UN agencies. Partnerships with private sector organizations involved in providing technological solutions will be sought during project design. At the local level involvement of Private Sector, Civil society engaged in climate change agricultural adaptation practices will be facilitated through the participation of NGOs, smallholder farmer organizations and community leaders in various project activities. Additional text was added on page 5 of the pre-concept.

Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the pilot programme for regional projects/programmes? Has the Implementing Entity requested a Project Formulation Grant?	Yes. The IE has requested a PFG in the amount of USD 20,000.	
	2. Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 20 percent of the total project/programme budget?	Yes.	

Eligibility of IE	1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	Yes, through WFP which is a multilateral implementing entity.	

ADAPTATION FUND

PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Choose an item.

Title of Project/Programme:	Strengthening resilience of vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka and India to increased impacts of climate change
Countries:	Sri Lanka and India
Thematic Focal Area:	Food security
Type of Implementing Entity:	Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE)
Implementing Entity:	World Food Programme (WFP)
Executing Entities:	Sri Lanka: Ministry of Environment
	India: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Amount of Financing Requested:	13,995,524 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project / Programme Background and Context:

The proposed project will target the states in eastern coast of India and the areas of the dry zone of Sri Lanka which includes the north, north-central and eastern provinces. The selected regions of both countries share the same originating climate risks from the Bay of Bengal, similar typographies and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

The projected climate change affects precipitation patterns (timing and amount) which may increase the potential for short-run crop failures and long-run production declines, posing a serious threat to food security. Although there will be gain in some crops for some regions, the overall impacts of climate change on agriculture production is expected to be negative. The climate projections also indicate a decreased rainfall across the drier regions of northern, western and south-eastern coastline of India and the dry zone of Sri Lanka. In addition, this region will also be impacted by a rise in temperatures, 2ºC until 2050 and exceeding 3ºC by 2100 across South Asia[6] with extremes in minimum and maximum temperatures. More frequent and intense El Niño events project more frequent and longer lasting heat waves. This cumulative effect has already resulted in increasing frequency and intensity of droughts that impact agriculture production.

For **Sri Lanka**, although total annual rainfall (past 10 years compared to the 30-year average) remains steady[7], the variability of the monsoon, including seasonal onset and duration, has been increasing. In the Dry Zone a higher percentage of annual rainfall is projected during the monsoon period while the inter-monsoon periods experience less rainfall with droughts expected to increase.[10] In **India**, the inland regions of the eastern coastal States of Odisha, Andhra/Telangana and Tamil Nadu[11] are also facing increased frequency of severe droughts, due to a combination of sustained heatwaves, higher rates of evapotranspiration and higher rainfall variability during monsoons that will require adaptation in the agriculture sector. The patterns of rainfall during monsoons are projected to spatially shift towards the already flood-prone coastal areas and away for the interior regions inducing a major drought every 5-6 years[14] with smaller dry spells every two years. The increased frequency and intensity of droughts and floods in both countries is already being experienced.

[6] Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). 2014. The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report: What's in it for South Asia?

[7] Punyawardena et al. Spatial Analysis of Climate Change Vulnerability. Natural Resources Management Centre, Department of Agriculture, 2012

[10] According to the joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, drought conditions in 2016 and early 2017 led to widespread crop failures almost 40 percent less than the last year's output and 35 percent lower than the average of the previous five years.

[11] In Tamil Nadu the lesser amount of annual rainfall occurs during south west monsoon (32% of annual rainfall). This unique rainfall pattern compared to rest of the country, and the poor water resources, render the state more vulnerable to drought and reduce per capita water availability. This is similar to the north and east of Sri Lanka where droughts often also occur during the SW season.

[14] ENVIS Centre of Odisha State of Environment - http://orienvis.nic.in/index1.aspx?lid=24&mid=1&langid=1&linkid=22

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Rural farming communities in the target areas are heavily impacted by these changes in rainfall patterns as their main livelihood is rainfed agriculture, mainly paddy cultivation. Agriculture is often complemented with inland fisheries in nearby irrigation ponds. These ponds are dual purpose: act as water retention during the rainy season and with proper water management, can serve as irrigation during the dry season and also a source for inland fisheries. However, their structural integrity may be more often compromised with increased intensity of rainfall during monsoons damaging their irrigation and retention potential that would lead to inefficient water usage and a lower paddy harvest. Poor water retention capacity also leads to a decline in inland fisheries during the dry season and production of other crops including millets, pulses and oilseeds. This environmental degradation impacts the already limited alternative income generating opportunities in these localities. Barriers to adaptation for these communities include limited knowledge on adequate measures to address short and long terms impacts of climate change and limited financial capacity to invest in adaptation measures. This is compounded by limited capacity of extension services to provide climate and weather information that is easy to understand and actionable for farmers. Gender based barriers are also prevalent in those communities: women often have a triple burden (productive, reproductive and community engagement), and their needs are often not addressed in adaptation planning. They seldom have access and control over resources and decision-making power.

In order to **build the climate resilience and food security of vulnerable communities across the dry zone of Sri Lanka and the states in eastern coast of India** the project will combine an improved availability of last mile climate and weather data and related advisories with the promotion of climate adaptation practices and the development of climate resilient livelihood options using innovative approaches. The project will enable the use of last mile climate and weather information to develop and adopt specific resilience and livelihood measures best suited for different locations/zones.

Since rural communities in target areas in Sri Lanka and India face common vulnerabilities and shared climatic risks, it will be cost-beneficial for both countries to sustainably build common climate resilient and last mile adaptation approaches to implement like technologies and practices among communities.

Some regional mechanisms exist to share common information, expertise and lessons learned between the countries as part of south-south cooperation, especially to establish long-term governance and strengthening institutional support for comprehensive early warning and HydroMet/ AgroMet systems at an institutional level. However, last mile access to timely and locally accurate climatic information still has not been developed to help rural communities make well-informed ground-level decisions to protect their livelihoods and become more climate resilient. Building on these existing mechanisms, this regional project will **encourage cross-border sharing of institutional knowledge and best practices in delivering and last mile climate advisory services and application of adaptation strategies to promote lasting resilience among communities facing rainfall variability, as well as community level exchange of best practices through use of technology.** The project will enhance bi-national cooperation by strengthening sharing information and expertise through existing regional cooperation mechanisms such as South Asian Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and developing knowledge sharing platform for rapid expansion and scale-up of successes and learnings.

Project Objectives:

The project's main goal is to strengthen the climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in the dry zone of Sri Lanka and the states in eastern coast of India utilizing a regional, integrated approach.

The Project will promote common climate change adaptation strategies by:

1) Strengthen last mile access to reliable, timely climate and weather information and related advisory services. This will enable communities to make informed decision and better plan their livelihood strategies in the short, medium and long term;
2) Improve the adaptive capacity of vulnerable households, through support in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation plans that – informed by the information shared under component one – will include improved practices, diversified and more resilient livelihoods and financial strategies to ensure long-term sustainability beyond the life of the project.

A detailed review and assessments of vulnerable regions through strong participatory approaches and consultations with all stakeholders engaged in climate change adaptation practices will help identify key gaps

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and barriers and avoid duplication and overlaps during the development of the concept note and full proposal, to focus scale of need for these last mile solutions.

Project Components and Financing:

Project Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US$)
1. Strengthening last-mile access to climate and weather information to manage climate variability and change	1.1 Strengthened access of community to last mile climate and weather information based on their needs	1.1.1. Strategy for the co-development and dissemination of tailored last mile climate and weather information validated through community engagement (Bottom-up approach) 1.1.2 Dissemination of tailored climate advisory services through identified channels 1.1.3 Strengthened capacities of local government, service providers and local communities to access, understand and use climate information	Sri Lanka and India	$1.40M
	1.2 Strengthened systems and capacities to co-develop accessible climate advisory services tailored to last mile user's needs.	1.2.1 Strengthened national and district level Hydro-meteorological agencies and key stakeholders to co-produce tailored climate services 1.2.2 Regional knowledge sharing platforms for cross-learning, fertilization, enhanced last mile climate knowledge management systems and tools and potential scale up in other countries, leveraged (ex: South Asian Climate Outlook Forum, SAARC) and developed through use of digital technology	Sri Lanka and India	$1.78M
2. Strengthening adaptive capacities of local communities to climate variability and change	2.1 Strengthened communities capacities to implement last mile climate risk adaptation planning	2.1.1 Community adaptation plans developed through participatory approaches to identify short to long term adaptation strategies 2.1.2 Improved access to financial services for long-term sustainability of community adaptation plans	Sri Lanka and India	$2.20M
	2.2 Communities benefit from climate resilient strategies and adapted livelihoods.	2.2.1 Technical support on climate resilient agricultural, inland fisheries production, ecosystem-based infrastructure creation and sustainable water management for improved food security 2.2.2 Reduced vulnerability to drought and floods by the implementation of diversified and sustainable livelihood options (farm and non-farm).	Sri Lanka and India	$7.4M
Project Execution cost				$1,119,100
Total Project/Programme Cost				$12,899,100
Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity				$1,096,424
Amount of Financing Requested[17]				$13.995,524

Project Duration: *(4 years)*

[17] Includes WFP Indirect Support Cost of 6.5%

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PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

Working with the most vulnerable communities, this project aims to connect families with technical support that will improve their climate change resilience, agricultural production and introduce them to adaptation practices for improved livelihoods and assets, with a special focus on women's and vulnerable group's needs and barriers.

Under component one, the project will strengthen last mile access to climate and weather information using data on historical and future projections on flood inundation, rainfall forecast, vegetation health and temperature variations. The project will also facilitate access to additional information that is crucial for livelihood decision making, such as the extent of arable land, population exposure to climate hazards, livelihood mapping data, seasonal crop selection and calendar, agriculture market information. In both countries, this information is available with various government actors and not regularly updated. As described above, farmers do not have the resources to take informed decisions on their livelihoods. Therefore, this project will look to streamline and improve information to be timely, succinct and geared towards specific actions to be taken, by coordinating with relevant agencies such as the Departments of Agrarian Development, Agriculture, Irrigation, Meteorology and Environment to consolidate data into advisory products - simplified climate information in the format of key messages. A strategy of co-development and dissemination of information will be developed to receive continuous feedback from end users, ensuring information is tailored to the needs of each community and group. Appropriate dissemination channels will be selected, paying special attention to the development of local institutions and extension workers on how to best advise farmers so that they can make risk informed decisions.

Building on component one, the second component of the project will support communities in the development and implementation of adaptation plans and options, ensuring meaningful participation of women throughout the process. During the development of the concept note and full proposal, a menu of adaptation options will be developed using a participatory approach. Each option will be assessed against a set of criteria that include adaptation impact, cost-effectiveness, appropriateness to the context and relevance for targeted communities. Options could include improvements to water management and harvesting, community-based natural resource management, introduction of agro-forestry, green belts and infrastructure, eco-system restoration, crop diversification and encouraging climate resistant crop and seed varieties including millets, options for fishing, and climate proofing of assets. The project will also explore further options to develop climate resilient livelihoods for farmers communities, including improved storage facilities, introduction of post-harvest technologies, strengthening of market linkages, asset creation and climate proofing of the assets livelihood diversification (including non-farm), skills training for non-farm livelihoods and effective use of digital technology. Communities will be supported in the implementation of the plans and in the development of financial strategies to ensure long term sustainability of the plans. To this end, the project will support access to existing financial services such as microcredit and saving products, existing microinsurance schemes, and will encourage households and communities to build financial reserves through savings groups.

The project will address institutional and socio-cultural barriers such as low technical capacity of extension workers, lower access for farming communities to financial and technical services, particularly for women and the gender based discriminations.

It will also emphasize institutional capacity strengthening through a **regional approach**. The project will leverage existing regional forums and develop dedicated knowledge and information sharing mechanisms to allow exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned on adaptive sustainable practices and delivery of last mile climate advisory services across both countries and among communities. The regional approach is key to cost effective knowledge transfer and scalability. The two countries will share expertise and technical support to develop common strategies and allow collective learnings to address cross boundaries' climate change challenges, which have been so far addressed separately (ex: improved water management – rehabilitations major and minor irrigation channels, de-siltation, eco-system restoration). The project will facilitate both countries to learn from each other, share strengths and knowledge, optimising resources to generate solutions for communities. By developing mechanisms for cross-border sharing of knowledge and experiences both at institutional and community level, and by nesting these mechanisms in the existing regional forums, the project will set the ground for scale-up at national and possibly more broadly across the SAARC region.

The project will adopt innovative strategies by introducing an evidence-based approach to adaptation at community level. By enabling last mile access to detailed, downscaled and up-to-date climate and weather information, and making it easy to understand and readily actionable, the project will allow the most remote and

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vulnerable communities to effectively plan and choose the most appropriate adaptation options for their specific context.

Alignment: The proposed project aligns with key governments' policies and strategies in the area of agriculture (including fisheries), rural development and climate change adaptation. These include: for **Sri Lanka**: Climate Change Policy (2012), the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Impacts (2016-2025), the National Climate Action Plans prepared by the Ministry of Environment, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka 2011-2016-Ministry of Environment, National Disaster Management Policy of Sri Lanka; for **India**: National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NSMA), National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change, the National Water Mission and the National Livelihood Mission.

Gender focus: While developing interventions, specific barriers and needs will be identified and actions will be implemented in order to achieve meaningful participation and to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable people are addressed. A gender assessment be carried out during project preparation to assess different needs and barriers of men, women, youth and their intersecting identities (age, abilities, location, ethnicity, language, gender, social class). Based on the outcomes of the consultations, project activities will be designed to accommodate women and people with different abilities while also considering their availability and care responsibilities. Consultations at all levels will be undertaken in a gender sensitive manner. During project implementation, Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP) processes will be employed with active participation of women, youth, disabled and elderly, allowing their specific needs to be included in the adaptation plans. With women currently being under-represented in decision making at community level, particular attention will be given to ensure their participation in the consultation and design processes to ensure that proposed activities will be focused on identifying key interventions to reduce women dependency and vulnerability, making them active leaders in climate change adaptation.

An Environmental and Social Risk assessment, in compliance with the ESP Policy of the Adaptation Fund will be carried out during project preparation and a risk management plan will be developed, with related indicators, budget, clear roles and responsibilities. Concrete adaptation options and assets will be small-scale and developed at household or community level, therefore the project is expected to be classified as low or moderate risk.

Social and economic benefits for vulnerable groups: The project targets households vulnerable to climate risks and food insecurity, ensuring they have timely relevant last mile climate information tailored to their needs. In addition, by rehabilitating environmentally degraded areas through an ecosystem-based approach, populations will have better access to productive lands and water. Enhancing local adaptive capacities through community participatory planning, this project will improve risk management and livelihood stability in the face of natural hazards and empower communities to cope with climate change.

Effective planning: During the concept note formulation analyses will include i) prioritization of most vulnerable regions; ii) review of available Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessments to determine gaps; iii) community consultations through focus groups to identify needs; iv) relevant preliminary feasibility studies. All studies will incorporate a gender-transformative approach into action plans.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

WFP will serve as the Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the project. It will be responsible and accountable for managing the project, including ensuring effective use of project funds, oversight and reporting and for achieving project objectives. The executing entities of the project will include the key national and state/provincial Ministries within each country under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India. Other partners may include: i) For India, the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer Welfare, Ministry of Earth Sciences/Indian Meteorological Department, Fisheries, State and local governments, non-government entities. ii) For Sri Lanka, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Meteorology, Department of Irrigation, Department of Agrarian Development, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Fisheries. The project will also explore collaboration with international or regional partners, including RIMES, The Energy Research Institute (TERI), UK Met, and other UN agencies. Partnerships with private sector organizations involved in providing technological solutions will be sought. At the local level involvement of Civil society engaged in climate change agricultural adaptation practices will be facilitated through the participation of NGOs, smallholder farmer organizations and community leaders. Detailed execution arrangements will be determined during the next phases of project design.

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It is envisaged that the
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PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[20] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as annexes to the project/programme proposal.*

A H S Wijesinghe ***Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Wildlife Resources***	Date*: 10 August 2020*
Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad ***Additional Secretary (Climate Change)*** ***Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change***	Date*: 7 August 2020*

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (*Climate Change Policy (2012), the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Impacts (2016-2025), the National Climate Action Plans prepared by the Ministry of Environment, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka 2011-2016-Ministry of Environment, National Disaster Management Policy of Sri Lanka*) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.	
Brenda Barton ***WFP Representative*** ***Sri Lanka.***	***Bishow Parajuli*** ***WFP Representative*** ***India.***
Date: *10 August 2020*	Date: *7 August 2020*
Tel. and email: +94 112 555250 (ext.2100) brenda.barton@wfp.org	Tel. and email: +91 11 46554000 (Ext 2100) bishow.parajuli@wfp.org
Project Contact Person: **Andrea Berardo**	Project Contact Person: **Eric Kenefick**
Tel. And Email: +94 112 555250 (ext.2110) andrea.berardo@wfp.org	Tel. And Email: +91 11 46554000 (Ext 2110) eric.kenefick@wfp.org

Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

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