



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35.a-35. b/18
14 September 2020

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: AGENCIA NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACION E
INNOVACION (URUGUAY)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its sixteenth meeting, approved a five-year project titled “Building Resilience to Climate Change and Variability in Vulnerable Smallholders” submitted by the Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII) for a total amount of US\$ 9,967,678 (decision B.16/9).
2. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to building national capacity to adapt to climate change and variability focusing on critical sectors for the national economy, employment and exports. The project is comprised of three main components, namely: i) Resilience increase at the farm level in smallholders located in extremely drought-sensitive Landscape Units; ii) Development of a local network for climate change monitoring, awareness and response and iii) Knowledge Management on CC and variability.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and ANII on 27 December 2011 and the project started implementation on 22 October 2012.
4. ANII submitted the first no-cost extension request in November 2016 which was approved by the Board through decision B.28-29/2, postponing the completion date from 30 June 2017 to 31 December 2018. A second no-cost extension request for sixteen months was submitted to Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) in August 2018 and was approved by the Board through decision B.31-32/25, setting the project completion date to 30 April 2020.
5. During its thirty-third meeting, the Board considered the Report of the Accreditation Panel contained in Document AFB.B.33/4 and considered the implications of the re-accreditation process on the project implemented by ANII, which did not submit a re-accreditation application as at 15 October 2018.
6. Following the discussions, the Board decided to request the secretariat to prepare a possible revision of re-accreditation policy, in collaboration with the Accreditation Panel, that would take into account its implication on the implementing entities’ ongoing project implementation; and to review the implication of an implementing entity’s accreditation expiration on its project implementation and the standard legal agreement signed between the Board and the implementing entity (Decision B.33/9).
7. In line with decision B.33/9, the secretariat prepared document AFB/B/34/5, and as a result of this document and discussion, the Board decided:
 - a) *To approve the revised Standard Legal Agreement as contained in Annex I to document AFB/B.34/5;*
 - b) *To approve the revised re-accreditation process as contained in Annex II to document AFB/B.34/5; and*
 - c) *To request the secretariat to communicate this decision and the revised reaccreditation process and the revised standard legal agreement to the implementing entities.*

(Decision B.34/3)

8. The project implementing entity submitted seven project performance reports (PPR) to the secretariat. The project went through a mid-term evaluation (MTE) process, with a MTE report

finalized in July 2016. As of 14 September 2020, the total project amount of US\$ 9,967,678 had been fully disbursed by the trustee, including the implementing entity fees.

9. In April 2020, ANII submitted a third request for extension of the project completion date, from 30 April to 30 September 2020. At the time the third no-cost extension was requested and approved, it was expected that all the project activities would be concluded by end of September 2020 and that this would ensure a smooth handover of the community assets and other assets to the appropriate authorities.

10. However, on 3 September 2020, the entity submitted a fourth request for a three-month extension of the project completion date, up to 31 December 2020. The reason for this additional request, as outlined in the memo shared by ANII, includes the fact that the project is facing delays due to the national health emergency in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the later declared emergency in the agriculture sector due to water deficit. To cope with these challenges, the government of Uruguay decided to redefine some of its strategic sectoral work priorities, taking into account the achievements reached by this project, in three leading institutions such as: i) Instituto Nacional de Investigacion Agropecuaria; ii) Instituto Plan Agropecuario; and iii) Secretariado Uruguayo de la Lana. In addition, these institutions underwent a change of authorities, therefore the project team had to include an induction period, in order to present the project and seek synergies and opportunities for the institutionalization of the project achievements, which caused an unforeseen delay for the finalization of the pending project activities.

Secretariat's review of the request

11. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by ANII related to COVID19 outbreak and the parallel emergency in the agriculture sector, the secretariat believes that this request of an additional three months extension is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by ANII (Annex 1), it is noted that this request for extension will allow a solid exit strategy and to consolidate the project actions to continue working on animal welfare and health issues, even after the project completion.

12. 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

13. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an additional three months extension of the project completion date from 30 September 2020 to 31 December 2020 for the project "Building Resilience to Climate Change and Variability in Vulnerable Smallholders" as requested by ANII.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from ANII.


Annex 1: Request for an Extension of the Project Completion Date*Request for extension of project/programme completion date*

Implementing Entity Name: Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación			
AF Project/programme ID:			
Project/programme Title: "Building Resilience to Climate Change and Variability in Vulnerable Smallholders" Project			
Country: Uruguay			
Project/Programme Approval (date)			
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	September 30, 2020	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	December 31, 2020

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

On March 1 of this year, new authorities were assumed in the Ministry. In the same month, the health emergency was declared due to COVID 19 and later the agriculture emergency due to water deficit. This made the authorities take time to define the strategic lines in general and the analysis of the Project in particular. After considering the new challenges for the five-year period, this Secretary of State decided to work on animal health and welfare issues with 3 leading institutions such as: Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (INIA), Instituto Plan Agropecuario (IPA) and Secretariado Uruguayo de la Lana (SUL). Working with these institutions took some time, since they also underwent a change of authorities, and in order to carry out a responsible discussion it was necessary to take an induction time. Thanks to this exchange, job opportunities were seen, both in training and research linked to the health situation of livestock producers, but which have been implemented for a longer time than is available today. If this extension takes place, a greater impact will be generated on the results of the GFCC, since not only would we have many achievements, but it would also allow us to have a solid strategy to work on animal welfare and health issues, and achieve a plan of work to implement in the short term, with different sources of financing. Considering that the livestock producers of the Landscape Units are particularly affected by health and animal welfare aspects, an additional period of 3 months is requested, in order to consolidate the actions to continue to combat these problems.

Implementing Entity certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, has been agreed by participating executing entities, and the designated authority (DA) has been notified.	
Name & Signature	Marcelo Battó 
Project/programme contact person	
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September 2, 2020	mbatto@anii.org.uy