



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35.a-35.b/19
14 September 2020

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: AGENCE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT AGRICOLE
(MOROCCO)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its twenty-fifth meeting, approved a four and half year project titled “Climate changes adaptation project in oasis zones – PACC-ZO”, submitted by the Agence pour le Developpement Agricole (ADA) for a requested amount of US\$ 9,970,000 (decision B. 25/13).
2. The project main objective is to help reduce the vulnerability of people and oasis agro ecosystems to climate change in Morocco by increasing the adaptive capacity of local actors, increasing the resilience of the target ecosystem and by disseminating knowledge management.
3. The project’s specific objectives are to (i) improve the adaptive capacities of the water sector; (ii) diversify income sources and improve living conditions populations vulnerable to climate change in the targeted areas; (iii) improve the ecosystem’s resilience in response to climate change and variability; (iv) improve the awareness of all stakeholders through the management and sharing of knowledge and (v) strengthen the capacities of participants in the design and implementation of adaptation measures.
4. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and NABARD in May 2015 and the project started its implementation on 14 December 2015.
5. Considering the delays experienced by the project’s last year of implementation and which have been exacerbated by the current pandemic of COVID19, the entity has submitted a no-cost extension request in late August 2020, postponing the project completion date from 14 December 2020 to 14 June 2022.
6. 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. The current request has been signed by the entity within the aforementioned deadline. However, its submission to the secretariat has been delayed by its late processing at the entity level due to new working arrangements due the COVID-19 outbreak.
7. The project has been under implementation for four years and more than 90% of project disbursement has been executed.
8. As of September 2020, the implementing entity submitted three project performance reports (PPR) to the secretariat and completed the project mid-term evaluation. As of 14 September 2020, the total project funding for an amount of US\$ 9,650,682 had been disbursed by the trustee, including the implementing entity fees, which corresponds to 97% of the grant.
9. The reason for this first request for the project completion date extension, as outlined in the memo shared by ADA, is to allow the entity and its executing entity (ANDZOA) to complete the remaining set of activities which have been delayed by the COVID19 pandemic. These activities have been realigned in accordance with the mid-term evaluation findings approved by the project steering committee, including (i) the development of road access within palm groves areas; (ii) development of tourism income generating spaces and activities; (iii) development of water points for firefighting and (iv) acquisition of related firefighting equipment. It should be noted that these activities are still within the initial scope of the project and do not constitute a project major change. A detailed plan including cost and timeline of the proposed activities is attached in annex 2.

Secretariat's review of the request

10. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by ADA related to COVID19 outbreak and the findings of the mid-term evaluation, the secretariat believes that this request of a further eighteen-months extension is justified.

11. 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

12. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an additional eighteen-months extension of the project completion date from 14 December 2020 to 14 June 2022 for the project "Climate changes adaptation project in oasis zones – PACC-ZO" as requested by ADA.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from ADA.
2. Financial evaluation of proposed activities and detailed timeline and monitoring indicators.

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

ROYAUME DU MAROC
MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA PÊCHE MARITIME
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT RURAL ET DES EAUX ET FORÊTS



المملكة المغربية
وزارة الفلاحة والصيد البحري
والتنمية القروية والمياه والغابات

N° /ADA/DAF/DMF/SE

Rabat,

ANNEX A : REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME

Request for extension of project/programme:

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Implementing Entity Name: Agency for Agricultural Development (ADA) | | | |
| AF Project/programme ID: MAR/NIE/Agri/2013/1 | | | |
| Project/programme Title: Climate Change Adaptation Project in Oasis Zones (PACC-ZO) | | | |
| Country: MOROCCO | | | |
| Project/Programme Approval (date) | 09th Avril 2015 | | |
| Expected Project/programme Completion (date) | December 2020 | Proposed Revised Completion (date): | June 2022 |

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

As part of monitoring of the project's implementation, we have the honor to share with the following elements:

- 92% of the payments were made at the end of the third AWPB (Annual Work Plan & Budget) and the project was executed according to its initial design,
- The results of the mid-term evaluation showed the achievement of most of the expected objectives, or even exceeding performance rates to the initial objectives for the majority of the "Project components' outputs and outcomes",
- The mid-term evaluation recommended the need to reinforce Outcome "3.2 Preserved and Promoted Heritage" of Component "C3: Improving the ecosystems' resilience in response to climate change and variability" by proposal of two Outputs and four Activities aimed at the revitalization and preservation of palm groves that experienced fires in 2019 for the first time in their history.

At the same time, and in order to anticipate delays in the execution of actions and delays in payments and transfers of funds from the ADA account to that of ANDZOA, we propose to extend the duration of the project for 18 months and to dispose the two remaining disbursements (7,987,169 MAD - 828,149 USD) in a single payment to execute the remaining actions of the project.

الجيل الأخضر
GÉNÉRATION GREEN
2020 - 2030

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www.ada.gov.ma

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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 :

Mr EL Mahdi ARRIFI
General Director
Agency for Agricultural Development

Le Directeur Général
de l'Agence pour le Développement Agricole
Signé : El Mahdi ARRIFI



Date: **07/29/2020**

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Annex 2 : Financial evaluation of proposed activities and detailed timeline and monitoring indicators

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Annex 1: Financial evaluation of 4th AWPB

Regarding the results of the mid-term evaluation and the need to protect palm groves against fire, the Project Executing Entity (ANDZOA) and the National Implementing Entity (ADA) propose redeployment funds remaining in component 3 for the enhancement of oasis heritage through vital environmental activities highly valued by beneficiaries and which can provide solutions to problems-phenomena threatening the existence of oases:

- ✓ Development of accesses within palm groves (rehabilitation, solar lighting, etc.)
- ✓ Development of tourist interpretation spaces
- ✓ Development of water points for fire fighting
- ✓ Acquisition of firefighting equipment.

It should be noted that the overall amount of the 4th AWPB is estimated at MAD 8,044,593 (USD 834,103) and will cover the costs of carrying out the proposed activities and the costs of implementing.

| | | MAD | USD |
|---------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Resources | Total forecast of AF ⁽¹⁾ | 96 156 740 | 9 970 000 |
| | Total paid by AF ⁽²⁾ | 88 169 571 | 9 141 851 |
| | Remaining balance ⁽³⁾ = (1) - (2) | 7 987 169 | 828 149 |
| | Financial costs ⁽⁴⁾ * | 526 759 | 54 617 |
| | Total ⁽⁵⁾ = (3) + (4) | 8 513 928 | 882 766 |
| Expenditures | Execution Costs (Executing Entity - 4 th AWPB) | 8 044 593 | 834 103 |
| | Implementation Costs (Implementing Entity) | 469 335 | 48 663 |
| | Total | 8 513 928 | 882 766 |

(*) Financial costs: balance of commitments and interest generated.



| Components | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Costs (MAD) | Costs (USD) |
|---|--|---|--|-------------|-------------|
| Component 3 : Improving the ecosystems' resilience in response to climate Change and variability | 3.2. Preserved and Promoted Heritage | 3.2.3 accesses and interpretation spaces are rehabilitated for better accessibility and attractiveness of palm groves | 3.2.3.1: Develop access roads and tracks in palm groves (rehabilitation, solar lighting, etc.) including technical assistance. | 4 494 593 | 466 021 |
| | | | 3.2.3.2: Develop tourist interpretation spaces. | 1 000 000 | 103 685 |
| | | 3.2.4 water points and equipment are acquired for better intervention against fires | 3.2.4.1: Develop water points for firefighting. | 650 000 | 67 395 |
| | | | 3.2.4.2: Acquire firefighting equipment. | 600 000 | 62 211 |
| Total component 3 | | | | 6 744 593 | 699 312 |
| 4. Improving stakeholder awareness though the management and exchange of knowledge. | 4.2. Supported and developed local initiatives for communication | 4.2.1 An awareness and communication strategy is developed | 4.2.1.3: Organizing a project closeout seminar | 450 000 | 46 658 |
| Total of investments | | | | 7 194 593 | 745 971 |
| Implementation | | | | 850 000 | 88 132 |
| Total PTBA No 4 | | | | 8 044 593 | 834 103 |

Annex 2: Basic situation and indicators for monitoring of the activities proposed in AWPB No 4

| Components | Indicators | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---|--|-----------------|--------------|--------|
| | N° Indicators | Designation (indicator) | Calculation / formulation method | Basic situation | Recent value | Target |
| Component 3 | 1 | Lengths rehabilitated and equipped with solar lighting | Monitoring report and Works completion reports | 2 | 2 | 10 km |
| | 2 | Number of spaces fitted out | Monitoring report and Works completion reports | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | 3 | Number of water points developed | Monitoring report and Works completion reports | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | 4 | Number of AUEA (Association of Agricultural Water Users) equipped | Monitoring report and reports of completion of works and material discharges | 0 | 0 | 10 |

Annex 2: Analysis of the risks related to the activities proposed in AWPB No 4

| Risk types | | Description | Mitigation measures (Mid-term situation) | |
|---------------|----|---|---|---|
| Institutional | R1 | The project is likely to suffer the consequences of insufficient staff and / or a lack of qualified staff, which will affect some of the project stakeholders. | Level: Null | Thanks to ANDZOA's vast experience in managing similar projects, this risk no longer arises. Currently, the project is carried out in good institutional conditions thanks to its experienced staff and the staff of partners |
| | R2 | The participatory approach advocated by the project risks being reduced or even diverted by local interest groups. | Level: Low | The project is managed in a participatory approach which avoids all types of interactions of interests or resistance to the actions of the project. |
| Technique | R3 | In the light of past experiences showing the difficulties encountered in similar projects geographically covering remote and disadvantaged areas, the risks related to the sustainability of the actions remain possible. | Level: Low | Only one oasis will be affected by these activities. The project' Terms of Reference clearly specify the difficulties associated with the works and services requested. The Technical Assistance and Partner teams, as well as the NEI, carry out permanent field visits to monitor the achievements. |
| Environmental | R4 | Adverse weather conditions could have a negative impact on the success of the project. | Level: Low | The project area has experienced significant adaptations to climate change in the past. The project aims to improve resilience to climate change and the risk of fire. |
| Financial | R5 | Project activities may be delayed by the money transfer channels. | Level: Medium | The Implementing Entity and the NEI intervened with the funder (AF) to speed up payments. In addition, the implementing Entity is experienced in the contractualization procedure with partners which in turn is familiar and experienced in implementing such actions. |

Annex 3 : Payments made by Adaptation Fund

| | PTBA 1 (2016) | PTBA 2 (2017) | PTBA 3 (2018+2019) |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Amounts paid by AF (MAD) | 28 308 555 | 42 689 717 | 17 171 299 |
| Dates | 22-Mai-2015 | 16-Juin-2017 | 04-February-2019 |
| Cumulation (MAD) | 28 308 555 | 70 998 272 | 88 169 571 |
| % of cumulative payments | 29% | 74% | 92% |

Programming of payments from Adaptation Fund

| | | AWPB 1 (2016) | AWPB 2 (2017) | AWPB 3 (2018) | AWPB 4 (2019) | AWPB 5 (2020) | Total |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Execution Costs (Executing Entity) | Execution (investments) costs | 2 372 700 | 4 007 500 | 1 552 850 | 323 850 | 59 090 | 8 315 990 |
| | Implementing Fee | 264 162 | 255 596 | 141 482 | 141 482 | 70 228 | 872 950 |
| | Total \$US | 2 636 862 | 4 263 096 | 1 694 332 | 465 332 | 129 318 | 9 188 940 |
| Implementation Costs (Implementing Entity) | Total \$US | 271 060 | 140 000 | 115 000 | 65 000 | 190 000 | 781 060 |
| Total (USD) | | 2 907 922 | 4 403 096 | 1 809 332 | 530 332 | 319 318 | 9 970 000 |
| Total (MAD) | | 28 045 767 | 42 466 134 | 17 450 298 | 5 114 844 | 3 079 697 | 96 156 740 |
| Cumulative payment (MAD)* | | 28 045 767 | 70 511 902 | 87 962 199 | 93 077 044 | 96 156 740 | --- |
| % of cumulative payments | | 29% | 73% | 91% | 97% | 100% | --- |



Annex 4 : Description of the proposed activities

Outcome 3.2.3: Accesses and interpretation spaces are rehabilitated for better accessibility and attractiveness of palm groves

In addition to agriculture and livestock, tourism is a job-generating and income-generating activity for resident populations. Indeed, the study of the elaboration of integrated development programs (PDI) shows that tourist activities, in all the municipalities of the project, constitute a lever of development whose potentials are not fully exploited (natural landscape, cultural heritage: ksours, khettara, ...).

Several tour operators offer various tourist products: "treasure hunt" circuits in geological and mineral extraction sites; "heritage" circuits which reveal the secrets of Berber culture and its Neolithic roots; Raids with 4X4s to discover the fabulous landscapes of the area constitute local dynamics for a type of responsible tourism in the project area.

However, the landscape inside the palm groves remains less valued and little frequented by tourists due to the condition of the footbridges and the difficulty of access as well as the absence of signage. In addition, this inventory of access to the interior of palm groves worsens the situation in the event of a fire and makes intervention difficult and sometimes impossible. To help remedy this situation, the AWPB No 4 proposes the rehabilitation of accesses and the establishment of tourist interpretation spaces through the following two activities:

- **Activity 3.2.3.1: Develop access roads and tracks in palm groves (rehabilitation, solar lighting, etc.) including technical assistance.**

The development of tracks and access within palm groves has become a necessity and a recurrent demand from oases. Indeed, this will beautify the palm grove and facilitate access and circulation thereby improving its attractiveness and encouraging tourist activity and thereby improving income; or an improvement in resilience. On the other hand, access to and development / rehabilitation of traffic lanes within oases for firefighting equipment are essential and are urgently needed.

For example, there was a fire in the Ferkla oasis at the Set palm grove where the firefighters were present but access to the fires was impossible for the machines.

It is about the rehabilitation of existing tracks over a length of 10 km by equipping it with a solar panel. Indeed, it is a complaint expressed by the local population on many occasions since it will improve, in addition to the attractiveness, the accessibility inside the oasis for different purposes: expedition of the production, intervention in case of fire, tourist attractiveness, ease and safety of traffic for schoolchildren and visitors....

The project provides for the installation of suitable solar lighting units spaced at an average distance of 20 to 30 m.



State of the walkways accessing the palm grove ravaged by fire.

▪ **Activity 3.2.3.2: Develop tourist interpretation spaces.**

Tourism is the second economic activity of oases after agriculture. The development of tourist interpretation spaces within the palm groves will allow national and international visitors to learn more about the opportunities and potentials of the palm grove in question. Also, these spaces, thanks to the maps displayed, will facilitate visitors to the location of points of attraction and accommodation infrastructure as well as possible circuits (bikes, pedestrian ...).

The project targets construction and development of two spaces and places delimited by multimedia terminals and equipped with interpretation panels to allow users to know and specially to decipher the oasis ecosystem by giving the ecological, historical, cultural keys, social and economic characteristics of the site. The targeted spaces are tourist passing platforms with panoramic views of the date palm fields of the Tinjdad oases.

Outcome 3.2.4: Water points and equipment are acquired for better intervention against fires

In addition to the constraints experienced by the oasis territory, a new phenomenon is grafted onto the constraints not hampering the development of its territories, but this disaster risks making the oases like heaps of ash. Several fires have been recorded recently: Aoufous, Goulmima, Tinjdad, Zagora (municipalities). In the case of the Aoufous fire: there have been the loss of 2,540 century-old palm trees, 1,500 olive trees and 20 ha of crops overhanging the trees. And unfortunately, the fire occurred (July 2019) while palm and olive tree production were pending which made the area damaged.

Without the intervention of the Firefighters, the Royal Gendarmerie and the intervention of the Aviation, the result would be catastrophic. The fire was fought as soon as it was noticed (with the support and the contribution of inhabitants) while the flames have not yet reached the foliage of the trees. Calling Aviation was compulsory because the intervention of the firefighters was hampered by the lack of access to the interior of the palm grove and also by the lack of equipped and identified water points.

To contribute to the fight against such disasters, the PTBA 4 proposes to carry out the following two activities:

- **Activity 3.2.4.1: Develop water points for firefighting.**

Through this activity, it is planned to create, in consultation with stakeholders, water points distributed inside the palm groves with maps of the location of these water points and access to get there easily and quickly, thereby improving the response to such fires.

Project provides for the establishment and development of five water points with fire hydrants dedicated primarily to firefighting but which, in the case water points will be used by the AUEAs (Association of Agricultural Water Users) concerned to strengthen and improve the conditions for collective irrigation

▪ **Activity 3.2.4.2: Acquire firefighting equipment**

This activity aims to acquire and install firefighting, prevention and awareness-raising equipment. Indeed, the fight against this plague which, in a few minutes, ravages several hectares and causes significant losses of biodiversity including very rare and endemic varieties of date palms, passes first of all by prevention and then by the effectiveness of intervention. The main objective of is to supply ten fire kits for ten AUEAs in the target area. Said kit will consist, among other things, of: fire extinguishers, protective clothing against flames, pipes, helmets, pumps, etc. It should be noted that training for the use of equipment acquired in the event of fire will be provided to the AUEAs concerned.

Illustrations of damage caused by fires.



Fire attacks the hundred-year-old palm tree

