



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.26.b/14
5 October 2020

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON INITIAL
SCREENING/TECHNICAL REVIEW
OF INNOVATION SMALL GRANT PROPOSALS**

Background

1. This document presents to the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) of the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) an overview of the innovation small grant proposals submitted by National Implementing Entities (NIE) to the current meeting, and the process of screening and technical review undertaken by the secretariat.

2. The analysis of the proposals mentioned above is contained in a separate addendum to this document.

3. At its thirtieth meeting, having considered document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

(a) *To adopt the medium-term strategy as amended by the Board, as contained in the Annex 1 of the document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1 (the MTS); and*

(b) *To request the secretariat:*

(i) *To broadly disseminate the MTS and work with key stakeholders to build understanding and support;*

(ii) *To prepare, under the supervision of the MTS task force, a draft implementation plan for operationalizing the MTS, containing a draft budget and addressing key assumptions and risks, including but not limited to funding and political risks, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting; and*

(iii) *To draft, as part of the implementation plan, the updates/modifications to the operational policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund needed to facilitate implementation of the MTS, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting.*

(Decision B.30/42)

4. Pursuant to decision B.30/42, subparagraph b (ii), the secretariat prepared a draft implementation plan for the MTS, including an assessment of assumptions and risks. The secretariat shared a version of the draft with the MTS task force for comments.

5. The draft implementation plan also contains suggestions for specific funding windows that might be opened under the MTS in complement of the Fund's existing funding windows for single-country and regional adaptation projects and readiness support projects. Following the approval of the implementation plan, the secretariat would present specific proposed details for each new funding window at subsequent meetings of the Board for its consideration, in accordance with the timeline contained in the implementation plan.

6. At its thirty-first meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board discussed the draft implementation plan for the MTS, and members of the Board proposed amendments to the document. The secretariat then presented a revised draft, in document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1. Having considered that document, the Board decided:

(a) *To approve the implementation plan for the medium-term strategy for the Fund for 2018–2022 contained in the Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1 (the plan);*

(b) *To request the secretariat:*

[...]

(iii) To prepare, for each proposed new type of grant and funding window, a specific document containing objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features and submit it to the Board for its consideration in accordance with the tentative timeline contained in Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1, with input from the Board's committees;

(iv) Following consideration of the new types of support mentioned in subparagraph (b)(iii), to propose, as necessary, amendments to the Fund's operational policies and guidelines Fund to better facilitate the implementation of such new types of support; and

[...]

(Decision B.31/32)

7. At its thirty-second meeting, the Board considered document AFB/PPRC.23/4/Rev.2, Program on Innovation: Small Grants Projects through Direct Access Modality, and the Board decided:

(a) To approve the process for providing funding for innovation through small grants to National Implementing Entities (NIEs), as described in document AFB/PPRC.23/4/Rev.2, including the proposed objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features as described in the document; and

(b) To request the secretariat to prepare the first request for proposals to NIEs for US\$ 2 million, to be launched at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2018.

(Decision B.32/4)

8. Subsequently, the first request for proposals to NIEs for US\$ 2 million was launched at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in December 2018.

Innovation Small Grant Proposals Submitted by National Implementing Entities

9. The accredited National Implementing Entity for Kenya submitted an innovation small grant proposal to the secretariat, with the total requested funding amounting of US\$ 250,000. However, the proposal was not resubmitted in time to be considered for the current project review cycle.

10. The current review cycle included, also, one innovation small grant proposal that was submitted during the intersessional period between the first and second sessions of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board and deferred to the second session of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board.

11. This proposal was previously received, and its review completed while the Implementing Entity was accredited. However, at the time the proposal was submitted during the second review cycle, during the *Ad interim* intersessional process, the status of the implementing entity, the Department of Environment (DOE) for Antigua and Barbuda had changed to “under re-accreditation”. As a result, the status of the implementing entity was “under re-accreditation” at the time it was discussed at the Ad Interim PPRC meeting.

12. The discussion of the innovation small grant proposal for Antigua and Barbuda at the *Ad Interim* PPRC meeting raised a question on the innovation rationale of the technologies being proposed. Considering the implementing entity was under re-accreditation, the PPRC recommended that a decision on the approval of the project be delayed until the next meeting of the PPRC, allowing more time to the implementing entity to provide supplementary information related to the innovative nature of the proposed technologies.

13. The PPRC recommended and the Board decided to:

a. Defer the consideration of the innovation small grant proposal for Antigua and Barbuda to the next PPRC meeting;

b. Request the secretariat to notify DOE of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board’s decision, as well as the following additional issues:

i. The revised small grant innovation proposal should further strengthen the innovation rationale of the proposed interventions within the respective legal and economic context;

ii. The proposal needs to strengthen the cost-effectiveness justification of the chosen interventions, inter alia through the consideration of alternative technologies;

c. Request DOE to transmit the observations under subparagraph b) to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda; and

d. Encourage the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to submit through DOE supplementary information addressing the issues raised under subparagraph b) no later than two weeks prior to the next PPRC meeting.

(Decision B.35.a-35.b/71)

14. In line with the above decision, supplementary information for the Antigua and Barbuda proposal was submitted by the National Implementing Entity for consideration at the second session of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board. Details of the proposal are contained in the separate PPRC working documents, as follows:

(a) Antigua and Barbuda: AFB/PPRC.26.b/15

(b) Antigua and Barbuda: AFB/PPRC.26.b/15/Add.1

Review Process

15. The secretariat subsequently reviewed the supplementary information provided by the IE and compiled a recommendation that is presented in the addendum to this document (AFB/PPRC.26.b/14/Add.1).

Table 1: Innovation small grant proposal submitted to the second session of the thirty-fifth Board meeting

9.Innovation Small Grants	Country	IE	PPRC Document number	Grant Size, USD	IE fee, USD	IE fee %	EC, USD	EC%
NIE								
	Antigua and Barbuda	DOE	AFB/PPRC.26.b/15	250,000	14,500	6.16%	2,715	1.15%