



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35-36/9  
15 March 2021

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Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION  
DATE: UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
(BURUNDI, KENYA, RWANDA, TANZANIA, UGANDA)**

## Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during the intersessional period between its twenty-ninth and thirtieth meetings, approved a three-year project titled “Adapting to climate change in Lake Victoria Basin” submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for a total amount of US\$ 5,000,000 (decision B.29-30/8).

2. The overall objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change in the five Lake Victoria Basin countries by building climate resilience, which will be achieved through the following outcomes: (i) Strengthened institutional and technical capacity to integrate climate resilience into transboundary water catchment management; (ii) Improved delivery of accurate and timely climate information to regional and national policymakers, technical officers and local communities; (iii) Climate change adaptation technologies transferred to communities to reduce their vulnerability to climate change; (iv) Regional resilience to climate change promoted through innovative, community-based projects; and (v) Improved knowledge management frameworks for the collection and maintenance of regional knowledge in transboundary water catchment management and climate change adaptation practices.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and UNEP in October 2017 and the project started implementation on 27 June 2018.

4. The project implementing entity submitted two project performance reports (PPRs), which have been cleared by the secretariat, and as of 15 March 2021, the total project funding for an amount of US\$ 3,249,021 including the project fees, has been fully disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 65% of the approved grant.

5. In 4 March 2021, UNEP submitted a request for an extension of the project completion date, from 27 June 2021 to 27 December 2022. 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 submission date of this request is, therefore, not in compliance with the aforementioned deadline.

6. The reason for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by UNEP, includes the fact that the project has suffered a number of setbacks including: i) delays with the setting up of the project implementation unit; ii) delays in signing the legal agreements between the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (executing entity) and partner countries, especially with Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania; and iii) the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have further exacerbated the project implementation delay, but do not constitute the main factor for delay.

## Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by UNEP, the secretariat is of the view that this eighteenth-months extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by UNEP (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time to execute project field activities, which should be resumed by the second quarter of 2021, and it would ensure that the project can carry out the project completion reporting requirements. In addition, the secretariat recognizes the adaptive management put in place by UNEP to mitigate further delays, as evidenced in the memo. Specifically, the introduction of virtual meetings, whenever feasible, to ensure progress in the project activities, including training sessions, consultations and assessments in partner countries.

8. 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**

9. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteenth-months extension of the project completion date from 27 June 2021 to 27 December 2022, for the project “Adapting to climate change in Lake Victoria Basin” as requested by UNEP.

### **Annex**

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

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

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

AF Project/programme ID: AFR/MIE/Water/2015/1				
Project/programme Title: "Adapting to climate change in Lake Victoria Basin" Project in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda				
Country: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda				
Project/Programme Approval (date)		7 July 2017		
Expected Completion (date)	Project/programme	27 June 2021	Proposed Completion (date):	Revised 27 December 2022

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

- The Adapting to Climate change in Lake Victoria Basin Project officially started on 27 June 2018 after holding an inception workshop and current project expiry date is 27 June 2021. The project has recorded significant progress across the five project outcomes including: i) training of representatives from the national meteorological agencies in each of the five Partner States on downscaling regional climate information to the national level; ii) Regional criteria for site selections to allow concrete adaptation interventions developed and project sites identified Partner States;) iii) Demonstration of climate change adaptation technologies at selected project intervention sites is on-going in all five partner states. While the project has made significant progress it suffered a number of setbacks including i) delays with setting up of the PMU due to EAC guidelines around recruitment ii) Delays in setting up country agreements between LVBC and partner states, especially with Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania due to policy related to financial and fiscal year iii) COVID-19 related restrictions around movement and gatherings delayed execution of the project activities.
- The setbacks above have resulted field activities (Outcomes 3 and 4) running behind schedule. Currently, only Burundi is proceeding with field activities since the government has relaxed covid-restrictions.
- A total of US \$ 3,258,097 remains unutilised for project activities. Due to the reasons listed above, we forecast difficulties to finalise all the planned project activities under each component by 27 June 2021.
- A no-cost extension until 27 December 2022 is therefore requested to enable the project to complete all planned activities, pending resumption of field activities by Q2 this year. The extension further ensure that the project can finalise its midterm and final evaluation and final reporting.
- UNEP in collaboration with LVBC has taken the following measure to mitigate further delays
  - In close collaboration with the country focal points, the project is adopting extensive use of IT and virtual meetings where possible to ensure progress in project activities including training sessions, consultation processes, studies and assessments in the partner countries. This is relevant to:
    - Output 1.2. Training provided to government ministries and agencies, civil society and the private sector to address climate change related challenges in transboundary water catchment management
    - Output 5.1 Establishment of a research forum for the LVB.
    - PSC meetings

### 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) in Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda has been notified.

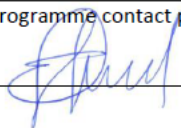
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Signature 

Date: 24 February 2021

Name & Signature Project/programme contact person: Essey Daniel, UN Environment Task Manager

Date: 24 February 2021



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