



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.27/17/Add.1
8 March 2021

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Twenty-seventh Meeting
Virtual meeting, 22-23 March 2021

Agenda Item 6 a)

PROJECT FORMULATION GRANT FOR PROPOSAL FOR AZERBAIJAN, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

I. Background

1. The Board at its eleventh meeting discussed the document “Funding for Project Formulation Costs” (AFB/11/6) and agreed, in its Decision B.11/18, that:

- i. project formulation grants (PFG) should be given once a project concept has been approved
- ii. consideration should be given in terms of differentiating between NIEs and MIEs, since some NIEs might have financial difficulties in trying to formulate project or programme proposals;
- iii. a flat rate should be given for project formulation costs;
- iv. a list of eligible activities and items still needed to be prepared; v. the grant should be additional to the project cost; and
- v. the fate of funds if the final project document was rejected should be determined.

2. There was consensus that a three-tiered system should be considered for project formulation grants: endorse a project concept with a PFG amount, endorse a project concept without a PFG amount, or reject the project concept.

3. Following the discussion, the Board decided:

To request the secretariat to reformulate the document, to include a comparison of eligible activities provided by other funds for project formulation grants, to take into account guidance provided by the Board at the present meeting, and to submit the document to the Board at its twelfth meeting, through the EFC. The EFC should review and finalize the process and policy of the project formulation grant focusing, in particular, on: the issue of unspent project funds; the procedures followed by other funds in that regard; and the determination of a flat-rate.

4. A document was prepared by the secretariat in response to the above mandate and presented at the third EFC meeting, which made specific recommendations to the Board at its twelfth meeting. Having considered the recommendation of the Ethics and Finance Committee, the Board, in its Decision B.12/28, decided that:

(a) Project Formulation Grants (PFGs) will only be made available for projects submitted through NIEs. The Board would continue reviewing the question of PFGs for projects submitted through MIEs and would solicit comments from members and alternate members by February 14, 2011; the views would be compiled by the secretariat for presentation to the Board at its March 2011 meeting;

(b) If a country required a project formulation grant, a request should be made at the same time as the submission of a project concept to the secretariat. The secretariat will review and forward it to the PPRC for a final recommendation to the Board. A PFG could only be awarded when a project concept was presented and endorsed;

(c) A PFG form, reproduced in Annex V, should be submitted;

- (d) *Only activities related to country costs would be eligible for PFG funding;*
- (e) *A flat rate of up to US\$30,000 shall be provided, inclusive of the management fee, which cannot exceed 8.5 per cent of the grant amount. The flat fee would be reviewed by the Board at its thirteenth and all subsequent meetings;*
- (f) *If the final project document is rejected, any unused funds shall be returned to the Adaptation Fund Trust Fund;*
- (g) *Once a project/programme formulation grant is disbursed, a fully developed project document should come to the Board for approval within 12 months. No additional grants for project preparation can be received by a country until the fully developed project/programme document has been submitted to the Board; and*
- (h) *The Trustee was instructed to remove the set-aside of US\$100,000 for project preparation that had been decided at the June 2010 meeting, as project preparation would be approved on a project-by-project basis.*

5. In its twenty-fourth meeting, the Board had initiated steps to launch a pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, not to exceed US\$ 30 million and had requested the secretariat to prepare for the consideration of the Board a proposal for such a pilot programme (Decision B.24/30). In its twenty-fifth meeting, the secretariat submitted such document and the Board decided to:

- (a) *Approve the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, as contained in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2;*
- (b) *Set a cap of US\$ 30 million for the programme;*
- (c) *Request the secretariat to issue a call for regional project and programme proposals for consideration by the Board in its twenty-sixth meeting; and*
- (d) *Request the secretariat to continue discussions with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) towards operationalizing, during the implementation of the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, the Synergy Option 2 on knowledge management proposed by CTCN and included in Annex III of the document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2.*

(Decision B.25/28)

6. The approved document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2 contained provisions for the approval of project formulated grants for regional project and programme proposals, at different development stages, as follows:

“It is proposed that the Board open a structured call for MIEs and RIEs to submit pre-concepts for regional projects and programmes. The optional pre-concepts would be very brief proposals of maximum 5 pages that would explain the proposed regional adaptation project/programme. The pre-concepts would be screened and technically reviewed by the secretariat, and subsequently reviewed by the PPRC. Together with the

pre-concept, the proponent could submit a Phase I PFG request, up to the maximum level of US\$ 20,000. While endorsing the pre-concept, the Board could also approve the Phase I PFG request. The endorsement of the pre-concept would not create an obligation for the Board for later funding. As the next step, the proponent would submit a concept, and with it the proponent could submit a Phase II PFG request. The maximum AFB/PPRC.18/25/Add.1 level of the Phase II PFG would be US\$ 80,000 for proposals that had been previously granted Phase I PFG, and US\$ 100,000 for proposals that bypassed the optional pre-concept stage. While endorsing the concept, the Board could also approve the Phase II PFG request. The endorsement of the concept would not create an obligation for the Board for later funding, as it is the case for the national projects. The final stage of the proposal process would be the submission of the fully-developed regional project document”.

II. The Project Formulation Grant Request

7. This addendum to the document AFB/PPRC.27/17 “Proposal for Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of)” includes a request for a Project Formulation Grant, requesting a budget of US\$ 80,000, which was received by the secretariat along with the concept for the project ASI/MIE/Urban/2019/1 “Urbanization and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caspian Sea Region”. This proposal was submitted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which is a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund, in time for consideration by the Adaptation Fund Board at its thirty-sixth Board meeting.

8. In accordance with Decision B.12/28, paragraph (b), the secretariat carried out an initial review of the PFG request and found that the document provided detailed information on the use of the requested funds. The proposed activities were aligned with the goal of the project and would conduct refined vulnerability assessment of target communities and vulnerable groups consultations, undertake feasibility studies of identified climate change adaptation measures at local level in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran in four sectors and conduct sector study on climate resilient skills development for 4 identified sectors in the Republic of Azerbaijan and in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

9. Therefore, the PPRC may want to consider and recommend to the Board to approve the PFG Request, provided that the related concept proposal is endorsed.



Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date:
18 January 2021

Adaptation Fund Project ID: ASI/MIE/Urban/2019/PPC/1

Country/ies: Republic of Azerbaijan and Islamic Republic of Iran

Title of Project/Programme: Urbanization and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caspian Sea Region

Type of IE (MIE): Multilateral Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: United Nations Human Settlements Programme - UN-Habitat (lead)

Executing Entities: *United Nations:* United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP (co-leading implementing partner); International Organisation for Migration – IOM (implementing partner)

Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (leading), State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (supporting).

Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Director General for International Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (co-leading), Ministry of Roads and Urban Development and (supporting), Department of Environment (supporting).

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	1 April 2021
Completion date of PFG	Submission date for programme document during 1st quarter 2022

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)


Describe the PFG activities and justifications:

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	USD Amount
Background study on climate change related drivers and impact of rural – urban migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran	Questionnaire and Analysis; Background Report	(1 background study/ 2 countries: 1 x 2.500 USD x 2) 5.000 USD

Continue to refine vulnerability of target communities and conduct area level and vulnerable groups consultations in at least four communities in the Republic of Azerbaijan and four communities in the Islamic Republic of Iran (taking into consideration the travel restrictions posed by the Covid-19 pandemic)	Workshops Reports, including vulnerability maps; Mission Reports; Minutes of Meeting	(1 mapping/ 4 communities/ 2 countries: 1 x 4 x 750 USD x 2) 6.000 USD
Outline community level climate change adaptation measures in the identified communities in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran in four sectors	Workshop Reports; Mission Reports; Background Papers (one per sector identified)	(1 climate change adaptation measure/ 4 communities/ 2 countries: 1 x 4 x 2.500 USD x 2) 20.000 USD
Feasibility studies of identified climate change adaptation measures at local level in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran in four sectors	Workshop Reports; Background Papers (one per sector identified)	(1 climate change adaptation measure feasibility study/ 4 sectors/ 2 countries: 1 x 4 x 5.000 USD x 2) 30.000 USD
Conduct sector study on climate resilient skills development for 4 identified sectors in the Republic of Azerbaijan and in the Islamic Republic of Iran	Workshop Reports; Background Papers (one per sector identified)	(1 study/ 4 sectors/ 2 countries: 1 x 4 x 1.500 USD x 2) 12.200 USD
PSC	8.5%	6.800 USD
Total Project Formulation Grant		80.000 USD

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Rafael Tuts		15 January 2021	Katja Schäfer	+254 757 628 691	katja.schaefer@un.org