

AF Project review criteria and assessments to support full project development

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	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	Please double check if the letter is signed by the correct DA . Check the correct Designated Authorities on the AF website
	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than 100 pages for the fully-developed project document, and 100 pages for its annexes?	Please keep to 100 pages for main proposal and 100 pages for annexes (do not reduce the font!)
	3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change	✓ The project/programme contains a set of activities suited to addressing the climate change impacts identified and is not a "business-as-usual" development or environmental protection project
	and build in climate resilience?	 ✓ Activities will lead to substantial tangible outcomes (please be clear about these)
		✓ Coherent Rational: the suitability of activities in responding to the threats posed by the likely climate scenarios is outlined in detail in the background and context section and quantified in terms of magnitude and uncertainty (and covering environmental, social and economic impacts).
		✓ The project/programme activities align with its overall goal and objectives hence ensuring the cohesion of the components among themselves.
		✓ The activities are detailed to a sufficient level for a fully-developped proposal.

- 4. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?
- The proposal includes information on the expected beneficiaries of the project/programme, with particular reference to the equitable distribution of benefits to vulnerable communities, households, and individuals.
- ✓ In target areas where marginalized and vulnerable groups and indigenous communities have been identified, particular benefits provided by the project/programme to those groups are outlined.
- ✓ The proposal outlines benefits in all three areas (economic, social and environmental) and that the estimated benefits are quantified, whenever possible.
- ✓ Project integrates information resulting from an initial gender analysis, to respond to the different needs, capabilities, roles and knowledge resources of women and men, and/or identify how changing gender dynamics might drive lasting change



5. Is the project / programme cost effective?

- ✓ The proposal provides a logical explanation of the selected scope and approach.
- ✓ The cost effectiveness is demonstrated from a sustainability point of view.
- ✓ The proposal includes a clear description of alternative options to the proposed measures, to allow for a good assessment of the project/programme cost effectiveness.
- ✓ The proposal includes comparison to other possible interventions that could have taken place to help adapt and build resilience in the same setting (sector, geographic region, and/or community); with quantitative estimates where feasible.
- 6. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?
- The relevant plans and strategies are identified.
 This includes as a minimum the most important adaptation-related plans and strategies and the most important relevant sectoral plans and strategies in the country and sub-region.
- ✓ The compliance of the project/programme with the relevant plans and strategies is explained in detail.



- 7. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?
- ✓ The relevant national technical standards are identified, and compliance stated in a logical manner. These include: Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), building codes, water quality regulations, and any other sector-specific regulations.
- ✓ Compliance with relevant technical standards is explained in detail, addressing environmental assessments, building codes, and land use or tenure regulations, as required by national legislation.
- ✓ If one specific activity of the project/programme requires compliance with technical standards, the steps taken to comply with it and the nature of the authorization/clearance granted for the project to be implemented is explained.
- 8. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?
- ✓ All relevant potentially overlapping projects / programmes are identified, and lack of overlap / complementarity stated in a logical manner.
- ✓ Linkages and synergies with all relevant potentially overlapping projects / programmes are clearly outlined, avoiding evasive wording, including areas of overlap and complementarity, drawing lessons from the earlier initiatives during the project design, learning from their problems/mistakes, and establishing a framework for coordination during implementation.



- 9. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?
- Activities related to KM and dissemination of lessons learned are included. They can be grouped in a single component or part of a larger component.
- Project enables keeping track of experiences gained and analyze them periodically to enrich the global, national and local knowledge on climate change adaptation and to accelerate understanding about what kinds of interventions work
- 10. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?
- A comprehensive, gender-responsive consultative process has taken place, and involved all direct and indirect stakeholders of the project/programme, including vulnerable groups and taking into account gender considerations.
- ✓ All the stakeholders involved in the consultation process are identified in the project/programme proposal with attention to minority groups, marginalized and vulnerable groups, and indigenous people in the project/programme target areas, where relevant.
- ✓ The proposal includes a report documenting the consultative
 process and contains a) the list of stakeholders already consulted
 (principles of choice, role ascription, date of consultation), b) a
 description of the consultation techniques (tailored specifically per target
 group), c) the key consultation findings (in particular suggestions
 and concerns raised)
- ✓ The results of the consultative process is reflected in the project design, including consultation on safeguards process and outcomes



11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?	√	The proposal demonstrates that the project/programme activities are relevant in addressing its adaptation objectives and that, taken solely, without additional funding from other donors, they will help achieve these objectives.
	✓	If project has co-financing, the Adaptation Fund project should be able to deliver its outcomes and outputs regardless of the success of the other project(s).
	✓	Activities that, taken out of context, could be considered "business-as- usual" development should be justified in the context of achieving the adaptation goals of the project.
12. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?	√	The project includes a results framework which specifies the alignment with Adaptation Fund revised strategic results framework adopted in 2019 (https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Adaptation-Fund-Strategic-Results-Framework-Amended-in-March-2019-2.pdf)
13. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into	√	The adaptation benefits achieved with the help of the project/programme can be sustained after its end and enable replication and scaling up with other funds after its end.
account when designing the project?	√	The proposal explains the arrangements through which this would be achieved, taking into account sustainability and maintenance of any infrastructure or installations to be developed, policies and governance arrangements to be developed and implemented, knowledge to be generated, management and other capacity to be improved, etc.
	✓	All key areas of sustainability are addressed, including but not limited to economic, social, environmental, institutional, and financial.

- 14. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?
- ✓ If the project/programme contains USPs (i.e. either the specific location and/or the specific activity are not sufficiently identified to allow adequate risks identification), the proposal includes an ESMP with adequate provisions to ensure that the USPs will also be compliant with the ESP and GP. Please remember that USPs are acceptable only on exceptional basis and their use must be well-justified.
- ✓ The proposal identifies all potential environmental and social impacts and risks.
- ✓ As appropriate, the proposal elaborates on the gender-specific cultural and/or legal context in which the project/programme will operate.
- ✓ The proposal states the category in which the screening process has
 classified the project/programme. (Category A, B or C). Please also ensure
 that these categories reflect AF ESP and not your organization's.
- ✓ A checklist is completed, indicating which environmental and social impacts and risks have been identified and that a justification of the risk identification findings is provided.
- For the environmental and social risks identified an environmental and social impact assessment has been carried out commensurate to the risks. The assessment considers (i) all potential direct, indirect, transboundary, and cumulative impacts that could result from the proposed project/programme; (ii) identify possible measures to avoid, minimize, manage or mitigate environmental and social impacts of the proposed project/programme.
- ✓ The proposal includes sufficient supporting documentation (annexes) including a gender assessment and action plan report.



GENDER POLICY - REQUIREMENTS

2. PROJECT PROPSAL REQUIREMENTS	CONCEPT STAGE	FULL PROPOSAL STAGE
Initial Gender Assessment	√	
Full Gender Assessment		✓
Gender-Responsive Indicators		>
Gender-Responsive Implementation & Monitoring Programs		✓
Preliminary gender equal consultation	✓	
Comprehensive gender equal consultation		√
Implement a fair and transparent Grievance Mechanism		✓



CONCEPT AND FULL PROPOSAL ESP REQUIREMENTS

Project Proposal (OPG Annex 5) IE will demonstrate and document the following:	Concept Proposal	Full Proposal	
II. JUSTIFICATION			
II.B. Economic, social and environmental benefits; Avoidance/mitigation of adverse impacts.	√	√	
II.E. Compliance with relevant national technical standards	✓	✓	
II.H. Consultative process ✓			
II.K. Environmental and social impacts and risks ✓			
III. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS			
III.C. Environmental & Social risk management measures			
III. D. Monitoring and evaluation program, budget			
III.E. Results framework including milestones, targets, & indicators			



REVIEW CRITERIA – RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

1.	Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?	
2.	Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	✓ The figures add up – total amount requested, vs. components table vs. budget vs. Disbursement table.
		✓ The figures are rounded to a whole number (i.e. no decimals),
		✓ The management fee ("IE fee") is below 8.5% of the total budget before fee
3.		✓ The figures add up – total amount requested, vs. components table vs. budget vs. Disbursement table.
		✓ The figures are rounded to a whole number (i.e. no decimals),
		✓ The Project Execution Cost is below 9.5% of the total budget (including fee)
		In case of Implementing Entity serving as the Executing Entity, the limit for execution is 1.5%. The justifications must be provided, as this arrangement can be approved only on an exceptional basis.



REVIEW CRITERIA – IE ELIGIBILITY

1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?

Cases where accreditation expires before the Board meeting, Please ensure your re-accreditation is started well in advance if you plan to submit a proposal.



1.	Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	✓	The implementation arrangements include a clear description of the roles and responsibilities of the implementing entity as well as any executing entity or organizations/stakeholders that are involved in the project. If necessary, provide a full organization chart showing how they report to each other.
		✓	The implementation arrangements incorporate gender- responsive elements as appropriate.
2.	Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	✓	The proposal identifies all major risks, consider their significance, and include a plan of monitoring and mitigating them, including a table with detailed information on the different categories of risks (i.e. financial, environmental, social, institutional), their level and how they will be managed.



3.	Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and
	Gender Policy of the Fund?

- ✓ For all environmental and social risks that have been identified in section II, and the corresponding impacts that have been assessed, there are adequate and credible measures to manage the impacts
- ✓ the ESMP contains clearly allocated roles and responsibilities for its implementation
- ✓ the ESMP include opportunities for consultation and adaptive management
- there are credible budget provisions, as needed, for the implementation of the ESMP
- ✓ there are clear arrangements for the IE to supervise executing entities for implementation of ESMP
- there are clear monitoring and evaluation arrangements for ESP compliance
- ✓ There is an accessible and meaningful grievance mechanism in place, mentioning all parts of the grievance process, including where grievances can be addressed
- 4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity
 Management Fee use included?
- ✓ The budget includes a breakdown of the Implementing Entity Management Fee
- ✓ The fee may cover: Corporate activities fees related to engagement with donor (Policy support, Portfolio management, Reporting, Outreach and knowledge sharing) and Project cycle management fees (Project preparation and management oversight including financial management and quality insurance, Implementation reports supervision, and Project completion and evaluation oversight).

5 .	Is an explanation and
	a breakdown of the
	execution costs
	included?

- ✓ The budget includes a breakdown of the Execution costs
- ✓ Execution costs include the main items supported by the Adaptation Fund for project management including consultant services, travel and office facilities, etc covering the direct costs for administration of the day-to day activities of projects. Specific costs include: Staffing costs, and project related activity expenditures (Monitoring and evaluation costs; Costs related to drafting progress reports and financial reports; Consultation with project stakeholders (meetings, workshops); Communication, Travel).
- 6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?
- ✓ The proposal includes a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level.
- ✓ Adequate resources are allocated in the project/programme budget for gender-responsive implementation.
 ✓ The proposal includes a budgeted MSE plan, that is in compliance with the proposal includes a budgeted MSE plan, that is in compliance with the project/programme budget for gender-responsive implementation.
- 7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sexdisaggregated data, targets and

indicators, in

Fund?

compliance with the Gender Policy of the

- ✓ The proposal includes a budgeted M&E plan, that is in compliance with
 the AF M&E guidelines and compliance with the Gender Policy
- ✓ M&E includes provisions for mid-term and terminal evaluations
- ✓ M&E Plan addresses management of the environmental and social risks identified.
- ✓ Please check that the project document mentions key M&E milestones



1.	Does the M&E Framework include a break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?	✓	M&E Plan is budgeted with breakdown of IE fees for supervision of M&E function .
1.	Does the project/programme's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?	✓ ✓	The proposal includes a results framework with realistic, quantified expected results with indicators and targets that are gender responsive and disaggregated by sex as appropriate. The project document includes a table showing the linkage between project objectives and outcomes to the Fund level outcome and outputs (refer to the revised 2019 AF's result framework) The project result framework must include at least the core impact indicator "Number of beneficiaries including estimations for direct and indirect beneficiaries. A second core indicator must be added if the project includes activities targeting the areas identified in AF results framework, namely (1) Early Warning System; (2) Assets Produced, Developed; (3) Improved, or Strengthened; (4) Increased income, or avoided decrease in income or (5) Natural Assets Protected or Rehabilitated.
1.	Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	✓ ✓	The proposal includes a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones relative to project inception and the annual reporting requirement. The figures add up – components table vs. budget vs. disbursement table The figures in project amount and disbursement schedule are rounded

to a whole number (i.e. no decimals)

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to a whole number (i.e. no decimals)

KEY DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

- **OPG-Annex 5** (review sheets/criteria, details of what needs to go in each section the basis for how we undertake the review)
- Environmental and Social Policy
- Guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy
- Gender Policy and Action Plan of the Adaptation Fund (amended in March 2021)
- Guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy



ELIGIBILITY – LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

- Please double check if the letter is signed by the correct DA (Check the AF website).
- If the DA has changed, it is important to formally communicate this to the AF Secretariat! The letter should come from the Minister or similarly ranked government official (cabinet level or an ambassador).
- In future review cycles, you are encouraged to send the LOEs well ahead of the proposal to ensure it is acceptable.



3. CONCRETE ADAPTATION ACTIONS TO ASSIST THE COUNTRY IN ADDRESSING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND BUILD IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- ✓ The project is not a "business-as-usual" development or environmental protection
- ✓ Coherent Rational: the suitability of activities in responding to the threats posed by future CC
 - ✓ Likely climate scenarios in the country and target area
 - ✓ CC risks quantified in terms of magnitude and uncertainty
 - ✓ Clarity on the environmental, social and economic climate change impacts
 - ✓ The activities are suited to addressing the climate change impacts identified (why you chose these activities and not others)
 - ✓ Activities will lead to substantial tangible outcomes (please be clear about these)
- ✓ The activities align with the project's overall goal and objectives ensuring the cohesion of the components among themselves a good logical framework



4. THE PROJECT PROVIDES ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, IN COMPLIANCE WITH ESP AND GP

- ✓ Information on the **expected beneficiaries** of the project, with particular reference to **the equitable distribution of benefits to vulnerable communities**, households, and individuals
- ✓ In areas where marginalized and vulnerable groups and indigenous communities have been identified, outline particular benefits provided by the project to those groups
- ✓ Outline benefits in all three areas: economic, social and environmental
- ✓ Quantify the estimated benefits whenever possible
- ✓ Highlight how you have integrated information resulting from the initial gender analysis to respond to the different needs, capabilities, roles and knowledge resources of women and men.



5. COST - EFFECTIVENESS

- ✓ It's about both costs and effectiveness
- ✓ Provide a logical explanation of the selected scope and approach (why these measures would be the most effective compared to others).
- ✓ Demonstrate cost-effectiveness from a **sustainability point of view, in quantified terms** whenever possible.
- ✓ Include a clear description of alternative options to the proposed measures
- ✓ Include comparison to other possible interventions that could have taken place to help adapt and build resilience in the same setting (sector, geographic region, and/or community); with quantitative estimates where feasible. (preferably in a table format)



8. DUPLICATION OF PROJECT WITH OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

- ✓ Identify all relevant potentially overlapping projects / programmes, and state lack of overlap / complementarity in a logical manner
- ✓ Clearly outine linkages and synergies with all relevant potentially overlapping projects, avoiding evasive wording
- ✓ Include areas of overlap and complementarity
- ✓ Show how you have integrated lessons from the earlier initiatives during the project design, learning from their problems/mistakes
- ✓ Outline any framework for coordination with complementary projects during implementation



10. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ESP AND GP

- ✓ The consultative process is comprehensive and gender-responsive and involved all direct and indirect stakeholders of the project, including vulnerable groups
- ✓ Outline all the stakeholders involved in the consultation process in the proposal with attention to minority groups, marginalized and vulnerable groups, and indigenous people in the target areas, where relevant
- ✓ Include a report documenting the consultative process and contains
 - ✓ a) the list of stakeholders already consulted (principles of choice, role ascription, date of consultation),
 - ✓ b) a description of the consultation techniques (tailored specifically per target group),
 - ✓ c) the key consultation findings (in particular suggestions and concerns raised)
- ✓ Specify how the results of the consultative process are reflected in the project design, including consultation on safeguards process and outcomes

11. FINANCING JUSTIFICATION AND FULL COST OF ADAPTATION REASONING

- ✓ Demonstrate that the project activities are relevant in addressing its adaptation objectives and that, taken solely, without additional funding from other donors, they will help achieve these objectives
- ✓ If project has co-financing, the Adaptation Fund project should be able to deliver its outcomes and outputs regardless of the success of the other project(s)
- ✓ Activities that, taken out of context, could be considered "business-asusual" development should be justified in the context of achieving the adaptation goals of the project.



12. ALIGNMENT WITH AF'S RESULTS FRAMEWORK

✓ The project includes a results framework which specifies the alignment with Adaptation Fund revised strategic results framework adopted in 2019

(https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Adaptation-Fund-Strategic-Results-Framework-Amended-in-March-2019-2.pdf)



13. THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

- ✓ Outline how the adaptation benefits achieved by the project can be:
 - ✓ sustained after its end and
 - ✓ enable replication and scaling up with other funds after its end.
- ✓ Explains the arrangements through which this would be achieved, taking into account:
 - ✓ sustainability and maintenance of any infrastructure or installations to be developed,
 - ✓ policies and governance arrangements to be developed and implemented,
 - ✓ knowledge to be generated, management,
 - ✓ other capacity to be improved, etc.
- ✓ Address all key areas of sustainability, including but not limited to economic, social, environmental, institutional, and financial.



14. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ESP/GP

- ✓ Identify all potential environmental and social impacts and risks.
- ✓ Elaborate on the gender-specific cultural and/or legal context in which the project will operate.
- ✓ State the category in which the screening process has classified the project. (Category A, B or C). Please also ensure that these categories reflect AF ESP and not your organization's.
- ✓ Provide a checklist, indicating which environmental and social impacts and risks have been identified (for each ESP principle) and provide justification of the risk identification findings.
- ✓ For the identified risk, carry out an environmental and social impact assessment that
 - ✓ (i) considers all potential direct, indirect, transboundary, and cumulative impacts that could result from the proposed project/programme;
 - ✓ (ii) identify possible measures to avoid, minimize, manage or mitigate environmental and social impacts of the proposed project/programme.
- ✓ Include sufficient supporting documentation (annexes) including a gender assessment and action plan report.



14. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ESP/GP

- ✓ Unidentified Sub-Projects (USP) either the specific location and/or the specific activity are not sufficiently identified to allow adequate risks identification)
- ✓ Try to avoid USP they are acceptable only on exceptional basis and their use must be well-justified.
- ✓ If the project contains USP, please include an ESMP with adequate provisions to ensure that the USPs will also be compliant with the ESP and GP. (explain how)



COMPLIANCE WITH ESP/GP-IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS (ESMP)

- ✓ Identify adequate and credible measures to manage the impacts for all environmental and social risks that have been identified in section II, and the corresponding impacts that have been assessed
- ✓ ESMP should contain/include:
 - ✓ clearly allocated roles and responsibilities for its implementation
 - ✓ opportunities for consultation and adaptive management
 - ✓ credible budget provisions, as needed, for the implementation of the ESMP
- ✓ Outline the arrangements for the IE to supervise executing entities for implementation of ESMP
- ✓ Include clear monitoring and evaluation arrangements for ESP compliance
- ✓ Include an accessible and meaningful grievance mechanism in place, mentioning all parts of the grievance process, including where grievances can be addressed

RESULTS FRAMEWORK (ALIGNMENT WITH THE AF'S)—IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- ✓ The results framework includes realistic, quantified expected results
 with indicators and targets that are gender responsive and
 disaggregated by sex as appropriate.
- ✓ Include a table showing the linkage between project objectives and outcomes to the Fund level outcome and outputs (refer to the revised 2019 AF's result framework)
- ✓ The project result framework must include at least the core impact indicator "Number of beneficiaries including estimations for direct and indirect beneficiaries".
- ✓ A second core indicator must be added if the project includes activities targeting the areas identified in AF results framework, namely (1) Early Warning System; (2) Assets produced, developed, improved, or strengthened; (3) Increased income, or avoided decrease in income or (4) Natural Assets Protected or Rehabilitated.

SMALLER ISSUES

- ✓ IE Fees/ Execution costs, budget
 - ✓ Ensure that the figures add up across all budget tables total amount requested, vs. components table vs. budget vs. Disbursement table.
 - ✓ The figures are rounded to a whole number (i.e. no decimals),
- ✓ Number of Pages
 - ✓ Concept: 50 pages including annexes
 - ✓ Fully-Developed Proposal: 100 pages main document +100p annexes
 - ✓ Do not use small fonts!



REGIONAL PROJECTS – NIE INVOLVEMENT

- When the regional project takes place in a country that has NIE, the proponent (MIE or RIE) should attempt to involve the NIE(s) in the project.
- Implementation arrangement: Has the potential to partner with national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs), been considered, and included in the management arrangements?



HOW CAN THE SECRETARIAT HELP?

- Your feedback on challenging sections or areas is helpful to us to see what additional guidance or training can be provided
- Do you find the technical review sheets provide you with helpful indications on how to improve the proposal?
- If some aspects of the initial technical review is unclear, you can request to schedule a
 call with the secretariat and lead reviewer to clarify certain points.



Thank you!

