



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.28/24
4 October 2021

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Twenty-eighth Meeting
Virtual meeting, 11-13 October 2021

Agenda Item 5 e)

PROPOSAL FOR BENIN, TOGO

Background

1. The strategic priorities, policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund (the Fund), as well as its operational policies and guidelines include provisions for funding projects and programmes at the regional, i.e., transnational level. However, the Fund has thus far not funded such projects and programmes.

2. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board), as well as its Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) considered issues related to regional projects and programmes on a number of occasions between the Board's fourteenth and twenty-first meetings but the Board did not make decisions for the purpose of inviting proposals for such projects. Indeed, in its fourteenth meeting, the Board decided to:

- (c) Request the secretariat to send a letter to any accredited regional implementing entities informing them that they could present a country project/programme but not a regional project/programme until a decision had been taken by the Board, and that they would be provided with further information pursuant to that decision*

(Decision B.14/25 (c))

3. At its eighth meeting in March 2012, the PPRC came up with recommendations on certain definitions related to regional projects and programmes. However, as the subsequent seventeenth Board meeting took a different strategic approach to the overall question of regional projects and programmes, these PPRC recommendations were not included in a Board decision.

4. At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Board heard a presentation from the coordinator of the working group set up by decision B.17/20 and tasked with following up on the issue of regional projects and programmes. She circulated a recommendation prepared by the working group, for the consideration by the Board, and the Board decided:

- (a) To initiate steps to launch a pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, not to exceed US\$ 30 million;*
- (b) That the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes will be outside of the consideration of the 50 per cent cap on multilateral implementing entities (MIEs) and the country cap;*
- (c) That regional implementing entities (RIEs) and MIEs that partner with national implementing entities (NIEs) or other national institutions would be eligible for this pilot programme, and*

(d) To request the secretariat to prepare for the consideration of the Board, before the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board or intersessionally, under the guidance of the working group set up under decision B.17/20, a proposal for such a pilot programme based on consultations with contributors, MIEs, RIEs, the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and other relevant bodies, as appropriate, and in that proposal make a recommendation on possible options on approaches, procedures and priority areas for the implementation of the pilot programme.

(Decision B.24/30)

5. The proposal requested under (d) of the decision above was prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the Board in its twenty-fifth meeting, 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. Based on the Board Decision B.25/28, the first call for regional project and programme proposals was issued and an invitation letter to eligible Parties to submit project and programme proposals to the Fund was sent out on 5 May 2015.

7. At its twenty-sixth meeting the Board decided *to request the secretariat to inform the Multilateral Implementing Entities and Regional Implementing Entities that the call for proposals under the Pilot Programme for Regional Projects and Programmes is still open and to encourage them to submit proposals to the Board at its 27th meeting, bearing in mind the cap established by Decision B.25/26.*

(Decision B.26/3)

8. At its twenty-seventh meeting the Board decided to:
- (a) *Continue consideration of regional project and programme proposals under the pilot programme, while reminding the implementing entities that the amount set aside for the pilot programme is US\$ 30 million;*
 - (b) *Request the secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Project and Programme Review Committee at its nineteenth meeting, a proposal for prioritization among regional project/programme proposals, including for awarding project formulation grants, and for establishment of a pipeline; and*
 - (c) *Consider the matter of the pilot programme for regional projects and programmes at its twenty-eighth meeting.*

(Decision B.27/5)

9. The proposal requested in (b) above was presented to the nineteenth meeting of the PPRC as document AFB/PPRC.19/5. The Board subsequently decided:

- a) *With regard to the pilot programme approved by decision B.25/28:*
 - (i) *To prioritize the four projects and 10 project formulation grants as follows:*
 - 1. *If the proposals recommended to be funded in a given meeting of the PPRC do not exceed the available slots under the pilot programme, all those proposals would be submitted to the Board for funding;*
 - 2. *If the proposals recommended to be funded in a given meeting of the PPRC do exceed the available slots under the pilot programme, the proposals to be funded under the pilot programme would be prioritized so that the total number of projects and project formulation grants (PFGs) under the programme maximizes the total diversity of projects/PFGs. This would be done using a three-tier prioritization system: so that the proposals in relatively less funded sectors would be prioritized as the first level of prioritization. If there are more than one proposal in the same sector: the proposals in relatively less funded regions are prioritized as the second level of prioritization. If there are more than one proposal in the same region, the proposals submitted by relatively less represented implementing entity would be prioritized as the third level of prioritization;*
 - (ii) *To request the secretariat to report on the progress and experiences of the pilot programme to the PPRC at its twenty-third meeting; and*

b) With regard to financing regional proposals beyond the pilot programme referred to above:

(i) *To continue considering regional proposals for funding, within the two categories originally described in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2: ones requesting up to US\$ 14 million, and others requesting up to US\$ 5 million, subject to review of the regional programme;*

(ii) *To establish two pipelines for technically cleared regional proposals: one for proposals up to US\$ 14 million and the other for proposals up to US\$ 5 million, and place any technically cleared regional proposals, in those pipelines, in the order described in decision B.17/19 (their date of recommendation by the PPRC, their submission date, their lower “net” cost); and*

(iii) *To fund projects from the two pipelines, using funds available for the respective types of implementing entities, so that the maximum number of or maximum total funding for projects and project formulation grants to be approved each fiscal year will be outlined at the time of approving the annual work plan of the Board.*

(Decision B.28/1)

10. At its thirty-first meeting, having considered the comments and recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

(a) *To merge the two pipelines for technically cleared regional proposals established in decision B.28/1(b)(ii), so that starting in fiscal year 2019 the provisional amount of funding for regional proposals would be allocated without distinction between the two categories originally described in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2, and that the funding of regional proposals would be established on a ‘first come, first served’ basis; and*

(b) *To include in its work programme for fiscal year 2019 provision of an amount of US\$ 60 million for the funding of regional project and programme proposals, as follows:*

(i) *Up to US\$ 59 million to be used for funding regional project and programme proposals in the two categories of regional projects and programmes: ones requesting up to US \$14 million, and others requesting up to US\$ 5 million; and*

(ii) *Up to US\$ 1 million for funding project formulation grant requests for preparing regional project and programme concepts or fully-developed project and programme documents.*

(Decision B.31/3)

11. According to the Board Decision B.12/10, a project or programme proposal needs to be received by the secretariat no less than nine weeks before a Board meeting, in order to be considered by the Board in that meeting.
12. The following project pre-concept document titled “Towards a Climate Risks Shield in the Mono River Basin (Benin, Togo): Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change through Integrated Water Resources and Flood Management (Project: BOUCLIER-CLIMAT1/Mono)” was submitted for Benin and Togo by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which is a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.
13. This is the first submission of the regional project pre-concept proposal, using the three-step submission process.
14. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the thirty seventh Board meeting. The secretariat carried out a technical review of the project proposal, with the diary number AF00000267, and completed a review sheet.
15. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with UN-Habitat, and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.
16. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC the summary and, pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, both prepared by the secretariat, along with the final submission of the proposal in the following section. In accordance with decision B.25.15, the proposal is submitted with changes between the initial submission and the revised version highlighted.



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Pre-Concept for a Regional Project

Countries/Region:	Benin, Togo
Project Title:	Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management
Thematic focal area:	Transboundary water management
Implementing Entity:	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
Executing Entities:	Mono Basin Authority (MBA) and Global Water Partnership in West Africa (GWP-WA)
AF Project ID:	AF00000267
IE Project ID:	Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): USD 14,000,000
Reviewer and contact person:	Mahamat Assouyouiti Co-reviewer(s): Astrid Hillers
IE Contact Person(s):	

Technical Summary	<p>The project “Towards a climate risks shield in the Mono River Basin (Benin, Togo): Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management” aims to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities and develop their adaptation capacities to climate change in the Mono catchment. This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1</u> : Operationalizing effective decision support tools to strengthen climate change adaptation planning in the in the catchment through improved knowledge and the development of a multi-hazard early warning system (USD 4,000,000).</p> <p><u>Component 2</u> : Implementing priority actions to build community resilience in the basin (USD 7,000,000).</p> <p><u>Component 3</u> : Capacity building, awareness raising and knowledge sharing (USD 1,000,000).</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u> Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 1,040,000</p>
--------------------------	--

	<p>Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 12,000,000 Implementing Fee: USD 960,000 Financing Requested: USD 14,000,000</p> <p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant USD 20,000.</p> <p>The initial technical review raises several issues, such as mismatch between the project objective and its regional synergistic approach, the need for more clarity on the project activities and deliverables, the need for outlining complementarity with other existing projects, and the roles of executing entities, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p>
Date	

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments	Comments 9/22/2021
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol?	Yes.	-
	2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The transboundary Mono River Catchment located in West Africa and which catchment is shared by Benin and Togo has been severely affected by climate change threats. Over the past 30 years, several changes in the climate regime have been observed in this catchment including (i) an increase in the average annual temperature of up to 1°C; (ii) a reduction in the number of rainy days; and iii) an increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts and extreme rainfall events. Similarly, prediction provided by climate models indicate (i) a continued increase in the mean annual temperature up to 2100, (about 2.7°C in 2100</p>	-

		compared to 2015) and (ii) an increase in intra-annual precipitation variability.	
Project Eligibility	1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	Yes. As per endorsement letter dated 3 August 2021.	-
	2. Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective?	To a large extent, yes. Overall, the pre-concept note articulates well the problem related to better information services and its impact on the catchment area management. The information provided in the document explains the need for better data, flood warning and capacity strengthening of institutions on regional, national and local levels has been laid out and detail commensurate with a pre-concept level.	-
	3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?	Largely yes. The following clarifications are needed: CR1: It is important to clarify and articulate well the project objective towards what is described as strengthening community adaptation and resilience. There is a mismatch between the objective which focusses on community adaptation and resilience and the regional and national synergistic approach of the project and its activities. This should be reconciliated and the project objective updated.	CR1: Addressed , as per the additional information provided in pages 2 and 3.

		<p>CR2: Outcome 1 aims for a multi-hazard early warning system (flood, drought and food insecurity). The target audience, dissemination means, speed of onset of these events and underlying information requirements vary across these hazards and it is recommended to revise the feasibility of such a wide sweeping goal. In fact, the project description later on is clear that the project will focus on flood early warning. Please consider making that focus clear from the onset.</p> <p>CR3: The project focus on flood warning at regional, national and local levels is unclear and might create a risk that there may be a functioning regional early warning system in the end, but little provision to work with the end users at local level to have a flood management and a locally appropriate response plan and communication channels in place (incl. implicit gender dimensions and attention to vulnerable groups). Please clarify the focus and functions of the system at each level.</p> <p>CR4: Under outcomes 2, while at pre-concept stage, the description of what the activities will entail and what livelihood systems (mentioned</p>	<p>CR2: Sufficiently addressed at this stage of project development, as per the additional information in pages 2 and 3</p> <p>CR3: Addressed, as per the additional information provided in paragraph 10.</p> <p>CR4: Addressed, as per the additional information provided in page 3</p>
--	--	---	---

		<p>are e.g, fishing, irrigated agriculture and livestock farming, non-timber products and processing infrastructure), what target groups and ecological systems (river bank rehab, water and soil rehab, riparian forest and catchments heads) is extremely broad. Even at preconcept stage some consideration needs to be given to a focus of the project activities and realism of what a project can deliver in terms of variety of actions and players that therefore need to be involved; for how many people and what areas (in hectares). As written, the scope of the project is too wide and there is no mention on how the choice of these mostly local activities is to be driven bottom up. Please provide more specificity.</p> <p>CR5: Furthermore, for component 2, please provide some indication if these activities on community level e.g. involving women and youth will be “one-off grants” or if there could be consideration to establish community revolving funds or microgrants mechanisms which would contribute to sustainability.</p>	<p>CR5: Sufficiently addressed at this stage of project development. At full proposal stage, please consider under component 2 a specific % of funds earmarked for access by women or women’s groups</p>
	<p>4. Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how: - it supports concrete adaptation actions? - it builds added value</p>	<p>Unclear. The following clarifications are needed:</p> <p>CR6: the project aims to promote adaptation actions (react to extreme events) and aim to increase resilience, but as mentioned earlier the sweep of activities is too broad.</p>	<p>CR6: Addressed as per CR4 above.</p>

	<p>through the regional approach?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it promotes new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation? - it is cost-effective? - it is consistent with applicable strategies and plans? - it incorporates learning and knowledge management? - it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund? - it will take into account sustainability? 	<p>CR7: the regional approach is justified: 1. Flood early warning in this shared river system will require up- and down stream collaboration and information exchange as well as agreement on the dam operation and releases in times of floods and droughts between the two countries; 2. There will be economies of scale for regional gathering of a range of physical data by remote means and providing data and information services to national entities. That said, the latter point is not well elaborated nor reference made to the mandates and institutional structure of the MBA. Please elaborate further on this.</p> <p>CR8: Please also note that there should be reference on how the proposed project aligns with the Mono Basin Authority Regional Strategic Plan. In that plan we understand there is mention of the Mono Basin Observatory and the aim for a Mono River Basin climate Investment. Hence please show linkages to this.</p>	<p>CR7: Sufficiently addressed at this stage of project development, as per the additional information provided in page 5.</p> <p>CR8: Addressed, as per the revised section Part II Parag 17</p>
--	---	--	---

		<p>CR9: Furthermore, given the potential complementarity with the Mono River Basin GEF project which has been GEF Council approved in June 2021 and will also support hydroclimatic information gathering, flood modelling, pilot actions, MBA strengthening and establishment of sub-basin management structures, it is important to elaborate on any potential duplication or complementarity. The GEF project is executed at regional level by the same entities (i.e. MBA, OSS and GWP-WA) and therefore these linkages and synergies should be easily built into the revised concept. Furthermore, in the low ranges of the river there are coordination needs with relevant WACA investments (some of which also GEF IW funded).</p> <p>https://www.thegef.org/project/regional-initiative-water-and-environment-transboundary-basin-mono-river-riwe-mono</p> <p>CR10: under Component 3, please describe the type of capacity building/scope of activities to strengthen the MBA and national counterpart agencies.</p>	<p>CR9: Addressed. Further details on potential complementarity with GEF funded project have been added under Part II (paragraphs 15 and 25).</p> <p>CR10: Addressed. However, at full development stage, please detail further how MBA and national counterpart agencies will be strengthened to promote coordination at</p>
--	--	--	---

		<p>CR11: In addition please be more clear what the target groups are for the KM activities. If local communities are the ones to target in order to scale up action across the basin then the KM tools and media need to be designed with this in mind. Again, cooperation with the GEF funded project should be part of the project design (and mentioned in the revised full concept).</p> <p>CR12: although at pre-concept note, please outline the applicable safeguard policies and instruments as well as any initial assessment of environment and social measures the proposal will adhere to.</p> <p>CR13: This pre-concept should be strengthened to include how the proposed EWS will achieve as much impact for the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities living in the area.</p> <p>CR14: Please clarify how the project will ensure the diverse engagement of all stakeholders during consultations including women; youth, indigenous people, CSOs and local actors.</p>	<p>national and regional level.</p> <p>CR11: Addressed, as per the information provided in paragraphs 13 and 25.</p> <p>CR12: Addressed, as per revised section II paragraph 22</p> <p>CR13: Sufficiently addressed at this stage of project development. However, at full project development stage, please elaborate further on the adaptation benefit generated by the proposed EWS with tentative figures for baseline and targets.</p> <p>CR14: Sufficiently addressed at this stage of project development</p>
	5. Does the pre-concept briefly explain which	Not fully.	

	<p>organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/programme at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged? Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?</p>	<p>CR15- The pre-concept needs to be more clear what the role of the MBA is on regional level and which national and local institutional structures will be involved, incl. local extension services to improve agro-pastoral practices. By the time a full concept will be submitted there needs to be an outline of the relevant existing institutional structures on national and local levels in Togo and Benin through which this project will work. Also, please clarify which options are being considered for lead agency at national levels to host the NMUs?</p>	<p>CR15: Addressed. We suggest to clarify roles and responsibility of each entity at full development stage in particular the coordination mechanism as well as the executing entities at national level.</p>
Resource Availability	<p>6. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Project Formulation Grant (PFG) has been requested.</p>	-
	<p>7. Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 20 per cent of the total project/programme budget?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	-

Eligibility of IE	8. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	Yes.	-
-------------------	--	------	---



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Pre-Concept for a Regional Project

Countries/Region:	Benin, Togo
Project Title:	Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management
Thematic focal area:	Transboundary water management
Implementing Entity:	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
Executing Entities:	Mono Basin Authority (MBA) and Global Water Partnership in West Africa (GWP-WA)
AF Project ID:	AF00000267
IE Project ID:	Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): USD 14,000,000
Reviewer and contact person:	Mahamat Assouyouiti Co-reviewer(s): Astrid Hillers
IE Contact Person(s):	

Technical Summary	<p>The project “Towards a climate risks shield in the Mono River Basin (Benin, Togo): Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management” aims to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities and develop their adaptation capacities to climate change in the Mono catchment. This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1</u> : Operationalizing effective decision support tools to strengthen climate change adaptation planning in the in the catchment through improved knowledge and the development of a multi-hazard early warning system (USD 4,000,000).</p> <p><u>Component 2</u> : Implementing priority actions to build community resilience in the basin (USD 7,000,000).</p> <p><u>Component 3</u> : Capacity building, awareness raising and knowledge sharing (USD 1,000,000).</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u> Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 1,040,000</p>
--------------------------	--

	<p>Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 12,000,000 Implementing Fee: USD 960,000 Financing Requested: USD 14,000,000</p> <p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant USD 20,000.</p> <p>The initial technical review raises several issues, such as mismatch between the project objective and its regional synergistic approach, the need for more clarity on the project activities and deliverables, the need for outlining complementarity with other existing projects, and the roles of executing entities, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p>
Date	

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments	OSS responses (08/09/2021)
Country Eligibility	3. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol?	Yes.	
	4. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	Yes. The transboundary Mono River Catchment located in West Africa and which catchment is shared by Benin and Togo has been severely affected by climate change threats. Over the past 30 years, several changes in the climate regime have been observed in this catchment including (i) an increase in the average annual temperature of up to 1°C; (ii) a reduction in the number of rainy days; and (iii) an increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts and extreme rainfall events. Similarly, prediction provided by climate models indicate (i) a continued	

		increase in the mean annual temperature up to 2100, (about 2.7°C in 2100 compared to 2015) and (ii) an increase in intra-annual precipitation variability.	
Project Eligibility	9. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	Yes. As per endorsement letter dated 3 August 2021.	
	10. Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective?	To a large extent, yes. Overall, the pre-concept note articulates well the problem related to better information services and its impact on the catchment area management. The information provided in the document explains the need for better data, flood warning and capacity strengthening of institutions on regional, national and local levels has been laid out and detail commensurate with a pre-concept level.	
	11. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?	Largely yes. The following clarifications are needed: CR1: It is important to clarify and articulate well the project objective towards what is described as strengthening community adaptation and resilience. There is a mismatch between the objective which	CR1: The project's objective is rephrased with emphasis on the salient elements of the project's intervention. See Part I, Pages 2 and 3, §.2 project

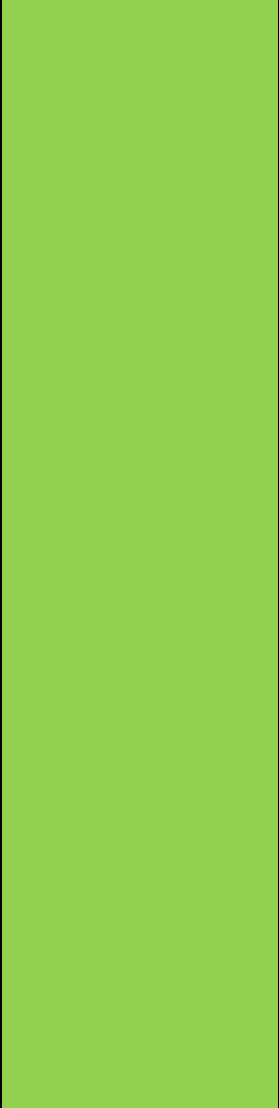
		<p>focusses on community adaptation and resilience and the regional and national synergistic approach of the project and its activities. This should be reconciliated and the project objective updated.</p>	<p>objectives (paragraphs 8 et 9) of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is highlighted</p> <p>Also, we slightly reformulate components 1 and 2 as well as their respective outcomes and outputs in order to make more clear the proposed interventions and their link with the objective</p> <p>See Part I, page 3, §.3 project Components and financing and Part II (paragraphs 10 and 11) of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is highlighted</p>
		<p>CR2: Outcome 1 aims for a multi-hazard early warning system (flood, drought and food insecurity). The target audience, dissemination means, speed of onset of these events and underlying information requirements vary across these hazards and it is recommended to revise the feasibility of such a wide sweeping goal. In fact, the project description later on is clear that the project will focus on flood early warning. Please consider making that focus clear from the onset.</p>	<p>CR2: In accordance with the reviewer's observations, the project will be focusing on the implementation of an early warning system dedicated exclusively to floods, this risk being the most important in the basin. Thus, we've now clearly mentioned it in the document within the different parts that deal with the subject: objective, component 1, Outcome 1.1, output 1.1.4</p> <p>See Part I, Pages 2 and 3, §.2 project objectives; §.3 project Components and financing (Component 1) and</p>

		<p>CR3: The project focus on flood warning at regional, national and local levels is unclear and might create a risk that there may be a functioning regional early warning system in the end, but little provision to work with the end users at local level to have a flood management and a locally appropriate response plan and communication channels in place (incl. implicit gender dimensions and attention to vulnerable groups). Please clarify the focus and functions of the system at each level.</p> <p>CR4: Under outcomes 2, while at pre-concept stage, the description of what the activities will entail and what livelihood systems (mentioned are e.g, fishing, irrigated agriculture and livestock farming, non-timber products and processing infrastructure), what target groups and ecological systems (river bank rehab, water and soil rehab, riparian forest and catchments heads) is extremely broad. Even at preconcept stage some consideration needs to be given to a focus of the project activities and realism of what</p>	<p>Part II (paragraphs 10 and 11) of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is highlighted</p> <p>CR3: The flood Early Warning System (EWS) objective is restated and the roles and functions of the actors at different levels (regional, national, local and community) for its efficient implementation are described See Part II project/programme justification; paragraph 10 of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is highlighted</p> <p>CR4: The scope of activities are reduced and more details are provided on the target values (e.g. areas to be developed/rehabilitated, number of beneficiaries and their categories), in line with the requested budget.) A budgetary adjustment is also made regarding components 1 and 2 in order to adequately achieve the objectives. See Part I, Pages 3, §.3 project Components and financing</p>
--	--	--	---

		<p>a project can deliver in terms of variety of actions and players that therefore need to be involved; for how many people and what areas (in hectares). As written, the scope of the project is too wide and there is no mention on how the choice of these mostly local activities is to be driven bottom up. Please provide more specificity.</p> <p>CR5: Furthermore, for component 2, please provide some indication if these activities on community level e.g. involving women and youth will be “one-off grants” or if there could be consideration to establish community revolving funds or microgrants mechanisms which would contribute to sustainability.</p>	<p>(Component 2) and Part II (paragraph 11) of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is highlighted</p> <p>CR5: This clarification is provided. We plan to implement both types of financial support depending on the type of activity.</p> <p>For precisions, see Part II (paragraph 11) of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is highlighted</p>
	<p>12. Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it supports concrete adaptation actions? - it builds added value through the regional approach? - it promotes new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation? 	<p>Unclear. The following clarifications are needed:</p> <p>CR6: the project aims to promote adaptation actions (react to extreme events) and aim to increase resilience, but as mentioned earlier the sweep of activities is too broad.</p>	<p>CR6: We note this with thanks As indicated in the comment in comment 4 (CR4) above, the scope of activities has been reduced and more details have been provided See Part I, Pages 3, §.3 project Components and financing (Component 2) and Part II (paragraph 11) of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is yellow highlighted</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is cost-effective? - it is consistent with applicable strategies and plans? - it incorporates learning and knowledge management? - it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund? - it will take into account sustainability? 	<p>CR7: the regional approach is justified: 1. Flood early warning in this shared river system will require up- and down stream collaboration and information exchange as well as agreement on the dam operation and releases in times of floods and droughts between the two countries; 2. There will be economies of scale for regional gathering of a range of physical data by remote means and providing data and information services to national entities. That said, the latter point is not well elaborated nor reference made to the mandates and institutional structure of the MBA. Please elaborate further on this.</p> <p>CR8: Please also note that there should be reference on how the proposed project aligns with the Mono Basin Authority Regional Strategic Plan. In that plan we understand there is mention of the Mono Basin Observatory and the aim for a Mono River Basin climate Investment. Hence please show linkages to this.</p> <p>CR9: Furthermore, given the potential complementarity with the Mono River</p>	<p>CR7: Information is provided on the ABM's mandate regarding the regional coordination, data collection, sharing and exchange. <i>For precisions, see Part II (paragraph 16), Page 5 of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is yellow highlighted</i></p> <p>CR8: Linkage of this project's actions to the Mono Strategic Plan (2016) as well as its new "State of play" report (2020) is well stated. <i>See Part II (paragraph 17), Page 5 of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is yellow highlighted</i></p> <p>CR9: Well noted. The two projects are very complementary. We have provided the required details. In fact,</p>
--	---	--	---

		<p>Basin GEF project which has been GEF Council approved in June 2021 and will also support hydroclimatic information gathering, flood modelling, pilot actions, MBA strengthening and establishment of sub-basin management structures, it is important to elaborate on any potential duplication or complementarity. The GEF project is executed at regional level by the same entities (i.e. MBA, OSS and GWP-WA) and therefore these linkages and synergies should be easily built into the revised concept. Furthermore, in the low ranges of the river there are coordination needs with relevant WACA investments (some of which also GEF IW funded).</p> <p>https://www.thegef.org/project/regional-initiative-water-and-environment-transboundary-basin-mono-river-riwe-mono</p> <p>CR10: under Component 3, please describe the type of capacity building/scope of activities to strengthen</p>	<p>the RIWE project financed by GEF/IUCN will elaborate the scientific, technical and institutional base tools for planning, governance and sustainable management of water resources and associated ecosystems in the basin. This process will be supported by the implementation of a couple of pilots on specific themes and well-defined sites to test the feasibility of the proposed solutions, in particular in the framework of the TDA/SAP process. As far as the support to the AF is concerned, it will contribute to support the implementation of the GEF project tools (e.g. strengthening networks and data to feed the regional database set up by the GEF/IUCN project, extending CC adaptation measures on the ground, etc). As the implementing actors of the two projects are the same, this will be easy to make the two projects consistent.</p> <p>See Part II (paragraphs 15 and 25), Page 5 of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is yellow highlighted</p> <p>CR10: Description is provided regarding capacity building/scope of activities to strengthen the MBA and national counterpart agencies</p>
--	--	--	---

		<p>the MBA and national counterpart agencies.</p> <p>CR11: In addition please be more clear what the target groups are for the KM activities. If local communities are the ones to target in order to scale up action across the basin then the KM tools and media need to be designed with this in mind. Again, cooperation with the GEF funded project should be part of the project design (and mentioned in the revised full concept).</p> <p>CR12: although at pre-concept note, please outline the applicable safeguard policies and instruments as well as any initial assessment of environment and social measures the proposal will adhere to.</p> <p>CR13: This pre-concept should be strengthened to include how the proposed EWS will achieve as much impact for the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities living in the area.</p>	<p>See Part I, Page 3; §.3 project Components and Financing (Output 3.1) and Part II; paragraph 13, Page 4 of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is yellow highlighted</p> <p>CR11: Target groups along with needed tools for the KM activities as well as complementarities with GEF funded and other projects are described</p> <p>See Part II (paragraphs 13 and 25), of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is yellow highlighted</p> <p>CR12: For this clarification, See Part II (paragraph 22) of the Pre-concept note.</p> <p>CR13: For this information, See Part II (paragraph 26), Page 6 of the Pre-concept note.</p>
--	--	--	---

		<p>CR14: Please clarify how the project will ensure the diverse engagement of all stakeholders during consultations including women; youth, indigenous people, CSOs and local actors.</p>	<p>CR14: For this clarification, <i>See Part II, paragraph 21, of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is yellow highlighted</i></p>
	<p>13. Does the pre-concept briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/programme at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged? Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?</p>	<p>Not fully.</p> <p>CR15- The pre-concept needs to be more clear what the role of the MBA is on regional level and which national and local institutional structures will be involved, incl. local extension services to improve agro-pastoral practices. By the time a full concept will be submitted there needs to be an outline of the relevant existing institutional structures on national and local levels in Togo and Benin through which this project will work. Also, please clarify which options are being considered for lead agency at national levels to host the NMUs?</p>	<p>CR15- Details on the role of each executing entity is provided, mainly the MBA and its main national institutional partners in the 2 countries</p> <p><i>See Part III, paragraphs 29 and 30, of the Pre-concept note. The revised text is yellow highlighted</i></p>
Resource Availability	<p>14. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Project Formulation Grant (PFG) has been requested.</p>	
	<p>15. Are the administrative costs (Implementing</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	

	Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 20 per cent of the total project/programme budget?		
Eligibility of IE	16. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	Yes.	



ADAPTATION FUND

PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

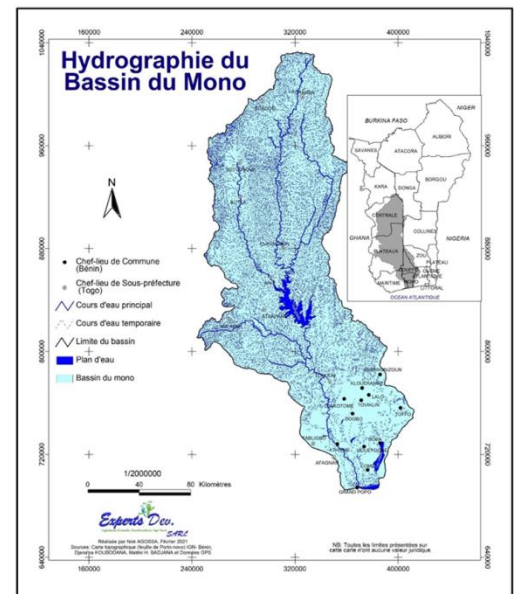
PART I : PROJECT INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme : Towards a climate risks shield in the Mono River Basin (Benin, Togo): Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management
(Project: **BOUCLIER-CLIMAT¹/Mono**)

Countries: Benin and Togo
 Thematic Focal Area²: Transboundary water management
 Type of Implementing Entity: Regional Implementing Entity (RIE)
 Implementing Entity: Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
 Executing Entities: Mono Basin Authority (MBA)
 Global Water Partnership in West Africa (GWP-WA)
 Amount of Financing Requested: 14,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

1. Project Background and Context

- The transboundary Mono River Catchment, located in West Africa with its main course of nearly 530 km, covers almost 24,300 km². The catchment is shared by Benin (with 3,000 km², i.e. 2.14% of the country's territory) and Togo (with 21,300 km², i.e. 38% of the country's territory) and has two climatic³ zones: the sub-equatorial zone in the southern part with two rainy seasons and two dry seasons in the year, and the tropical zone in the northern part with one rainy season and one dry season. The average annual rainfall ranges from 900 mm in the south-eastern plains to 1200 mm in the north-western highlands. The average annual temperature is around 28°C.
- The catchment has a rich set of wetland ecosystems consisting mainly of large marine and coastal ecosystems. Three Ramsar sites have been recognized namely Lake Toho in Benin and the Protected Area Complex of Togodo and the Coastal part in Togo.
- The current population is estimated at 4,000,000 inhabitants⁴ with a high spatial density of 70 to 300 inhabitants/km², of which 58% live in Togo and 42% on Benin. The rural population of the basin is around 70%. The main economic activities are: Subsistence and cash crop agriculture (extensive and rain-fed), fishing, traditional agri-food processing, small-scale livestock farming and forestry. Other growing economic sectors are industry, trade, mining, energy, leisure and tourism. The Nangbeto power dam (1.7 billion m³; 60 MW and 148 GWh/year), is built on the Mono River and is common to the two states to which it contributes to the satisfaction of their electricity needs. Regarding the economic situation, even though it has improved in the recent years, Benin and Togo are still among the poorest in the world: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in 2019 is US\$ 1201 for Benin and US\$ 845 for Togo⁵.
- The natural resources that characterizes the Mono river catchment are of vital importance to the economic structure and the development of the riparian countries. However, the project area faces major challenges to meet the growing



¹ Since the two countries are francophone, the acronym "Bouclier Climat" (French meaning of "Climate Shield") will be adopted.

² Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

³ Amoussou, E. et al. (2020). Climate and Extreme Rainfall Events in the Mono River Basin (West Africa): Investigating Future Changes with Regional Climate Models. *Water* 2020, 12, 833; doi:10.3390/w12030833 .pp 832-858.

⁴ Extrapolated value based on 2010 population data: 3,400,000 inhabitants in 2010 with an annual growth rate of 2.5

⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/Index>.

development needs and fully contribute to the improvement of the communities' socio-economic conditions. The most important challenges are related to the significant degradation of the catchment environment, which is strongly exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, making the communities and ecosystems very vulnerable to these climatic effects. Indeed, over the past 30 years, several changes in the climate regime have been observed in this catchment^{6,7,8,9}. This main changes include : i) an increase in the average annual temperature of up to 1°C; ii) a reduction in the number of rainy days; and iii) an increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts and extreme rainfall events. Similarly, prediction provided by climate models indicate (i) a continued increase in the mean annual temperature up to 2100, (about 2.7°C in 2100 compared to 2015) and (ii) an increase in intra-annual precipitation variability.

5. The direct effects of these changes, particularly on rural communities, include ^{10,11} :
 - Cyclical and catastrophic flooding (between June and October). For example, the floods of 2010, have affected vast areas, especially in the downstream part of the catchment and its lower basin. During October 2019, exceptional rains have caused serious damages in the localities of the Mono administrative department (in Benin) and the Maritime region (in Togo)^{12,13}:
 - Flooding of about 4,100 hectares in the downstream part;
 - About 15,000 households and more than 60,000 people in nearly 200 villages are affected;
 - The inaccessibility and degradation of several public buildings and basic social infrastructures (health centers, schools, water points, roads, etc.).
 - The increase in the frequency and the intensification of drought, is resulting in more lengthy dry seasons and a delay in the starting of the rainy season^{14,15} and its duration. Drought episodes includes drying of soils, reduced surface runoff, and utilized agricultural land thus increasing food insecurity and affecting community livelihoods. For example, climate change has been shown to reduce yields of maize, the main food crop in the catchment¹⁶ by about 25%. In the same way, cessation of flow due to the drying up of the river has been noted in some parts of the basin in recent years which has had as an impact, the shortage of water supply for irrigation, mainly in certain rice production areas such as Dézé¹⁷.
 - The Atlantic Ocean level rise the in coastal areas, resulting in the saline intrusion in coastal aquifers ;
6. It is also established that the effects of these floods are amplified by the release of water from the Nangbeto hydroelectric dam as well as the closure of the river's outlet in Benin "la bouche du Roi". The collateral damage of these climatic risks includes (i) health and hygiene risks due to contamination of drinking water sources by spilled latrine water, (ii) spread of water-borne and hydro-fecal diseases (cholera, diarrhea diseases, malaria, etc); (iii) food insecurity.
7. In order to better identify and implement appropriate approaches to managing the catchments' transboundary environmental problems and challenges, the two states recently created (in 2014) the Mono Basin Authority (MBA). The present proposal aims to support the MBA in addressing the priority climate problems in the catchment through the implementation of concrete adaptation actions.

2. Project Objectives

8. **The global objective of the project is to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities in the Mono catchment through the development of adaptive capacities to recurrent floods risks and promotion of sustainable and equitable water resources and related ecosystems uses and management**
9. The specific objectives of the project are:

⁵ Crétat, J.; Vizy, E.K.; Cook, K.H. How well are daily intense rainfall events captured by current climate models over Africa? *Clim. Dyn.* 2014, 42, 2691–2711.

⁶ Amoussou, E. et al. (2020). Climate and Extreme Rainfall Events in the Mono River Basin (West Africa): Investigating Future Changes with Regional Climate Models. *Water* 2020, 12, 833; doi:10.3390/w12030833 .pp 832-858.

⁷ Scenarios A1B and B1 put forward by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and predictions for climate parameters at the 2020, 2025, 2050, 2075 and 2100 horizons were then made by running Atmospheric Ocean General Circulation Models (AOGCM).

⁸ https://www.scrip.org/pdf/JGIS_2015122316114570.pdf

¹⁰ ECOWAS ; MBA (2016). Plan stratégique (2016-2020) de l'Autorité du Bassin du Mono (PS-ABM).

¹¹ <https://www.unbonn.org/news/researchers-study-floods-and-transboundary-river-catchment-togo-and-benin>

¹² UNITAR & UNOSTAT (2019). Inondations : Analyse des images du 26 Octobre 2019 - Préfecture de Lacs, Région Maritime, Togo. FL20191029TGO. <http://floodlist.com/africa/togo-benin-mono-river-floods-october-november-2019>.

¹³ UNDP & ANPC (2020). Inondations de 2019 au Bénin - Rapport d'évaluation des besoins post catastrophe. 133p

¹⁴ Gouvernement du Bénin, 2011. Deuxième Communication Nationale sur les changements climatiques.

¹⁵ Amoussou E. (2015). Analyse hydrométéorologique des crues dans le bassin-versant du Mono en Afrique de l'Ouest avec un modèle conceptuel pluie-débit. halshs-01143318

¹⁶ Erik Engel et Al. (2017). Benin: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Transformation – Country study. SLE Discussion Paper 02/2017-en. Centre for Rural Development (SLE), Berlin

¹⁷ Jean GUEDESSOU (2009). Enjeux des changements climatiques dans la mise en œuvre du projet d'aménagement hydroagricole de la basse vallée du fleuve Mono. 14^e colloque international de l'IEPF et du SIFEE, Niamey 2009

- To ensure the long-term monitoring of climate risks through the production of reliable scientific data and information, at local, national and trans boundary levels in the Mono River Basin;
- To develop and implement a regional flood early warning system for vulnerable communities disaster risk reduction;
- To implement concrete adaptation actions to build the resilience of the most vulnerable communities;
- To strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the MBA and its stakeholders.

3. Project Components and Financing

Project Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
1. Operationalizing effective decision support tools to strengthen climate change adaptation planning in the catchment through improved knowledge and the development of a basin-wide flood early warning system	1.1. Tools for effective and sustainable responses to extreme climate risks and adaptation, supported by required data and information are tailored and operationalized in the Mono basin	1.1.1. The hydro-agro-climatic monitoring network (surface/groundwater; meteo) of the basin is optimized and made operational; 1.1.2 Innovative hydro-climatic data and information monitoring tools (remote sensing, GIS/geo-portal, remote transmission, automated stations) are deployed to support in situ tools (hydro-agro-climatic monitoring network); 1.1.3 A basin wide integrated climate risk assessment and monitoring model is developed and implemented; 1.1.4 A basin-wide flood early warning system is tailored and operationalized	Benin, Togo	3,000,000
2. Implementing priority actions in the most vulnerable zone to climate change in the basin with the aim of building community resilience	2.1 Water resources availability (quantity and quality) is enhanced and ecosystem services as well as vulnerable communities livelihoods and incomes are diversified and strengthened	2.1.1.The degraded riverbanks in the critical areas (hotspots) are rehabilitated and stabilized through the realization of at least 150 ha of vegetal material protection (reforestation, agroforestry, Assisted Natural Regeneration, etc.) and 2,000 linear meters (lm) of mechanical protection; 2.1.2 - Basin heads of the Mono River main course and 2 of its major tributaries' are protected through the rehabilitation and development of at least 350 ha in critical areas via, reforestation, afforestation, soil conservation protection actions, etc; 2.1.3 Livelihoods and incomes of the most vulnerable communities, particularly youth and women, are increased through support for (i) the implementation of income-generating activities targeting 5,000 beneficiaries and (ii) the development of 4 small-scale (02 in each country) non-timber forest product processing units benefiting 500 beneficiaries	Benin, Togo	8,000,000
3. Capacity building, awareness raising and knowledge sharing	3.1. The operational capacities of the target stakeholders (MBA Executive Secretariat, national hydrological department and communities) are strengthened in response to climate change and knowledge is capitalized.	3.1. The capacities (training and office equipment) of the MBA Executive Secretariat, the national hydrological departments and the National Civil Protection Agencies of both countries are strengthened. 3.1.2. Communities in the target areas are provided with awareness and training in climate change resilience. 3.1.3. Communication products are developed and lessons learned from the project are disseminated/shared	Benin, Togo	1,000,000
6. Project/Programme Execution cost (9,5% of Total Project Cost)				1,040,000
7. Total Project/Programme Cost				12,000,000
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable) 8,5% of Total Project Cost				960,000,000
Amount of Financing Requested				14, 000, 000

4. Project Duration

05 years (60 months)

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

10. **Component 1: Operationalizing effective decision support tools to strengthen climate change adaptation planning in the Basin through improved knowledge and the development of a basin-wide flood early warning system (US \$ 3,000,000).** This component Outcome is to operationalize a modern and efficient regional flood early warning system (EWS) in the Mono basin and to support the production of reliable data and information for the effective functioning of the EWS. Therefore, the achievement of this goal will be based on the optimization and strengthening of the hydro-climatic data collection network as well as the provision of such data, the development of a climate risk management model and the development of the flood EWS and its operationalization. The operationalization of the flood EWS will build on existing ones in both countries, notably the national flood management and response plans, and will involve stakeholders at all levels (regional, national

and local/community). In order to be truly effective, an implementation scheme for this plan (to be further refined at concept note and full proposal phase) is drawn as follow:

- **At the national and local levels:** Establishment of the (i) *Mono flood EWS National Coordination Unit* involving existing national EWS actors and which will ensure national coordination, (ii) *Local Early Warning Units*, set up in localities bordering the river in vulnerable target areas and (iii) *Community Relays* whose role is to support the activities of local antennas.
 - **At the regional level:** The Mono Basin Regional Early Warning Unit hosted by the Executive Directorate of the Mono Basin Authority (MBA) will be set up and linked to each of the two National Units operating in the two countries. It will constitute the main interface of the Mono Basin regional EWS with the major duties of (i) ensuring the junction and the relay between the 2 National Units, (ii) supporting the implementation of the activities of the National Units, by contributing to the reinforcement of capacities for the deployment of emergency plans.
11. **Component 2: Implementing priority actions in the most vulnerable zone to climate change in the basin with the aim of building community resilience (USD 8,000,000).** This component intends to deploy concrete actions on the ground to strengthen communities' adaptation and resilience. The priority proposed actions include the rehabilitation and protection of about 500 ha of land (headwaters of rivers and degraded river banks) by biophysical protection means (reforestation, agroforestry, Assisted Natural Regeneration, etc), the installation of about 2000 linear meters of mechanical bank protection, the implementation of income generating activities (IGAs) and capacity building actions targeting at least 6500 direct beneficiaries in vulnerable areas. The IGAs will be targeted primarily at vulnerable groups, particularly women and young people or groups of such beneficiaries. It is planned to support the implementation of the actions through two financial mechanisms:
- One-off grants for community activities and/or micro-projects generating environmental benefits such as water and soil conservation, agroforestry, reforestation, fishing, development and management of grazing areas, etc.
 - Revolving funds (Low-interest micro-credits) for income-generating activities (IGAs) targeting activities such as small-scale irrigation/ market gardening, fishing, livestock, non-timber forest product processing, ecotourism, beekeeping products for the benefit of women and young people, etc.). The implementation of revolving funds will enable to reach a large number of beneficiaries and will contribute to not only the activities scaling-up but also to the actions sustainability. The management modalities of these micro-credits will be specified at the full proposal stage.

The choice of the above listed priority actions and target areas is ruled by the results and conclusions from the recent assessment study (current situation)¹⁸ of the Mono basin, carried out in 2020. This study, even being preliminary, synthesizes the main challenges raised by various stakeholders including the local communities. The final recommendations will be made after extensive consultations are undertaken during the full proposal phase.

12. **Component 3: Capacity building, awareness raising and knowledge sharing (USD 1,000,000)** will consolidate the project implementation framework and ensure dissemination of lessons learned through capacity building, communication and training. It will support the development of innovative knowledge management mechanisms for information sharing, training and exchange of experiences, data collection and analysis, dissemination and capitalization of best practices. This will be supported by the development of a web platform and innovative communication tools. Some expected outputs of this component are: technical reports; manuals on lessons learned, videos, radio and television programmes, experience sharing visits, awareness campaigns, etc. The component also includes the development of a communication plan for target groups, in particular vulnerable communities (women, youth, the elderly and the disabled) and water users.
13. Some activities of component 3 will be specifically dedicated to the strengthening of the technical and institutional capacities of the MBA. Other key stakeholders targeted for capacity building include local communities, NGOs, youth and women organizations as well as extension services staff from various national and local sectors such as water, agriculture, environment and forestry. The training topics may include awareness raising campaigns on climate change impacts such as land degradation, water quality, inter alia and concrete adaptation solutions.

• **Added value through the regional approach**

14. The transboundary nature of the Mono basin makes a regional approach essential to promote collaboration, data and information exchange and experience sharing between national partners and the MBA. This underpins transparent decision-making, which is particularly important for preventing conflicts of use, especially with regard to the shared resources (water, soil and associated ecosystems) of the Mono basin.

¹⁸ ABM (2021). Actualisation de l'état des lieux du bassin du Mono. Rapport final. 115p.

15. The regional approach will enable the synergy of action through a coordinated planning and implementation of activities both during project preparation and implementation, and thereby ensure that no redundancies or duplications occur. For example, the MBA is currently preparing the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) with a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2023-2027 for the Mono River Basin with the GEF/IUCN support who's granted the project in June 2021 (RIWE-Mono project)¹⁹. The GEF/IUCN project will establish the technical and scientific basis (e.g. regional database and hydrological model) as well as tools for long-term planning and governance of water resources in the basin (e.g., TDA/SAP, governance bodies, etc.). Indeed, the AF support will contribute to this strategic action plan in particular with regard to the consideration and integration of climate change adaptation interventions. It will also improve and upscale the function the GEF established technical and scientific tools through collection and distribution of hydro-climatic data (database, hydrological models, etc.). During the next stages of the project preparation, the ongoing or planned actions in the Mono basin under other initiatives and projects will be taken into account and considered to avoid duplication. A broad participative approach and consultations with all stakeholders working on climate issues in the catchment (GEF, WMO, WACA, ANPC from Togo and Benin, etc.) will be carried out.

16. Regarding the regional flood EWS, the regional approach will ensure its effective deployment and implementation under the coordination of the MBA. Indeed, according to the Convention²⁰ on the status of the Mono River and the creation of the MBA (article 6), the latter has among other missions, the regional coordination of flood management of upstream-downstream data and information sharing.

- **Coherence with regional and national policies**

At regional level: The project will contribute to the implementation of the global planning and management framework of the MBA, mainly the strategic plan (2016) and the update assessment report (current status). Indeed, the project's actions are based on the Strategic Plan which highlights all the problems of the Mono basin, in particular recurrent floods, loss of biodiversity, ecosystems degradation, climate change, human pressure on natural resources and the poor knowledge of surface and groundwater resources. The report on the "current status of the Mono basin" provides an updated reference (2020) for the choice of priority actions to be implemented and their intervention sites. Furthermore, the project idea was submitted to the MBA Technical Committee of Experts (CTE) composed of representatives of different sectoral ministries from both countries, which approved it.

At national level : Benin and Togo both have (i) a national water policy with a National Action Plan for the integrated management of water resources and ecosystems, (ii) a climate change adaptation policy and a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), (iii) a NDC and (iv) a strategic framework for flood management. Thus, this project proposal is consistent with the different orientations of those documents.

- **Innovation**

17. The project's various activities are underpinned by knowledge building, which is a prerequisite for the implementation of an effective adaptation strategy. Indeed, for the fulfilment of different needs and uses in a context of increasing human pressures, a rational and sustainable management of the resources is required. It is therefore essential to provide further solutions for an optimized management of the catchment, which is a prerequisite for sustainable development. An important part of the contributions from this project (component 2 in particular) to the challenges in the project area are "nature-based solutions". In this context, the nature-based solutions represent a relevant ecosystem approach, accessible to the communities because of its cost-effectiveness, in terms of observation, evaluation and monitoring of the land evolution, both in the past and in real time.

- **Cost-effectiveness of the proposed project**

18. The project will help to restore specific degraded ecosystems and to restore and protect small-scale irrigation, fisheries infrastructure and grazing lands. This will be combined with income-generating activities to serve as motivation for sustainable land and water resources management. The project will change the top-down approach to a bottom-up approach involving local people through participation in the planning and implementation of activities. The underlying principle of this project is that when income-generating activities are made consistent with environmental management and, ecosystem and land restoration interventions, they can serve as motivations to actively engage communities in project planning and management activities. The involvement of local communities is

¹⁹ Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (<https://www.thegef.org/project/regional-initiative-water-and-environment-transboundary-basin-mono-river-riwe-mono>)

²⁰ Convention signed on 30 December 2014 by the Heads of State of Benin and Togo

crucial to secure public goods and to establish local bodies for the management of the basin's resources and to increase local collective benefits. The planned activities will be undertaken in selected sites relevant for immediate and tangible concrete results that will provide an anchor for local bodies while promoting the protection of common resources and benefit sharing.

- **Consultative process during project preparation and compliance with environmental and social standards, policies and safeguards**

19. At the national level, an initial consultation was conducted with relevant agencies and ministries. Similarly, the project idea is analyzed and validated by the MBA Technical Committee of Experts (representatives of different sectoral ministries in both countries) in line with national water resources management policies. The MBA has also developed a regional assessment and mechanisms for stakeholder involvement in water and related resources management in the basin. This facilitates stakeholder's consultation during the project development process. In addition, the MBA is progressively operationalizing the basin's consultative bodies (Basin Committees, Users' Organization, Scientific Committee, etc.) which involve various stakeholders in the public and private sectors, central and local authorities, youth and women's groups, NGOs, inter alia. It also considers the different water-related sectors. The involvement of these different bodies will ensure thorough stakeholders participation in the project preparation.
20. The Project design and implementation at all levels will comply with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) and the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), as well as the national environmental regulation of each member countries and technical standards. In addition, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), an Environmental and Social Risk Management Plan (ESRMP) and a gender assessment will be undertaken for the proposed project with inputs from the respective national authorities and implementing entities, in collaboration with the OSS. In addition to all identified beneficiaries and target population at local and national levels, vulnerable groups and gender considerations will be taken into account in line with the ESP at all project stages and implementation scales.

- **Sustainability of project outcomes and economic, social and environmental benefits**

21. The commitment to sustainability will guide the implementation of the project activities aiming at environmental, social and economic benefits, and the capacity building of the MBA will ensure the achievement of the expected results. The project will promote a user-centred, iterative and open to innovation approach to the development of the proposed tools to achieve the objectives of ownership and sustainability. In addition, the project will build on and strengthen existing knowledge, skills and tools. The implementation of concrete adaptation actions, will be complemented by a participatory approach.

- **Knowledge management**

22. The knowledge generated by this project will be disseminated and spread at national and regional level. Knowledge management and dissemination of lessons learned will be key activities of Component 3. At the project's inception, a knowledge management strategy aiming at capitalizing on existing climate information, facilitating information sharing between stakeholders and disseminating the project results will be developed and implemented. Knowledge materials will be developed, disseminated and made available, responding to the demand and needs of different stakeholders.

23. Particular emphasis will be given to the designing of appropriate knowledge and information management tools for the benefit of local communities, as they are key actors in the actions' replication and sustainability. At further stages of this project preparation, coherence/complementarity will be systematically developed in this respect with programmes/projects operating in the catchment with a similar scope, in particular the GEF/IUCN project (RIWE-Mono project), which is also being developed.

- **Socio-economic and environmental benefits**

24. Through effective and sustainable flood management and protection of the population as well as the development of income-generating activities, this project will contribute to civil protection in the basin, agricultural productivity and thus food security. As mentioned above (§.1. Background, paragraph 5), the cyclical floods have significant negative impacts on socio-economic and environmental systems in the catchment. Each year, hundreds of villages are affected, thousands of hectares of crops destroyed, tens of thousands of people affected, and the economies of poor and vulnerable populations collapse. The implementation of an efficient community-based EWS in the catchment will contribute to

substantially reduce these disasters and thus improve peoples' livelihoods and their resilience to combat climate change. Other benefits of the project activities are increased income, poverty reduction and improved access to health services for the beneficiaries, education and jobs creation. In addition, actions based on the « Nature-based Solutions approach » will result in positive environmental impacts that contribute to strengthening the conservation of the natural environment, in particular the protection of soils and the strengthening of their productivity, the regeneration of natural ecosystems, the strengthening of the availability of water (surface and groundwater) in quantity and quality.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

25. The proposed institutional arrangement of the project is as follows:



Implementing Entity

26. The project will be implemented by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), which will serve as the Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) and will be responsible for all financial, monitoring and reporting aspects of the Adaptation Fund. OSS has several years of experience working with both countries in the preparation and implementation of several development projects. This experience will facilitate the exchange with the main national partners and the successful implementation of the project.

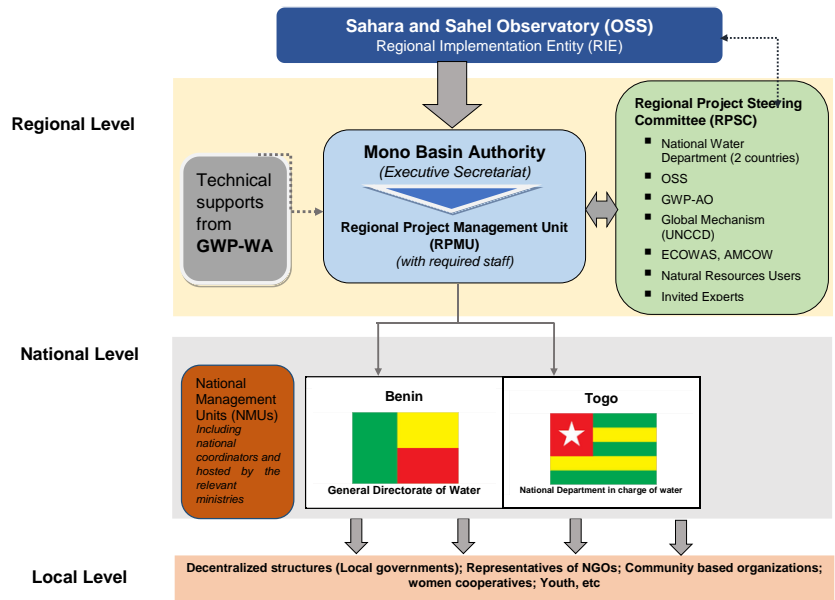


Executing Entities

27. **At regional level:** At the regional level, the MBA and GWP-AO will be the two main executing entities of the project.

- The main role of the Mono Basin Authority (MBA) will be to ensure transboundary coordination, strengthen relations with national structures, and ensure the sharing and dissemination of data, supervision of all activities in the field and capitalization of achievements. To this end, a Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), under the responsibility of the MBA, will be set up to assume the management of the project and will coordinate the execution with all other stakeholders involved in the project activities.

- The GWP-AO will be responsible for all activities related to dialogues, mobilization and integration of local communities and stakeholders, as well as capacity building of stakeholders.



28. **At the national and local levels:** The RPMU will be supported by "National Management Units" (NMUs) hosted by the National Technical Department in charge of water resources management in each country and will involve stakeholders from various sectors (water, environment, forest and agriculture). As the project includes important activities of national and local scope, the NMUs will lead the activities implementation at local level through various NGOs and beneficiary groups (representatives of socio-professional/community organizations), women's cooperatives, youth cooperatives, etc.



Regional Steering Committee (RSC)

29. The RSC will be the highest decision-making body for the whole project. It will periodically evaluate the results of the project and provide guidance for its effective management. The RSC will be composed of permanent representatives from i) MBA ii) OSS iii) regional and national civil society organizations (GWP-AO, PNE-Benin, PNE-Togo, users of the basin's natural resources) who will represent the users and the private sectors iv) Technical Departments in charge of water/environment in each of the two countries. Other regional bodies and organizations having technical partnerships with MBA such as the ECOWAS (CGRE), AMCOW, and the Global Mechanism (UNCCD) may also participate in the RSC.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government²¹

BENIN	Prof. Martin Pépin AINA Directeur Général de l'Environnement et du Climat Ministère du Cadre de vie et du Développement Durable	Date: August, 03, 2021
TOGO	Mr. Essobiyou Thiyu Kohoga Directeur de l'Environnement	Date : August, 03, 2021

B. Implementing Entity certification

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (**Benin's** Government Action Plan, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and National action plan for Integrated Water Resources Management and **Togo's** Long-term Development Strategy Vision 2030, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and National action plan for Integrated Water Resources Management) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

Mr. Nabil BEN KHATRA – *Executive Secretary of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) as the Implementing Entity Coordinator*

Name & Signature

Date: August 09, 2021

Tel. : **(+216) 71 206 633**

Email: nabil.benkhatra@oss.org.tn; boc@oss.org.tn

Project Contact Person: **Mrs. Khaoula JAOUI**

Tel. And Email: **(+216) 71 206 633 / khaoula.jaoui@oss.org.tn**

²¹ Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

Endorsement letters



MINISTERE DU CADRE DE VIE
ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
REPUBLICQUE DU BENIN

01 BP 3502 - 01 BP 3621
Cotonou
Tél. : + 229 21 31 47 12
dgec_mcvdd@cadredevie.bj



ADAPTATION FUND

Letter of Endorsement by Government

Cotonou, August 03, 2021

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for the « **Towards a climate risks shield in the Mono River Basin (Benin, Togo): Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management** »

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in **Benin**, I confirm that the above national grant proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the **Mono River basin**.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the **Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)** and executed by the **Mono Basin Authority (MBA)** and the **Global Water Partnership- West Africa (GWP-AO)**.

Sincerely,

Prof. Martin Pépin AÏNA

General Director of the Environment and Climate
Ministry of the Living Framework and Sustainable Development





MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES RESSOURCES FORESTIERE

ADAPTATION FUND

REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE
Travail – Liberté – Patrie

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DIRECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

N° 003/2021 /DE/AdF

Lome, August 03, 2021

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for the « **Towards a climate risks shield in the Mono River Basin (Benin, Togo): Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management** »

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in **Togo**, I confirm that the above national grant proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the **Mono River basin**.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the **Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)** and executed by the **Mono Basin Authority (MBA)** and the **Global Water Partnership-West Africa (GWP-AO)**.

Sincerely,



Mr. Essobiyou Thiyu Kohoga
Director of the Environment / Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources



ADAPTATION FUND

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: August 09, 2021

Adaptation Fund Project ID:

Country/ies:

Benin and TogoTitle of Project/Programme: **Towards a climate risks shield in the Mono River Basin****(Benin, Togo): Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management**Type of IE (NIE/MIE) : **RIE**Implementing Entity: **Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)**Executing Entity/ies: **Mono Basin Authority (MBA) and Global Water Partnership- West Africa (GWP-AO).**

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	Upon Pre-Concept Note approval date
Completion date of PFG	4 months after Pre-Concept Note approval date


B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

Describe the PFG activities and justifications:

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	USD Amount
Vulnerability assessments	Vulnerability Assessment; Institutional Capacities Analysis; Preliminary study on climate change impacts and risks in each country complying with the Adaptation Fund ESP and GP; Communities and beneficiaries mapping including vulnerable groups and indigenous people.	7 500
Workshops	One regional consultation workshops with stakeholders and local communities representatives	6 000
Travel/participation	Travels costs and technical support (Implementing Entity)	5 000
Other costs	Management fees (8.5%)	1 500
Total Project Formulation Grant		20 000

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)
<p>Mr. Nabil BEN KHATRA <i>OSS' Executive Secretary</i></p>		<p>08/09/2021</p>

Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
<p>Mrs. Khaoula JAOUI Climate Department Coordinator</p>	<p>+216 71 206 633</p>	<p>boc@oss.org.tn khaoula.jaoui@oss.org.tn</p>

