



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.38/4/ Rev.1
30 March 2022

Adaptation Fund Board
Thirty-eighth meeting
Bonn, Germany 7-8 April 2022

Agenda item 7

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

WORK OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

1. The Accreditation Panel (the Panel) continued its work reviewing existing applications. The Panel held its thirty-seventh meeting in a virtual manner on 2 February 2022. The Vice-Chair of the Accreditation Panel, Ms. Eleonora Cogo (Italy, Western Europe and Others), presided over the meeting.

2. For the thirty-seventh Panel meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) did not receive any new accreditation applications. The Panel continued reviewing 15 re-accreditation applications (eight National Implementing Entities (NIEs), two Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs) and five Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs)) and 14 accreditation applications of eleven potential NIEs, two potential RIEs and one potential MIE that were previously reviewed but required additional information for the Panel's review. One NIE candidate's application has been dormant as of December 2021. Therefore, in accordance with Board Decision B.31/26, the secretariat sent the second letter of notification to the Designated Authority (DA) to the dormant NIE applicant informing of the inactivity of the applicant entity on 21 December 2021.

3. After considering the recommendations by the Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) had intersessionally approved during the period from 1 October 2021 to 30 March 2022: fast-track re-accreditation of Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) as an RIE of the Fund (Decision B.37-38/4); fast-track re-accreditation of Centre de Suivi Ecologique of Senegal as an NIE of the Fund (Decision B.37-38/5) and fast-track re-accreditation of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as MIE of the Fund (Decision B.37-38/12).

4. During the period from the thirty-seventh meeting of the Panel to the date of the finalization of this report, the Panel concluded the review of an application for fast-track accreditation of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC and reached a consensus to recommend the accreditation of CCCCC under the fast-track process as an RIE of the Fund. The Panel's assessment report on the fast-track accreditation of the applicant is contained in Annex I of this document.

5. As of the thirty-seventh meeting of the Panel, 14 accreditation applications, comprising of eleven potential NIEs, two potential RIEs, and one potential MIE were under review by the Panel as per the following list:

1. National Implementing Entity NIE018
2. National Implementing Entity NIE041
3. National Implementing Entity NIE055
4. National Implementing Entity NIE057
5. National Implementing Entity NIE066
6. National Implementing Entity NIE113
7. National Implementing Entity NIE140
8. National Implementing Entity NIE142

9. National Implementing Entity NIE144
10. National Implementing Entity NIE147
11. National Implementing Entity NIE148
12. Regional Implementing Entity RIE008
13. Regional Implementing Entity RIE016
14. Multilateral Implementing Entity MIE017

GENERAL TRENDS

6. As of 30 March 2022, the total number of accredited implementing entities amounted to 56: 34 NIEs, 8 RIEs, and 14 MIEs (Figure 1). Among the 34 NIEs, there were 10 accredited NIEs that were from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and seven accredited NIEs that were from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) (Figure 2). Out of the 56 accredited implementing entities of the Fund, 33 entities (59%) had been re-accredited: 17 NIEs, 5 RIEs and 11 MIEs. With respect to the geographic coverage of the 34 NIEs and 8 RIEs, 15 entities were from Latin America and the Caribbean, 15 were from Africa, 11 were from Asia-Pacific and 1 was from Eastern Europe (Figure 3). As per Decision B.36/42, the Secretariat has received nominations from the DAs of three countries for a second NIE to pursue accreditation with the Fund.

Figure 1. Accredited Implementing Entities by type

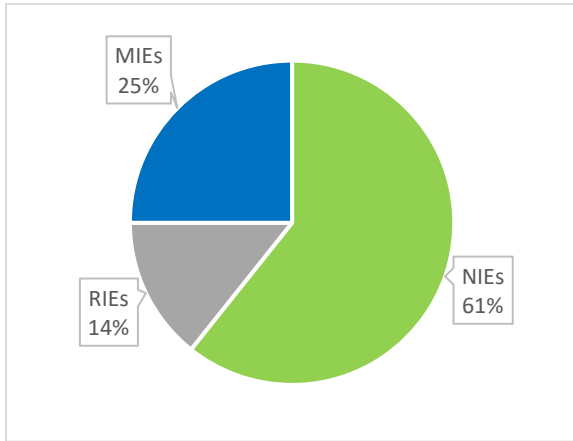


Figure 2. LDCs and SIDS among accredited NIEs

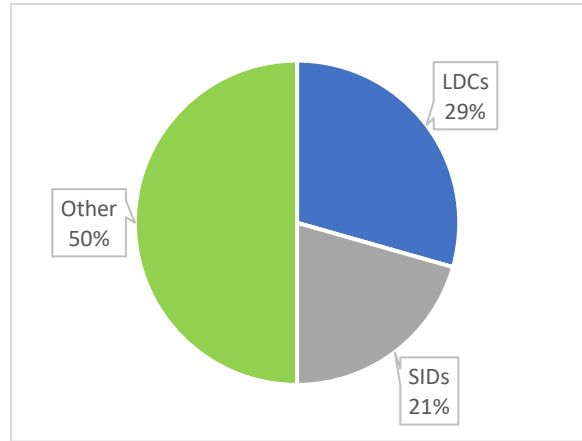
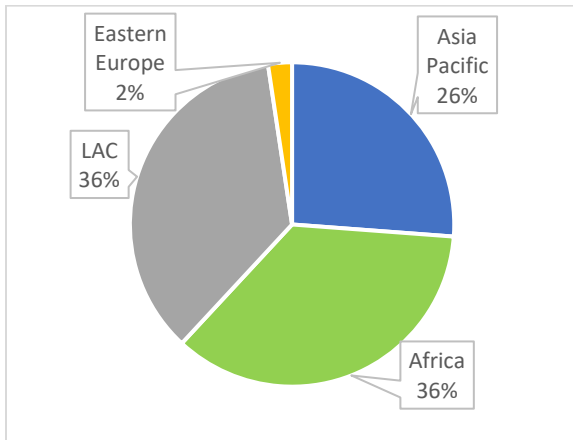


Figure 3. Accredited NIEs and RIEs by region



ACCREDITATION PIPELINE

7. The following infographic (figure 4) provides an update on the current accreditation pipeline which does not include re-accreditation applications.

Figure 4. The accreditation pipeline of the Adaptation Fund as of 30 March 2022



STATUS OF APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

APPLICANT IE	SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION	REFERENCE FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION	CURRENT STATUS
EXISTING APPLICATIONS			
NIE018	Aug-18	AFB/B.37/10	This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. There has not been substantial progress with the application since the AP36 meeting. The last exchange with the applicant was on 6 September 2021 when the focal point communicated to the Secretariat that he had uploaded the top-level management statement (TLMS) to the workflow. As no further documents have been submitted by the applicants, the Panel has suggested that a meeting be organized between the Panel and the Secretariat to assess the feasibility of further discussions with the applicant and the Designated Authority.
NIE041	Oct-9	AFB/B.37/10	The Panel completed its initial review of this application and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 5 March 2021. Though the applicant confirmed receipt of the questions on 30 April 2021, there have not been any progress in the workflow. After the AP36 meeting, a call was organized between the Secretariat and representatives from the applicant organization on 13 September 2021 during which the Secretariat provided clarifications on the status of the application. On 23 November 2021, the Secretariat sent a request for updates to the applicant. In response, the applicant informed the Secretariat that the focal point had changed and requested that a meeting be organized to discuss the way forward for the application. Upon request by the Secretariat, the applicant submitted an official communication about the change of focal point on 2 February 2022. The Secretariat further requested the applicant to address the Panel's March 2021 list of follow up questions before a meeting could be held to discuss the status of the application. At the time of this report, the applicant has not uploaded additional documents to the workflow.

NIE046 (Dormant Application)	Dec-12	AFB/B.37/10	Though the applicant had expressed commitment, during the October 2020 call with the Secretariat and the Panel, to make progress on the pending issues, there has not been any progress on the application to date. On 25 October 2021, the Secretariat requested for a possible meeting with the representatives of the applicant organization at the COP26 ¹ in Glasgow, to which no response was received. In accordance with Decision B.31/26, the Secretariat sent the first and second letters to the DA about the inactivity of the entity's application on 22 June 2021 and 21 December 2021 respectively. In response to the second dormant notification letter, the Secretariat on 24 January 2022, received a letter from the DA of the country which refers to an earlier letter that the DA had received from the applicant entity about its decision to withdraw from the accreditation process. The Secretariat intends to acknowledge receipt of the DA's letter and further request the applicant to directly communicate its withdrawal to the Secretariat.
NIE055	Mar-21	AFB/B.37/10	The application was submitted on 23 March 2021 and was passed on to the Panel for initial review on 6 April 2021. The Panel completed its review of the application and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat conveyed to the applicant on 27 September 2021. In response to the Secretariat's 23 November request for updates, the focal point, on 7 December sought guidance on how to upload their responses to the Panel's review questions and the Secretariat advised accordingly. On 18 January 2022 the Secretariat also translated and conveyed to the applicant the French translation of the list of follow questions produced by the Panel. The exchange with the applicant was on 27 January 2022 when the Secretariat requested for updates and offered to organize a meeting with the applicant. The Secretariat is waiting to receive a response and/or the documents in the workflow.
NIE057	Apr-14	AFB/B.37/10	The Secretariat continued to request for updates from the applicant since the AP36 meeting held in September 2021. On 25 October 2021, the Secretariat reached out to the applicant to request a possible meeting with the representatives of the applicant organization at the COP26 in Glasgow. In response, the applicant indicated they were not going to be present at the COP, but the focal point confirmed the entity's renewed commitment to the accreditation process. The application is no longer dormant as the focal point has uploaded several documents to the workflow in early December 2021. The last exchange with the applicant was on 12 January 2022 when they sought for updates on the status of the Panel's review of their latest documentation upload.

¹ The COP26 was held in Glasgow, UK on 31-October-13 November 2021

NIE066	Apr-15	AFB/B.37/10	At time of the AP36 meeting, the applicant had not uploaded sufficient documents to permit a further review of the application by the Panel. In response to the pending issues, the applicant submitted several documents to the workflow on 5 January 2022. At the AP37 meeting, the Panel maintained there have not been significant progress from the side of the applicant to permit a further review of the application.
NIE113	Dec-15	AFB/B.37/10	The applicant has not made significant progress since the AP36 meeting. The Secretariat has continued to request for updates from the applicant in hope to reignite the applicant's interest in the accreditation process. The Secretariat met with representatives from the applicant organization at the COP26 in Glasgow, during which the Secretariat clarified the pending issues and reshared the Panel's May 2019 list of questions. In December 2021 and January 2022, the Secretariat sent several requests to the focal point to inquire about the progress of the accreditation application. In response, the applicant uploaded some documents to the workflow on 18 and 20 January 2022. The Secretariat has since communicated to the Panel that the application is no longer dormant. The Panel will start reviewing the documents that have been uploaded.
NIE140	Sept-19	AFB/B.37/10	After the AP36 meeting, the Secretariat followed up with the focal person for updates on the Panel's July 2021 list of follow up questions. In response, the focal point uploaded one document in November 2021 and advised they will be uploading additional documents in the coming days. As of the first week of January 2022, the applicant had not made any further process. Accordingly, the Secretariat on 11 January reached out to the applicant to request updates on the pending issues. At the time of preparing this document, the focal point has neither responded to the Secretariat's request nor uploaded additional documents to the workflow.
NIE142	Feb-19	AFB/B.37/10	This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. A virtual call was organized on 16 September during which the Panel and the references discussed about the project cycle capabilities of the applicant. Subsequently, the Panel produced a fourth list of follow up questions which the Secretariat conveyed to the applicant on 21 September. In response to the follow up questions, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow in October and December 2021. The last exchange with the applicant was on 13 January 2022 when the applicant sought updates on its application.

NIE144	Sept-20	AFB/B.37/10	The Panel's latest list of follow-up questions was shared with the applicant in April 2021. After the AP36 meeting, the Secretariat sent requests for updates on 23 November and 6 December 2021. In response, the focal point assured they were going to get back to the Secretariat with some updates soon. In preparation for the AP37 meeting, the Secretariat sent a follow up request for updates from the applicant on 14 January 2022. On 2 February 2022, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow that are yet to be reviewed by the Panel.
NIE147	Aug-20	AFB/B.37/10	After the AP36 meeting, the Secretariat organized a call with the applicant on 7 September 2021 to clarify the Panel's suggestion for a streamlined accreditation process. In response to the August 2021 list of questions from the Panel, the applicant uploaded several documents in the workflow. The Panel continued its review of the application and produced a follow up list of questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 14 January 2022. On 20 January, the focal point acknowledged receipt of the questions and assured they will get back to the Secretariat soon with the requested information.
NIE148	Dec-20	AFB/B.37/10	In response to the Panel's March 2021 list of questions, the applicant submitted further documents to the workflow, including a revised top level management letter to comply with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP). The Panel resumed its review of the application and produced a follow up list of questions which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 16 September 2021. To better address the latest list of questions from the Panel, the applicant requested that the Secretariat organizes a call between the Panel and representatives of the organization. The Secretariat has so far coordinated three virtual calls on 19 and 26 January and on 9 February 2022, during which the Panel offered clarifications on the pending issues. The applicant has since uploaded some documents to the workflow.
RIE016	Mar-17	AFB/B.37/10	At the AP36 meeting, the Panel concluded that the key questions which remain unanswered by the applicant included issues related to AML/CFT, audit and procurement. On 8 September 2021, the Secretariat sought updates from the applicant, including several requests, though unsuccessful, to discuss the status of the application with the leadership of the applicant organization. In response to the Panel's June 2021 list of pending issues, the applicant uploaded some documents to the workflow in October, November, and December 2021. The Secretariat has since notified the Panel about this development.

MIE 017	Jul-22	AFB/B.37/10	After the AP36 meeting, the Secretariat sent a request for a call with the focal point on 7 September 2021 to better understand their progress with the application and offer clarifications as necessary. In response, the focal point uploaded additional information to the workflow in late September, followed by the submission of a revised top-level management statement to comply with the Fund's ESP and GP. At the time of the AP37 meeting, the Panel's further review of the submitted information is ongoing. The last exchange with the applicant was on 4 February 2022, when the focal point sought updates on the status of the application.
<u>RE- ACCREDITATION</u>			
NIE004	May-21	AFB/B.37/10	Accreditation expired on 13 April 2021. After the AP36 meeting, the Panel continued its assessment of the application. To facilitate the review process, the Secretariat coordinated a call between the Panel and the Fund's project team on 22 September 2021. Subsequently, the Panel updated its list of follow up questions which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 23 September. The latest exchange on this application was on 7 January 2022 when the Panel sought input from the project team on the status of the Fund's project under implementation by the applicant. Upon receipt of the latest project performance report from the applicant, the project team updated the Panel about the status of the project on 13 January 2022 and provided some additional information on 20 January 2022. Further review of the application is ongoing.

NIE016	Aug-16	AFB/B.37/10	<p>Accreditation expired on 13 December 2016. The latest list of follow up questions produced by the Panel was transmitted to the applicant on 23 August 2021. On 21 September, the Secretariat also facilitated a call between the Panel and a reference from a third-party organization to discuss some of the pending issues arising from the review of the re-accreditation application. Prior to the applicant submitting its responses to the August 2021 list of pending issues, the Secretariat organized a conference call on 13 October 2021 between the Panel and representatives from the applicant organization, during which the Panel responded to questions from the applicant and offered detailed clarifications on the additional information required. On 25 October, the Secretariat and the Panel held a debrief to discuss the earlier call with representatives of the applicant organization. It was agreed that further follow up questions from the Panel be paused until November 2021 when the Secretariat went back to the Panel to suggest another round of follow up questions. On 8 December 2021, the Secretariat transmitted the Panel's latest list of questions to the applicant. Upon the suggestion from the Secretariat, the applicant, on 29 December 2022, submitted a request to extend the grace period for achieving re-accreditation as the prior grace period was due to end in January 2022. On 28 January 2022, the Board intersessionally approved the grace period extension request for achieving re-accreditation to 23 January 2023. This coincides with the date of completion for the Fund's project currently under implementation by the applicant.</p>
NIE034	Aug-19	AFB/B.37/10	<p>Accreditation expired on 12 August 2019. Since the AP36 meeting, the applicant has not made any substantial progress on the Panel's July 2021 list of outstanding issues. The Secretariat has continued to follow up with the applicant regarding progress with the re-accreditation process. In October 2021, the Secretariat inquired about the possibility of meeting with representatives from the applicant organization at the COP26 in Glasgow. The applicant responded that they will not be present at the COP but assured they will revert to us with updates soon. The Secretariat's latest follow up request for update was on 11 January 2022. In response, the applicant uploaded three documents to the workflow on 26 January 2022.</p>
NIE054	Aug-14	AFB/B.37/10	<p>Accreditation expired on 9 April 2020. After the AP36 meeting, the Panel continued its review of the application. Following a series of exchanges between the Panel, the Panel Expert produced the latest list of follow up questions which the Secretariat conveyed to the focal point on 21 January 2022. Some of the key issues outstanding relate to details on AML/CFT aspects, the implementation of the Fund's ESP and GP, and existing procedures in the case of potential allegations against senior staff of the organization.</p>

NIE061	Feb-21	NA	The accreditation expired on 25 February 2021. The application was first submitted in July 2021. During the initial screening, the Secretariat identified gaps in the submitted information and subsequently sent the application back with comments. The application was resubmitted on 22 October and then after further screening, the Secretariat passed it to the Panel for the initial review. The last exchange with the applicant was on 18 January 2022, when the focal point sought updates on the status of the Panel's review of the application. In response, the Secretariat assured to revert to the focal point as soon as an update becomes available.
NIE069	Mar-21	AFB/B.37/10	Accreditation expired on 17 March 2021. In response to the Panel's 9 August list of follow up questions, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow, permitting the Panel to resume its review of the re-accreditation application. On 11 January 2022, the Panel produced a follow up list of questions which the Secretariat shared with the focal point on 13 January 2022. The focal point has since acknowledged receipt.
NIE075	July -21	NA	Accreditation expired on 13 July 2021. The application was first submitted in May 2021. After initial screening, the Secretariat sent the application back to the applicant with comments. The application was re-submitted on 13 September 2021 and then after further screening, it was passed to the Panel for the initial review on 20 September. The last correspondence with the applicant was on 14 January 2022 when the focal point requested updates on the status of the application.
NIE080	Jan-21	AFB/B.37/10John	Accreditation expired on 3 November 2021. After the AP36 meeting, the applicant continued to work on the Panel's 4 August 2021 list of follow up questions and uploaded additional documents to the workflow on 28 September 2021. The last exchange on this application was on 22 January 2022, when the Panel sought clarifications from the Secretariat on the legal status of the applicant. On 27 January 2022, the Panel Experts shared and exchanged on the draft assessment report and will soon develop a list of follow up questions for transmission to the applicant.
RIE001	Nov-21	NA	Accreditation expired on 19 June 2021. The application was first submitted to the Secretariat in June 2021. After the initial screening, the Secretariat sent the application back to the applicant with comments. The application was resubmitted on 2 November 2021 and then after further screening, the Secretariat passed it to the Panel for initial review on 1 December 2021. The review of the application is ongoing. The last exchange with the applicant was on 2 February 2022 when the focal point sought updates from the Secretariat on the application.

RIE010	Nov-20	AFB/B.37/10	Accreditation expired on 25 February 2021. On 8 September and 21 October, the applicant requested updates from the Secretariat on the status of the Panel's review of documents submitted in late April and early May 2021. Subsequently, the Secretariat notified the Panel about the requests from the applicant. A meeting was also held with representatives from the applicant organization at the COP26 in Glasgow, during which the Secretariat provided updates on the application. The Panel resumed its review of the latest documents submitted in the workflow and produced a follow up list of questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 23 November 2021. In response to the latest list of questions, the applicant uploaded additional information to the workflow on 27 December 2021. The last exchange with the applicant was on 25 January 2022 when the focal point sought updates on the status of the Panel's further review of the application.
MIE002	Mar-20	AFB/B.37/10	Accreditation expired on 30 March 2020. There has not been any substantial progress with this application since the AP36 meeting. The application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The last exchange with the applicant was in December 2021, when the Secretariat shared with the focal point, a TLMS template in hope to resolve the current impasse and revive the re-accreditation process. The applicant has neither acknowledged receipt nor provided additional information on the pending issue.
MIE003	Apr-20	AFB/B.37/10	Accreditation expired on 30 July 2020. There has not been any substantial progress with this application since the AP36 meeting. The application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The last exchange with the applicant was on 13 December 2021, when the Secretariat shared with the focal point a TLMS template in hope to resolve the current impasse and revive the re-accreditation process. The focal point acknowledged receipt and indicated they will discuss internally on the way forward. At the time of the AP37 meeting, the applicant has shared no further updates.
MIE007	Sept-19	AFB/B.37/10	Accreditation expired on 30 March 2020. There has not been any substantial progress with this application since the AP36 meeting. The application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The last exchange with the applicant was on 13 December 2021, when the Secretariat shared with the focal point a TLMS template in hope to resolve the current impasse and revive the re-accreditation process. The focal point acknowledged receipt and indicated there will be an internal discussion with the legal team on the way forward. At the time of the AP37 meeting, the applicant has shared no further updates.

MIE011	Mar-19	AFB/B.37/10	Accreditation expired on 20 March 2019. There has not been any substantial progress with this application since the AP36 meeting. The application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The last exchange with the applicant was on 13 December 2021, when the Secretariat shared with the focal point, a TLMS template in hope to resolve the current impasse and revive the re-accreditation process.
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OTHER MATTERS

8. **Lessons from the continuous process of capacity strengthening of IEs through re-accreditation to the Adaptation Fund:** The Secretariat presented to the Panel a study it had commissioned on the capacity strengthening of IEs through the Fund's re-accreditation process. It was summarized that the study looks at the lessons learned from the re-accreditation process as well as ways in which the Fund's IEs have maintained competencies and developed new ones prior to and during the re-accreditation process. The Secretariat provided an overview on the structure of the study, the objectives, methodology and key findings, and indicated to the Panel that the study will be published soon and will include lessons learned from the re-accreditation process and an analysis of ways in which IEs have benefited from the process.

9. **Effectiveness and efficiency of the workflow:** The Secretariat updated the Panel about the ongoing work to reinforce and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the workflow, the Fund's online platform for the accreditation process. As indicated in the report of the Thirty-sixth meeting of the Accreditation Panel², the Secretariat mentioned that the workflow efficiency improvement is part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the accreditation and reaccreditation processes as discussed during the three technical meetings with the Panel of Experts held between the 35th and the 36th Accreditation Panel meetings. The Secretariat informed the Panel that it had prepared the application forms for fast-track accreditation and fast-track re-accreditation as per Decision B.32/1 and Decision B.28/38 respectively and will soon deploy both on the online platform.

10. The thirty-eighth meeting of the Accreditation Panel will be held on 7-8 September 2022. The format of the meeting will depend on how the COVID-19 situation evolves. As per the Terms of Reference for the Fund's Accreditation Panel, two new Accreditation Panel Expert members will be recruited to replace two of the current Panel Experts, whose terms will be ending during the period between the thirty-seventh and the thirty-eighth Accreditation Panel meetings.

² See Document AFB/B.37/10, available at: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/report-of-the-thirty-sixth-meeting-of-the-accreditation-panel/>

AP Recommendation:

Fast-track accreditation of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) as a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) of the Adaptation Fund

11. Having reviewed the fast-track accreditation application of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Accreditation Panel recommends that CCCCC be accredited as a Regional Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.

(Recommendation AFB/AP.37/1)

ANNEX I:

REPORT OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL ON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE (CCCC) FOR THE FAST-TRACK ACCREDITATION AS A REGIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (RIE) OF THE ADAPTATION FUND

BACKGROUND

The **Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC)** was formally established in 2002 as a regional organization to assist the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), a regional economic integration and cooperation organization of 15 member states and five associate members in the Caribbean in their efforts to address the impact of climate change. CARICOM, which includes several small island nations, has a population of approximately 16 million and is highly susceptible to climate variability and change.

THE APPLICANT – Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC)

CCCC is a regional climate change information clearinghouse providing timely forecasts and analyses of potentially hazardous impacts of both natural and man-induced climatic changes on the environment, and the development of special programmes which create opportunities for sustainable development. Specifically, CCCC has:

- Developed its “**Regional Clearinghouse Tool**”, an online archive and information exchange system for climate resilient decision making which allows decision makers and practitioners to request, retrieve, contribute and exchange information and data on climate change in the region.
- Built effective **partnerships** with several regional and international partners with whom to collaborate on its **climate modelling** work.
- Supported national governments and institutions in the **formulation of projects** for submission to international partners for funding, as well as serve as an **implementing** agency on their behalf.
- Since inception, **executed** a suite of programmes that have boosted climate data collection and its ability to predict the region’s climate in the future, capacity building and efforts to include Climate Change into the national development process.
- Developed and conducted appropriate **training** courses for different organizations and levels of management on climate change related issues. These include technical areas like the use of climate models, capacity building in the assessment and monitoring of climate impacts, use of tools it has developed e.g. the Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation tool (CCORAL), and proposal writing and negotiations.

The governance structure of CCCC is comprised of a Council of Ministers, a Board of Governors/Directors and a Technical Secretariat. The Council, comprised of Ministers responsible for the environment, is the principal policymaking organ of the Center and “concludes agreements for the achievement of the objectives of the Centre”. It appoints the Board of Governors, comprised of members from both the public and private sectors. Key responsibilities of the Board include approval of the work programme and budget, approval of the audited financial

statements, resource mobilization and appointment of the Executive Director (ED) to lead the Technical Secretariat. The Board has established several standing committees: Technical, Ethics, and Audit and Finance. The Secretariat implements the Centre's work programme and supports the oversight bodies. The ED serves for a term of five years, renewable. The Secretariat currently has a staff complement of approximately 41. Staff members are accorded the status of "international bureaucrats" and enjoy certain immunities and privileges under the Agreement Establishing the Centre.

CCCCC' operations are funded through a combination of project grants, fees derived from project implementation and technical support, and general support from the Government of Belize and organizational support from partners mainly through staff support. The Centre presented information to the Panel on its ongoing initiatives in business transformation and substantial expansion of its project portfolio and financial sustainability.

ASSESSMENT FOR FAST TRACK ACCREDITATION

By virtue of its accreditation with the GCF (in July 2015), CCCCC' application to the AF is being assessed pursuant to the Board's approval of a Fast Track Accreditation (FTA) process for entities that had been accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within a period of four years prior to the submission of the accreditation application to the Fund, and which meet the eligibility criteria contained in paragraphs 23-32 of the Operational Policies and guidelines of the Fund pursuant to EB Decisions B.32/1 dated 12 October 2018 based on AFB/B.32/5. It also includes an assessment of the Fund's Accreditation Standards Related to Anti-Money-Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism pursuant to Board Decision B.32/36 dated 12 October 2018 based on AFB/EFC.23/4.

The GCF accreditation decision attached five conditions and which GCF has reported were fulfilled and closed as of May 31, 2019. 5C's current policies and their implementation related to two of the conditions (establishing "know-your-customer" procedures related to Anti-Money-Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism, and adoption of a Gender Policy) were reviewed as part of the scope of this Fast Track Accreditation. The Panel is satisfied that these AF criteria have been fully met by the applicant.

The FTA review of CCCCC is structured according to the revised application form at Annex 2 of AFB/EFC.23/4, adopted by the Board as part of Decision B.32/36.

Financial Management and Fiduciary Standards

Legal Status

CCCCC has been established by agreement as an inter-governmental organization with its own legal personality, with the capacity to receive funds directly, authority to enter into contracts or agreement with international organizations and capacity to represent itself as plaintiff or defendant in legal processes. CCCCC provided examples of agreements it has entered into with other international organizations.

Transparency, self-investigative powers, and anti-corruption measures

Policies and procedures related to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) on disbursements, procurement, breaches of financing laws, and necessary investigation activities.

The applicant has demonstrated that it has in place both the policy framework and specific procedures to address AML/CFT concerns in its payments and disbursement systems, including those related to procurement. It follows the “*know-your-customer*” due diligence procedures elaborated in its “*Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Terrorism Policy*”, ensuring that relevant transactions are conducted only with legitimate entities and third parties. It has specific procedures in place for project disbursements/payments and relies on the national and regional frameworks to ensure that any AML/CFT risks in these transactions can be identified and managed.

Policies and Framework for Dealing with Financial Mismanagement and Other Forms of Malpractice

The Executive Director’s statement of zero tolerance for fraud, financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice CCCCC is published on CCCCC’ website and sets the tone of an organization committed to promoting the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability in all its affairs. The organization’s anti-fraud and corruption statement reiterates these values. It outlines the framework for related policies (such as for whistle blowing protection and conflict of interest) and guides implementation procedures to deal with fraud, corruption and other misconduct. CCCCC’ ethics provisions are addressed in the Staff Regulations and Rules. The entity’s Human Resources Office manages the reporting hotlines and supports the Ethics Committee in its oversight role. The investigation function for violation of the staff ethics code lies with the standing Joint Disciplinary Committee (or an ad hoc one when appropriate) which follows investigation guidelines provided in the SRR.

Commitment by the entity to apply the Fund’s Environmental and Social (E&S) Policy and Gender Policy

CCCCC has committed to abide by the AF’s Environmental and Social, and Gender policies. Its own Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Performance Standards (ESSPPS) adopts the 8 performance standards (PS) of the International Finance Corporation for identifying and managing environmental and social risks in all its projects, as well as those being executed on its behalf by EAs. The ESSPPS are fully integrated in CCCCC’ programme/project management cycle and its project formulation manual provides operational procedures to ensure that programmes/projects meet the ESSPPS safeguard standards, including monitoring and reporting. The Gender Policy is implemented through five-year Gender Action Plans (GAP), currently in its second phase (2021-2025). The GAP has clear targets and accountabilities and is facilitated through appropriate structural elements for implementation (complemented with external expertise when needed) with leadership at the highest levels of CCCCC. The Centre provided satisfactory evidence of applying both the ESSPPS and its Gender Policy.

Mechanism to Deal with complaints on Environmental and Social Harms and Gender Harms Caused by Projects/Programmes

CCCCC has the commitment and the capability to receive, have independently reviewed and take remedial action where appropriate on complaints regarding environmental, social and gender harms caused by its programmes and projects. This is being done principally through the policy framework provided by its Performance Standard 1 of CCCCC ESSPPS document. This standard requires the establishment and operation of a Grievance Review Mechanism as well as an information disclosure policy and consultation mechanism to promote stakeholder participation (with a particular focus on affected populations) in all stages of the project cycle. CCCCC provided evidence of the implementation of the Mechanism.

CONCLUSION

After taking into consideration the information provided by CCCCC during the accreditation process, the applicant is considered to meet all the standards reviewed and the Panel, therefore, recommends that CCCCC be accredited under the fast-track process as a Regional Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.