



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.38/4
15 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 28 February 2022: fast-track re-accreditation of Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) as an RIE of the Fund (Decision B.37-38/4) and fast-track re-accreditation of Centre de Suivi Ecologique of Senegal as an NIE of the Fund (Decision B.37-38/5).

4. 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

5. As of 1 28 February 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

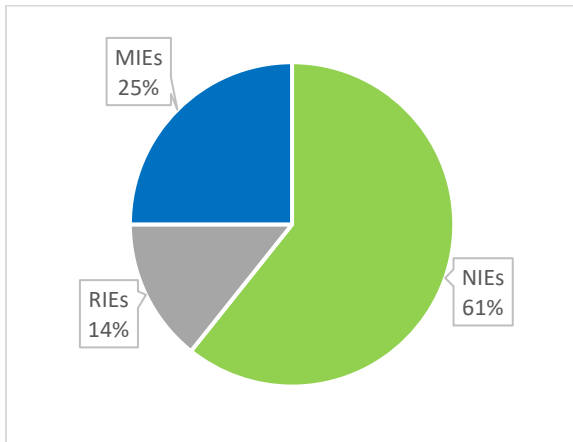


Figure 2. LDCs and SIDS among accredited NIEs

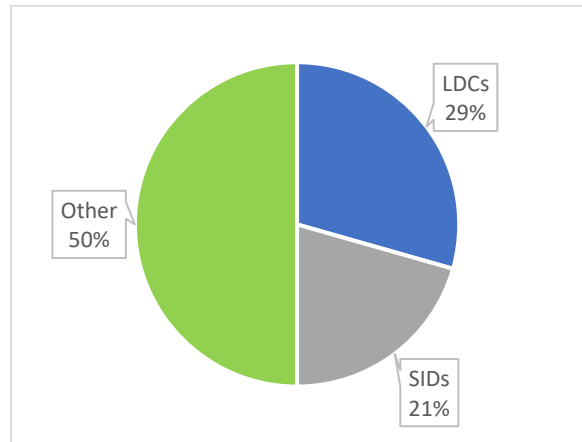
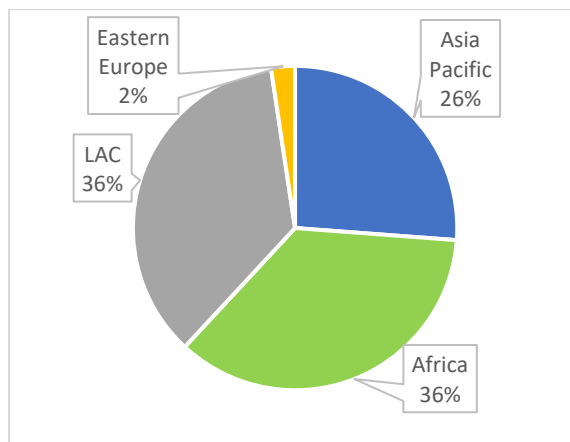


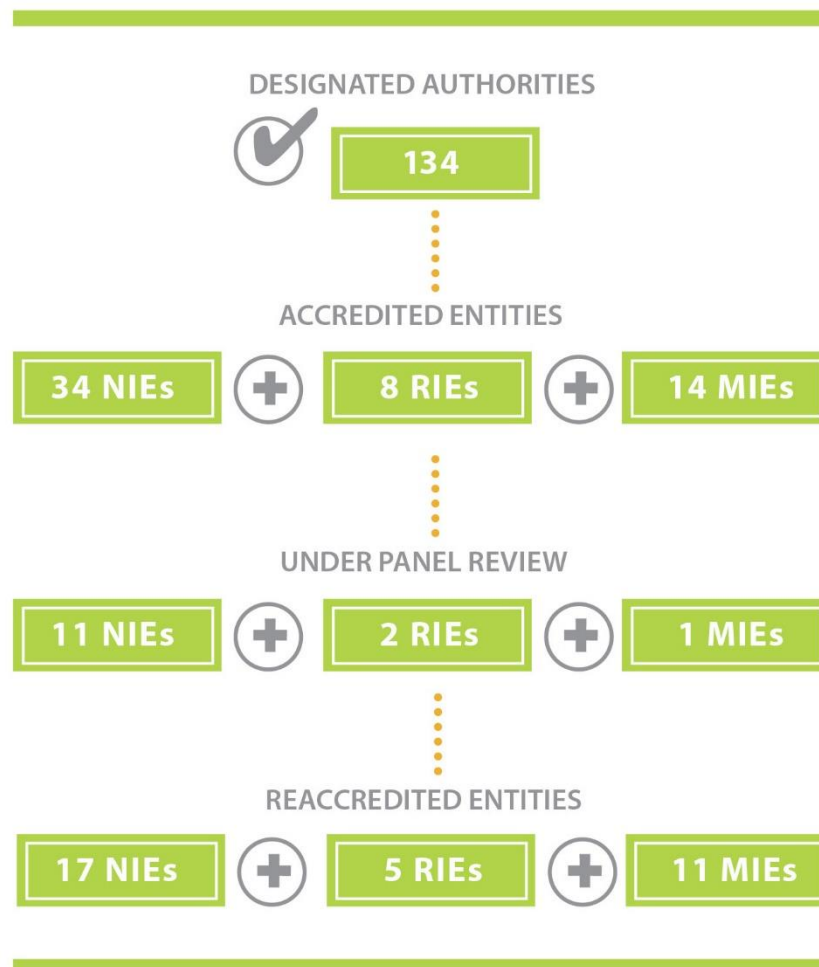
Figure 3. Accredited NIEs and RIEs by region



ACCREDITATION PIPELINE

6. 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 28 February 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.
RIE008	Jan-14	AFB/B.37/10	After the AP36 meeting, the Panel continued to review documents the applicant had submitted in response to the pending issues. The Secretariat also met representatives from the applicant organization at the COP26 in Glasgow to discuss the accreditation process and provide clarifications on the status of the application. In mid-November 2021, the Panel completed its further review of the application and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat transmitted to the focal point. On 11 January 2022, the Secretariat requested updates from the applicant on the Panel's latest list of questions. In response, the focal point uploaded additional information in the workflow. The Panel has since reviewed the latest submission and circulated the draft assessment reports to the Panel for inputs/comments.

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.

MIE009	May-21	AFB/B.37/10	Accreditation expired on 21 September 2021. After the AP36 meeting, the Panel continued its review of the application and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 21 September 2021. In response, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow in mid-October 2021, permitting the Panel to resume its review of the application. On 26 October, the Panel sought additional information from the project team on the current Fund's projects under implementation by the applicant, which the project team provided on 29 October. The Panel subsequently updated its assessment report and produced a follow up list of questions which the Secretariat transmitted to the focal point on 12 January 2022. In response, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow on 27 and 28 January, including a revised TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP.
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. The applicant neither acknowledged receipt nor provided additional information on the pending issue.

OTHER MATTERS

7. **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.

8. **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

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/>

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.

9. 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.