



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.37-38/6
17 March 2022

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
(ETHIOPIA, KENYA, UGANDA)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its twenty-ninth meeting, approved a three-year project titled “Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative” submitted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for a total amount of US\$ 6,800,000 (decision B.29/27).

2. The overall objective of the project is to develop and implement adaptation strategies and measures that will strengthen the resilience of vulnerable smallholder farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in the Horn of Africa to climate variability and change, which will be achieved through the following outcomes: (i) Sustainably enhanced productivity, production, livelihood diversification and income levels among targeted communities; (ii) Enhanced technical capacity of development and extension actors (national, sub-national, private sector, NGOs, CBOs) to support community level climate adaptation strategies; and (iii) Improved climate informed decision making in regional, national and sub-national institutions.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and WMO in June 2017 and the project started implementation on 30 August 2018.

4. The project implementing entity submitted three project performance reports (PPRs), which have been cleared by the secretariat, and as of 17 March 2022, the total project funding for an amount of US\$ 6,800,000 including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 100% of the approved grant.

5. On 21 January 2021, a no-cost extension of the project completion date from 29 August 2021 to 29 August 2022 was granted based on Board Decision B.35.b/16 which includes a provision for temporary no-cost extension of the project completion date up to 12 months for projects/programmes which have been delayed due to COVID-19 and which are set to be completed within 24 months from the date of the extension request.

6. On 14 March 2022, WMO submitted a second request for a regular no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 29 August 2022 to 29 February 2024. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.29- 30/3/Rev.1; Decision B.29-30/15 and Decision B.34-35/12), a request for an extension of the project completion date must be submitted by the implementing entity at least six months prior to the official completion date. The submission date of this request is, therefore, not in compliance with the aforementioned deadline.

7. The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by WMO, are multi-faceted and includes i) administrative challenges faced by one Executing Entity which slowed down implementation of community grants; ii) delays related to conflicts in Ethiopia which, slowed down the implementation of some activities; iii) severe droughts that struck the Horn of Africa, including target sites in Ethiopia and Kenya, which further delayed implementation of some activities as a side-effect; iii) the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic that have further exacerbated the project implementation delay, but do not constitute the main factor for delay.

Secretariat’s review of the request

8. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by WMO, the secretariat is of the view that this eighteenth-months extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by WMO (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time to complete all remaining activities. In addition, the secretariat recognizes the adaptive management put in place by WMO to mitigate further delays, as

evidenced in the memo. Specifically, anticipating actual field-level work while administrative modalities were being clarified, using virtual conferencing platforms whenever possible and holding in-person gatherings were necessary and feasible including in Ethiopia and Uganda are risk mitigation strategies that increase the likelihood of continued implementation despite the challenges outlined above.

9. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost programme extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity and endorsed by the Designated Authority, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

10. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteenth-months extension of the project completion date from 29 August 2022 to 29 February 2024, for the project “Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative” as requested by WMO.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from WMO.

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date**ANNEX A: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME***Request for extension of project/programme completion date*

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--|------------------|
| Implementing Entity Name: World Meteorological Organization (WMO) | | | |
| AF Project/programme ID: AFR/MIE/Food/2015/2 | | | |
| Project/programme Title: Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative (ACREI) | | | |
| Country: Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda | | | |
| Project/Programme Approval (date) | 17 March 2017 | | |
| Expected Project/programme Completion (date) | 29 August 2022 | Proposed Revised Completion (date): | 29 February 2024 |

Reasons/justifications for the extension of project/programme completion:

| |
|--|
| <p>About the project: <i>The Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative (ACREI) is a US\$ 6.8 million regional project funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC). The program targets Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda and supports community adaption practice, climate proofing of extension systems and climate informed decision making. The project outcomes are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcome 1. Sustainably enhanced agricultural productivity, production, livelihood diversification and income levels among targeted communities. - Outcome 2. Enhanced technical capacity of development and extension actors (national, sub-national, private sector, NGOs, CBOs) to support community level climate adaptation strategies - Outcome 3. Improved climate informed decision making in regional, national and sub-national institutions <p>Rational for extension: <i>The request for extension is based largely on the following factors:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>There have been administrative challenges by one of the EEs for the community adaptation actions which are a key aspect of the project. These administrative challenges have been associated with strict internal regulations for administering community grants. The administrative issues and modality for the community grants have now been largely rectified and the funding of the community adaptation actions is underway. This is the most crucial aspect of the project and will result in long-term adaptation benefits for the targeted communities. It is imperative that these actions be completed, and more time is required to allow for this.</i> 2. <i>There has been conflict in Ethiopia which has affected the security situation and various development work in the country. The roads to the project locations were often affected by blockages related to the conflict. Initially, Ethiopia were ahead in project activities, and although the conflict was not specifically in the project locations, road blockages, internal travel restrictions and the COVID situation combined to delay key activities there.</i> 3. <i>The Horn of Africa, including project locations in Ethiopia and Kenya, have been affected by</i> |
|--|

Ref: 06053/2022 JJ HS/RAF

Ref.: 06053/2022-21HS/RAF

one of the most severe droughts in recent times following back to back poor rainfall seasons, which diverted attention from planned development efforts to emergency relief efforts. The October-December 2020, March-May 2021 and October-December 2021 seasons were all marred by below-average rainfall. Kenya and Ethiopia project areas were affected. On 8 Sep 2021 the Kenyan president declared the drought in Kenya as a national disaster. Taita Taveta, the project area in Kenya, was highly affected and ACREI target communities were in part subject to emergency relief interventions. While largely complementary to ACREI, emergency relief did sideline both government and FAO staff attention somewhat from scheduled development efforts. In January 2022 FAO launched the "Drought in the Horn of Africa, Rapid Response and Mitigation Plan to Avert a Humanitarian Catastrophe, January-June 2022" with Kenya and Ethiopia (both ACREI countries) being key areas of focus.

4. Year 2 and 3 progress was negatively impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic, which occurred at a critical time when key aspects of the project were meant to be undertaken. COVID impacts have extended into late 2021 and early 2022 and still place constraints on various activities.
5. The design of the project had most activities and greatest budget allocated for Year 2 (2020), and although most funds have been disbursed to the Executing Entities as per WMOs agreements with them, their expenditure of these funds in the 2020-2021 period was much lower than expected largely due to the COVID situations' impact on activities. This has particularly affected FAO whose activities are mostly field and community based, as well as affecting ICPACs face to face engagements. Face-to-face engagements have only just begun to happen again.

The EEs have taken various actions to reduce delays including:

1. Focusing on laying the groundwork and having all documentation and technical aspects prepared for the community adaptation investments while the administrative modalities for this were being clarified. Community adaptation actions were endorsed in Ethiopia and have been submitted along with the last PPR, while those for Kenya are at an advanced stage.
2. Conducting online workshops using virtual conferencing platforms where possible, although with shorter duration and limited participation in some cases; advocacy and awareness raising on the project has continued to be conducted online, including writing news stories and documentation of good practices. Communities have continued to receive localized climate advisories and climate services support throughout the COVID pandemic.
3. Holding in-person gatherings where necessary and possible, while observing COVID protocols. Farmer field school activities in Kenya and Ethiopia have emerged as a success story for facilitating in-person activities during the COVID pandemic, while the first in-person participatory seasonal advisory development workshops for 2022 were recently held in Ethiopia and Uganda. The COVID situation allowing, key regional workshops will soon be able to be held.

On 21st January 2021 the Adaptation Fund approved a no-cost extension of 12 months from August 2021 to August 2022 based on the ongoing COVID situation. Despite the mitigatory actions conducted since then, the COVID pandemic has continued to affect regional activities, while the community adaptation aspect of the project has also been delayed. The EEs hence require an additional 18 months to catchup on and complete activities planned under the project, particularly the concrete adaptation actions, that would have been started in 2020. The focus in the coming months will be on 1) Implementing the community adaptation investments, which are a core aspect of the project; 2) Conducting regional in-person trainings that were affected by COVID (e.g. extension actors' trainings, PICSA training).

WMO and the EEs therefore request an extension of the implementing period for the ACREI project by an additional 18 months to 29 February 2024. No additional funds are required and there will be no change in the project framework.

Implementing Entity certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, has been agreed by participating executing entities, and the designated authorities (DAs) have been notified.

Name & Signature



Project/programme contact person: Jean-Paul Gaudechoux, Head, Regional Strategy Division, Member Services Department, WMO

Date: *(March, 14, 2022)*

Tel. and Email: +41 22 730 8311
jpgaudechoux@wmo.int

Ref: 06053/2022-LIHS/RAF