



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.29/33
14 March 2022

Project and Programme Review Committee
Twenty-ninth Meeting
Bonn, Germany (Hybrid meeting), 5-6 April 2022

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON INITIAL
SCREENING/TECHNICAL REVIEW
OF LARGE INNOVATION PROJECT AND PROGRAMME
PROPOSALS**

Background

1. This document presents to the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) of the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) an overview of the large innovation project proposals submitted by Multilateral Implementing Entities and National Implementing Entities (NIE) to the current meeting, and the process of screening and technical review undertaken by the secretariat.

2. The analysis of the proposals mentioned above is contained in a separate addendum to this document.

3. At its thirtieth meeting, having considered document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

(a) *To adopt the medium-term strategy as amended by the Board, as contained in the Annex 1 of the document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1 (the MTS); and*

(b) *To request the secretariat:*

(i) *To broadly disseminate the MTS and work with key stakeholders to build understanding and support;*

(ii) *To prepare, under the supervision of the MTS task force, a draft implementation plan for operationalizing the MTS, containing a draft budget and addressing key assumptions and risks, including but not limited to funding and political risks, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting; and*

(iii) *To draft, as part of the implementation plan, the updates/modifications to the operational policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund needed to facilitate implementation of the MTS, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting.*

(Decision B.30/42)

4. Pursuant to decision B.30/42, subparagraph (b)(ii), the secretariat prepared a draft implementation plan for the MTS, including an assessment of assumptions and risks. The secretariat shared a version of the draft with the MTS task force for comments.

5. The draft implementation plan also contains suggestions for specific funding windows that might be opened under the MTS in complement of the Fund's existing funding windows for single-country and regional adaptation projects and readiness support projects. Following the approval of the implementation plan, the secretariat would present specific proposed details for each new funding window at subsequent meetings of the Board for its consideration, in accordance with the timeline contained in the implementation plan.

6. At its thirty-first meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board discussed the draft implementation plan for the MTS, and members of the Board proposed amendments to the document. The secretariat then presented a revised draft, in document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1. Having considered that document, the Board decided:

(a) *To approve the implementation plan for the medium-term strategy for the Fund for 2018–2022 contained in the Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1 (the plan);*

(b) *To request the secretariat:*

[...]

(iii) To prepare, for each proposed new type of grant and funding window, a specific document containing objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features and submit it to the Board for its consideration in accordance with the tentative timeline contained in Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1, with input from the Board's committees;

(iv) Following consideration of the new types of support mentioned in subparagraph (b)(iii), to propose, as necessary, amendments to the Fund's operational policies and guidelines Fund to better facilitate the implementation of such new types of support; and

[...]

(Decision B.31/32)

7. At the second session of its thirty-fifth meeting, the Board considered document AFB/PPRC.26.b/16 , Program on Innovation: Large Grants for Innovation, and the Board decided:

(a) To approve the process for providing funding for innovation through large grants to Implementing Entities (IEs) as described in document AFB/PPRC.26.b/16; including the proposed objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features as described in the document;

(b) That the large grants for innovation would fall outside the country cap approved by the Board in decision B.13/23 or, in the case of regional or multi-regional proposals, the regional provision, whereas they would count against the Multilateral Implementing Entity cap as per decision B.12/9;

(c) To request the secretariat to prepare the first Request for Proposals to IEs for a total amount of US \$30 million to be launched by the first quarter of calendar year of 2021; and

(d) To request the secretariat to consider the need to develop specific objectives and indicators for the innovation aspects of the projects, beyond what is included in the regular project performance reporting process and make relevant recommendations to the Board at its thirty-seventh meeting.

(Decision B.35.b/8)

8. At its thirty-sixth meeting, the Board considered the document AFB/PPRC.27/28, Programme on Innovation: Operationalization of Large Grants for Innovation, and the Board decided:

(a) To approve the Innovation Large Grant Project Proposal template, the Review Criteria template and the Instructions for Preparing a Proposal for Innovation Large Grants, as described in annexes II, III and IV to document AFB/PPRC.27/28;

(b) To launch the request for proposals so that submissions of Innovation Large Grants proposals are invited to be considered as early as the thirty-seventh meeting of the Board.

(Decision B.36/24)

9. Subsequently, the first call for project and programme proposals under the indicative set-aside amount of US\$ 30 million was issued to eligible Parties to submit innovation large grant project and programme proposals to the Fund through accredited NIEs, RIEs and MIEs.

Programming To-date

10. At the second session of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board, the Board issued the first call for project and programme proposals for the amount of \$30 million. The proposals subsequently received are summarized in Table 1.

Table1: Active pipeline projects under the large innovation project/programme funding window

Project Name	Country /Countries	Implementing Entity	Requested Financing (USD million)	Funding Decision
Securing Water Resources through Solar Energy and Innovative Adaptive Management (SEAM)	Belize	PACT	4,970,000	Concept Not Endorsed
Enhancing Adaptation and Resilience through Nature Based Solutions	Somalia	UNEP	5,000,000	Concept Not Endorsed
Promoting Financial Incentive Mechanisms for Community-Based Sustainable Coastal Wetland Management in Vietnam (CM-FIM)	Vietnam	IFAD	5,000,000	Concept Not Endorsed
Unlocking Investments in Female and Youth-led Early-growth Stage Adaptation Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Kenya and Uganda	Regional (Kenya, Uganda)	UNIDO	5,000,000	Pre-Concept Endorsed
Total			19,970,000	

Large Innovation Project Proposals Submitted by Multilateral and National Implementing Entities

11. Accredited multilateral and national implementing entities submitted three large innovation project proposals to the secretariat, with the total requested funding amounting to US\$ 14,873,400. All three submissions met the requirements for undergoing a complete technical review. These proposals included US\$ 890,163 (average of 6.50%) in Implementing Entities management fees and US\$ 1,214,421 or an average of 8.70% in execution costs.

12. The projects were submitted for Bangladesh by the National Implementing Entity (NIE) for Bangladesh, and two projects, including one regional project were submitted by Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs). Details of the proposals are contained in the separate PPRC working documents, as follows:

(a) Bangladesh: AFB/PPRC.29/34;

(b) Egypt: AFB/PPRC.29/36; and

(c) The Gambia, United Republic of Tanzania: AFB/PPRC.29/37

Review Process

13. The secretariat subsequently reviewed the supplementary information provided by the IEs and compiled a recommendation that is presented in the addendum to this document (AFB/PPRC.29/33/Add.1).

Issues Identified

Available funding

14. Funding requests to date under the first request for proposals (RFP) under a set-aside of US\$ 30 million launched in 2021 have reached US\$ 34,843,400, which is in excess of the set aside funding under the first RFP. The secretariat would like to recall that a second request for proposals under the set-aside of US\$ 60 million was expected to be launched in 2022.

Quality at entry

15. The review process identified issues relating the quality at entry of funding applications such as (i) the need for entities to utilize the correct application templates at the various stage for innovation large grants, (ii) the need for implementing entities to familiarize themselves with available guidance on the innovation microsite for developing funding applications, to avoid redundancy and/ or repetition in the information provided, and (iii) the need for proposals to more clearly define and/ or describe the project's innovation rationale. The secretariat plans to intensify its efforts at capacity building under the Readiness programme.

Issues relating to accreditation

16. One innovation large grant concept note was submitted by a National Implementing Entity for a requested amount of US\$ 5,000,000. However, the concept note could not be presented for consideration at the upcoming board meeting as the entity is undergoing reaccreditation.

Table 2: Large innovation project proposals submitted to the thirty-eighth Board meeting

7. Full Proposals Single Country: Large Innovation Projects	Region/Countries	IE	PPRC Document number	Grant Size, USD	IE Fee, USD	IE Fee %	Execution Cost, USD	EC %
NIE								
	Bangladesh	PKSF	AFB/PPRC.29/34	5,000,000	75,000	1.52%	400,000	8.12%
				5,000,000	75,000	1.52%	400,000	8.12%
8. Concepts Single Country: Large Innovation Projects	Region/Countries	IE	PPRC Document number	Grant Size, USD	IE Fee, USD	IE Fee %	Execution Cost, USD	EC %
MIE								
	Egypt	FAO	AFB/PPRC.29/36	4,873,400	381,373	8.49%	426,293	9.49%
				4,873,400	381,373	8.49%	426,293	9.49%
9. Pre-concepts Regional: Large Innovation Projects	Region/Countries	IE	PPRC Document number	Grant Size, USD	IE Fee, USD	IE Fee %	Execution Cost, USD	EC %
MIE								
	Gambia (Republic of The), Tanzania (United Republic of)	WMO	AFB/PPRC.29/37	5,000,000	433,790	9.50%	388,128	8.50%
				5,000,000	433,790	9.50%	388,128	8.50%
Sub-total, USD				14,873,400	890,163	6.50%	1,214,421	8.70%