



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.39-40/2  
2 November 2022

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Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION  
DATE: SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE (SOUTH AFRICA) (1)**

## Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its twenty-fourth meeting, approved a five-year project titled “Building Resilience in the Greater uMngeni Catchment”, submitted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) for a requested amount of US\$ 7,495,055 (decision B. 24/14).

2. The overall objective of the project is to reduce climate vulnerability and increase the resilience and adaptive capacity in rural and peri-urban settlements and small-scale farmers in productive landscapes in the uMgungundlovu District Municipality (UMDM), KwaZulu Natal Province, that are threatened by climate variability and change, through an integrated adaptation approach. This is enabled through implementing a suite of complementary gender sensitive project interventions, focusing on: early warning and ward-based disaster response systems; ecological and engineering infrastructure solutions specifically focused on vulnerable communities, including women; integrating the use of climate-resilient crops and climate-smart techniques into new and existing farming systems; and disseminating adaptation lessons learned and policy recommendations, to facilitate scaling up and replication.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and SANBI in October 2014 and the programme started implementation on 11 December 2015.

4. The programme implementing entity submitted six project performance reports (PPRs), three have been cleared by the secretariat. As of 17 October 2022, the total programme funding for an amount of US\$ 7,495,055 including the programme fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 100% of the approved grant.

5. In May 2019, the first regular no-cost extension of the project completion date from 30 September 2020 to 31 March 2022 was granted based on the Board Decision B.33-34/6. A second no-cost extension of the programme completion date from 31 March 2022 to 30 March 2023, due to implementation delays incurred under the COVID-19 pandemic, was approved by the secretariat.

6. On 29 September 2022, SANBI submitted a third request for a regular six-month no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 31 March 2023 to 30 September 2023. 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, in compliance with the aforementioned deadline.

7. The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by SANBI, are multi-faceted, including: i) delays and challenges associated with the procurement of services through the executing entity; ii) COVID-19 restrictions in South Africa remained in place until June 2022, which slowed down community engagement activities.

## Secretariat’s review of the request

8. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by SANBI, the secretariat is of the view that this last six-months extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by SANBI (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time for the final approvals of works under component 2.1, as well as the completion of final reports. In addition, SANBI confirms that this extension will not entail a budget

revision, nor new activities.

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 a six-month extension of the project completion date from 31 March 2023 to 30 September 2023, for the project “Building Resilience in the Greater uMngeni Catchment” as requested by SANBI.

### **Annex**

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

## Annex 1: Request for an extension of the programme completion date

### ANNEX A: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME

*Request for extension of project/programme completion date*

|  |               |  |                   |
|--|---------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Implementing Entity Name:</b> South African National Biodiversity Institute       |               |  |                   |
| <b>AF Project/programme ID:</b> ZAF/NIE/Water/2013/1                                 |               |  |                   |
| <b>Project/programme Title:</b> Building Resilience in the Greater uMngeni Catchment |               |  |                   |
| <b>Country:</b> South Africa   |               |  |                   |
| <b>Project/Programme Approval (date):</b> 10 October 2014                            |               |  |                   |
| <b>Expected Project/programme Completion (date):</b>                                 | 31 March 2023 | <b>Proposed Revised Completion (date):</b> | 30 September 2023 |

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

SANBI would like to request a further six-month no-cost extension for the project entitled: "Building Resilience in the Greater uMngeni Catchment".

SANBI anticipates that the implementation of all operational project activities will be close to complete by the current end date of 31 March 2023, and is requesting the additional six months to allow for the finalisation of some of these, and final reporting by Executing Entity and sub-Executing Entity staff.

As has been reported in previous no-cost extension requests and in the annual Project Performance Reports, the implementation of the project has been behind schedule for a number of years. The reasons for this slower than anticipated progress are primarily related to:

- Protracted delays and challenges associated with the procurement of services through the Executing Entity, the uMgungundlovu District Municipality. This was partly due to the Executing Entity's internal systems, and partly as a result of high turnover in high level staff and political leadership of the District Municipality. These challenges were further exacerbated by National Treasury regulations which put a moratorium on all Government-led procurement for a period during Year 7 of the project. This came at a critical time for the project, and resulted in the procurement of service providers for Component 2.1 (Built Environment) through the Executing Entity being stalled.
- COVID-19. Whilst a 12-month no-cost extension on the project was granted in January 2021 by the Adaptation Fund, restrictions in South Africa remained in place until June 2022. These restrictions, which included limitations on the number of people gathering together, had a severe impact on the project, particularly community engagement and the participatory activities that underpin the project.

At the start of Year 5 of the project an improved set of management arrangements were agreed to with the Executing Entity and sub-Executing Entity (University of KwaZulu-Natal). This included a turn-around strategy and COVID-recovery plan that has informed the project's annual planning. These measures have been effective in expediting implementation across all components of the project, to the extent that all operational project activities will be close to complete by the current end date of 31 March 2023.

The improved set of management arrangements allowed for the procurement of the service providers for Component 2.1 (Built Environment) to be shifted to the sub-Executing Entity in Year 7 of the project. The work is now underway and is scheduled to be complete by the end of March 2023. However, it is anticipated that an additional period will be required to allow for the mandated engineering and local government approvals of the Built Environment work (i.e. climate-strengthen of rural community infrastructure).

The requested six-month no cost extension will allow for the final approvals of the Component 2.1 work, as well as the completion of final reporting that will need to be undertaken by Executing Entity and sub-Executing Entity, ahead of administrative closure.

No new activities will be initiated in this final period.

*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 authority (DA) has been notified.

*Name & Signature*



Project/programme contact person: Dr Mandy Barnett

Date: (Month, Day, Year) 09/29/2022

Tel. and Email: +27 (0) 21 799 8875

[m.barnett@sanbi.org.za](mailto:m.barnett@sanbi.org.za)