



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.40-41/5
26 June 2023

Adaptation Fund Board

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: THE PLANNING INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA (JAMAICA)

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its eighteenth meeting, approved a three-and-a-half-year project titled “Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security” in Jamaica, submitted by The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), a national implementing entity of the Adaptation Fund, for a requested amount of US\$ 9,965,000 (Decision B.18/9).
2. The overall objective of the project is to protect livelihoods and food security in vulnerable communities by improving land and water management for the agricultural sector, strengthening coastal protection, and building institutional and local capacity for climate change adaptation.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and PIOJ on 7th August 2012 and the project started implementation on 2nd November 2012.
4. To date, the project implementing entity submitted ten project performance reports (PPRs). Nine have been cleared by the secretariat. The total project funding of US\$ 9,965,000 including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 100% of the approved grant.
5. In April 2016, the first regular request for no-cost extension of the project completion date from March 2016 to September 2017 was granted based on the Board Decision B.27-28/1. A second request for no-cost extension of the project completion date from September 2017 to March 2019 was approved by the Board through Decision B.29-30/11. The reasons behind both requests were several unforeseen issues that had negatively impacted implementation, including delays in the start of the construction phase of component 1 due to consultation process challenges encountered in the Component 1 target area. A third request for no-cost extension of the project completion date from 31st March 2019 to 30th September 2020 was approved by the Board through Decision B.32-33/10. It was justified by the fact that the original project component 1 had been discontinued in June 2016 due to implementation delays, and had subsequently been replaced by a revised component 1. The Board approved a fourth request for no-cost extension of the project completion date from 30th September 2020 to 30th September 2021 in June 2020 (Decision B.35.a-35.b/31), due to unanticipated procurement challenges in a context of COVID-19 pandemic. A fifth request for no-cost extension of the project completion date from 30th September 2021 to 30th September 2022, due to implementation delays incurred under the COVID-19 pandemic, was approved by the secretariat (Ref: 2021/073).
6. In July 2022, PIOJ submitted a draft request for a regular fifteen-months no-cost extension of the project completion date and, after consultations with the secretariat, a revised request in April 2023 for an eighteen-months no-cost extension from 30th September 2022 to 31st March 2024 (see annex 1). The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by PIOJ, are multi-faceted, including: i) delays and challenges associated with COVID-19 related protocols which delayed the implementation of some activities; ii) challenges met with a contractor in charge of carrying out shoreline protection works, which slowed down this specific activity.

Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by PIOJ, the secretariat is of the view that this eighteen-months extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by PIOJ (Annex 1), it is noted that this request should provide sufficient time to execute the remaining activities and amplify the project benefits.

8. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entities, and that the Designated Authority was notified, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

9. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteen-months extension of the project completion date from 30 September 2022 to 31 March 2024, for the project “Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security” as requested by PIOJ.

Annex

- 1) Request for a no-cost extension of the project completion date from PIOJ for the project “Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security”.

Annex 1: Request for a no-cost extension of the project completion date from PIOJ for the project “Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security”.

Annex A: Request for Extension

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

AF Project/programme ID: JAM/NIE/Multi/2011/1			
Project/programme Title: Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Enhance Food Security			
Country: Jamaica, W. I.			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	July 2012		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	September 30, 2022	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	March 31, 2024

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


Since early 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has negatively affected most countries around the world, including Jamaica. This has produced constraints and uncertainties that have negatively affected planned programme implementation activities.

The need to observe required protocols to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus meant that adaptive measures have had to be taken, including restructuring and adjusting regular work modality into mostly remote/virtual arrangements. This has led to delays in several activities. In order keep disruptions to a minimum, the NIE and partners have adapted to delivering programme activities such as stakeholder consultations, training/capacity building initiatives and project supervision through virtual modalities.

The delays for the last 30+ months have been mostly COVID-19 induced delays; in addition, there are some implementation challenges with one contractor currently carrying out shoreline protection works. With the recent clearance of the PPR paving the way for us to receive the requested tranche from the AF, we are now in a position to complete remaining procurement-related activities for the additional coastal works. Those procurement activities are currently underway. Components 1 and 3 will therefore require additional time beyond the slated September 30, 2022 end date. Activities under Component 3 are slated for completion by December 2023; however, based on the Engineer's Estimates, it is anticipated that work on the remaining coastal sites will take approximately 12 to 15 months to reach completion.

In light of the foregoing, the NIE is of the view that an extension of 18 months from September 30, 2022 to March 2024 should provide adequate time to execute the remaining activities under the GOJ/AFP and amplify its benefits to the vulnerable communities.

Implementing Entity certification

<p>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.</p> <p>YES</p>	
<p><i>Name and Signature</i></p> <p></p> <p>Kirk Philips Corporate Governance & Management for Director General Planning Institute of Jamaica</p> <p>Project/Programme contact person</p>	
<p>Date: July 7, 2022</p> <p>Modified April 2023</p>	<p>Tel. and Email:(876) 935-5099</p> <p>kphilips@pioj.gov.jm</p>