



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.40-41/8
21 August 2023

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:
MICRONESIA CONSERVATION TRUST
(MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF))**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its thirty-first meeting, approved a three-year project titled “Practical Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia” in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), submitted by the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), a national implementing entity of the Adaptation Fund, for a requested amount of US\$ 970,000 (Decision B.31/8).

2. The overall objective of the project is to build the ecological, social and economic resilience of communities in the FSM through practical solutions for reducing community vulnerability to climate change stressors. The project aims to ensure that all four State Governments and the National Government in the FSM have the mechanisms in place to develop and successfully implement a robust nearshore fisheries management and nationwide protected areas network inclusive of proper enforcement and sustainable finance mechanisms. The project also seeks to provide communities with the resources and support needed to implement successful eco-based adaptation actions to protect their marine ecosystems and increase resilience to climate change impacts.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and MCT on 16th May 2018 and the project started implementation on 3rd July 2018.

4. To date, the project implementing entity submitted three project performance reports (PPRs). The total project funding of US\$ 970,000 including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 100% of the approved grant.

5. In April 2021, a first request for no-cost extension of the project completion date from 3rd July 2021 to 3rd July 2022, due to implementation delays incurred under the COVID-19 pandemic, was approved by the secretariat (Ref: 2021/032). A second request for no-cost extension of the project completion date for COVID-19 related reasons was approved by the secretariat in 2022 (Ref: 2022/074), extending the project completion date to 3rd July 2023.

6. In July 2023, MCT submitted a third request for a regular six-months no-cost extension of the project completion date from 3rd July 2023 to 31st December 2023 (see annex 1). The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by MCT, are multi-faceted, including: i) delays and challenges associated with COVID-19 related protocols until the beginning of 2023 delayed the implementation of some activities; and ii) the occurrence of typhoon Mawar in May 2023, which impacted travel and communications delaying the execution of the last project activities.

Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by MCT, the secretariat is of the view that this six-months extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by MCT (Annex 1), it is noted that this request should provide sufficient time to execute the remaining two activities, which will strengthen capacity on the newly adopted regulations and associated activities, such as marine protected area management.

8. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity, 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 a six-months extension of the project completion date from 3rd July 2023 to 31st December 2023, for the project “Practical Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia” as requested by MCT.

Annex

- 1) Request for a no-cost extension of the project completion date from MCT for the project “Practical Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia”.

Annex 1: Request for a no-cost extension of the project completion date from MCT for the project “Practical Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia”

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

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Implementing Entity Name: Micronesia Conservation Trust			
AF Project/programme ID: FSM/NIE/Multi/2016/2			
Project/programme Title: Practical Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia			
Country: Federated States of Micronesia			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	3/22/2018		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	7/3/2023	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	12/31/23

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

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) kindly requests a final 6-month extension for the project *Practical Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia*. This final request for an extension is to allow the time to complete 2 final activities that were to be completed in June 2023 however were delayed due multi-factors including continued issues due to a natural disaster in the region and the continued impacts of COVID-19.

Typhoon Mawar, a super-typhoon, made its way across the entire Micronesian region and devastated Guam on May 19th, 2023. The island of Guam suffered power and water outages that they still face today, almost 6 weeks later. Much of their infrastructure was destroyed and their airport was harmed significantly. There is only one airline and one flight per day in and out of the FSM and it departs from and returns to Guam. For the state of Yap, one must travel through Guam to get to the other states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Due to the typhoon, travel and communications became difficult and our partners and consultants who are to support our last activities have been delayed.

Moreover, the FSM was one of the last countries in the world to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. The FSM Government closed the borders in March 2020. During that time, precautions and travel restrictions made it difficult to complete project activities for this project. In August 2022, COVID-19 finally found its way to the islands and the borders were opened. Still, as the country faced COVID for the first time, “normal” travel and activities did not resume until the beginning of 2023. Since January MCT and its partners have been working diligently to complete project activities however we find that we need more time to complete only two final activities properly.

As such, MCT is hereby requesting our final, and last, extension for 6 more months to December 31st, 2023.

The two activities that are still to be completed are:

Activity 1.3.1: *Implement workshops for participating state entities to ensure understanding of the entire protected areas network through training on: the FSM national protected areas network policy, country program strategy and the national operations manual.*

**This activity can now take place and MCT is working with the FSM Government to bring together the PAN Coordinators and other stakeholders as soon as possible (likely August 2023 if this NCE is granted) to complete this activity.

Activity 2.1.1: *Provide training in each state on existing legislation and any newly adopted regulations and associated activities, such as marine protected area management and collaborative enforcement, to improve enforcement capacity.*

**This activity which began in early March was delayed as the consultant who was traveling between the 4 states to conduct the training was delayed due to Typhoon Mawar that devastated Guam on May 27th. For two weeks, commercial airlines in the region were not able to fly due to the FSM as the Guam International Airport was damaged. As such, the training is ongoing and should be completed by mid-July, 2023.

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.



William Kostka, Executive Director

Project/programme contact person

Date: *(Month, Day, Year)*

June 17th, 2023

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