



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.41-42/7  
29 January 2024

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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 four project performance reports (PPRs), which have been cleared by the secretariat, and as of 29 January 2024, 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 first 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. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, a second request for a regular no-cost extension of the project completion date from 29 August 2022 to 29 February 2024 was granted by the Board through Decision B.37-38/15.
6. On 22 December 2023, WMO submitted a request for a regular six-months no-cost extension of the project completion date from 29 February 2024 to 29 August 2024 (see annex 1). The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by WMO, are multi-faceted and include: i) administrative challenges faced by one Executing Entity in Ethiopia which slowed down implementation of community grants; ii) the need for WMO and the executing entities to provide further oversight for on-going community adaptation investments in Ethiopia to ensure the sustainability of the interventions; iii) the limited access to some project sites in Ethiopia due to the security situation; and iv) the fact that some impact evaluations are still on-going, and will feed into the terminal evaluation, which is expected to take place at the earliest in March-May 2024.

## Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by WMO, the secretariat is of the view that this six-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.
8. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been

agreed with the Executing Entities and endorsed by the Designated Authorities, 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 29 February 2024 to 29 August 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*

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

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

<p><b>About the project:</b> 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) and executed by 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outcome 1. Sustainably enhanced agricultural productivity, production, livelihood diversification and income levels among targeted communities.</li> <li>- Outcome 2. Enhanced technical capacity of development and extension actors (national, sub-national, private sector, NGOs, CBOs) to support community level climate adaptation strategies.</li> <li>- Outcome 3. Improved climate informed decision making in regional, national and sub-national institutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rational for extension:</b> Although significant progress towards all project outcomes have been achieved in all countries with the exception of community investments in Ethiopia; an extension of the project duration is requested based on the following factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administrative challenges remained for one of the executing entities (EE)s in Ethiopia, with the adaptation grants in that country only starting to be rolled out in November 2023. These administrative challenges have been associated with strict internal regulations by FAO for administering the community grants to ensure that the funds are correctly utilized. This is the most crucial aspect and highest budgeted activity of the project, and will result in long-term adaptation benefits for the targeted communities. It is imperative that these actions be completed. Additional time is required to allow for this.</li> <li>2. This is particularly the case for community adaptation investments in Ethiopia where, despite the adaptation investments now being rolled out, a 6-month oversight period is recommended to ensure that these funds fully meet their intended use. A premature closure of the project may jeopardize the regular monitoring by local government and FAO teams to ensure success and sustainability of this key project output.</li> <li>3. The limited access to the project sites in Ethiopia earlier in the project due to the security</li> </ol>
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situation in the country affected the various development work in the country. This has now mostly passed but did affect access and effectiveness in project sites in previous years.

4. The project is applying a comprehensive quantitative impact evaluation methodology (RIMA), with baselines having been undertaken at the start of the project and being followed up by endline surveys towards the end of the project. The endline surveys are currently ongoing, with Kenya survey undertaken in August 2023, Uganda survey planned for January 2023 and Ethiopia survey scheduled for February 2024. The survey results will form an excellent basis upon which the formal evaluation of the project is undertaken. For this reason, the formal evaluation is best placed to be undertaken earliest March-May 2024, following the analysis of the quantitative data collection. Considering the uniqueness of this project having implemented a rigorous quantitative impact evaluation it would be unfortunate to not build on this data set in the final project evaluation. Major learning on resilience building strategies is expected as a key outcome of the endline and ultimately the evaluation.
5. The funding for the evaluation is by project design allocated to FAO who operates as a project executing entity under a UN-to-UN agreement with WMO. While Adaptation Fund rules request that the final evaluation of the project to be undertaken within a 9-month period post project closure, internal WMO and FAO procedures will not allow for evaluation related expenditures beyond the official project closure date. Keeping the project operationally active during the evaluation period is necessary and this will require formal extension of the end date.

The EEs have taken various actions to reduce delays and catch up on previously delayed activities including, now having rolled out adaptation investments in Kenya and Uganda, with these being largely either completed or close to completion. The EEs are also working to ensure sustainability of the project actions, by providing supervision and technical oversight activities beyond February 2024. Significant progress has been made in implementation of the project, with various lessons emerging, particularly on the model of the project which links climate services at regional level to local level community adaptation. Overall, the project is largely on track to deliver all major project outputs, except for those in Ethiopia, which require more time.

Noting that according to Adaptation Fund policies "Additional time beyond the 18 months (extension) may be granted under exceptional circumstances", WMO and the EEs consider the above points as exceptional.

WMO and the EEs hence request an additional 6 month no-cost extension up to the end of August 2024, which will be used to: 1) Implement and follow up on the community adaptation investments (particularly in Ethiopia), which are a core aspect of the project; 2) conduct the project endline and evaluation within WMO and EE rules for conducting such (i.e., before operational closure of the project).

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:

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Date: 21 December 2023

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