



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.42-43/12
21 June 2024

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR A NO-COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT
COMPLETION DATE:
BANQUE OUEST AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
(GUINEA-BISSAU)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its thirtieth meeting, approved a five-year project titled “Scaling up climate-smart agriculture in East Guinea-Bissau,” submitted by the Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD) for a total amount of US\$ 9,979,000 (Decision B.30/22).

2. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen practices and capacities in climate-smart agriculture in the project region and at institutional level. Through the project’s activities, food security and livelihoods are to be strengthened at household level while simultaneously increasing capacities in climate risk management and adaptation planning at all levels of governance. The project will be implemented in the northern parts of Bafata and Gabu regions in the sectors of Sonaco, Pirada, Pitche, Gabù, Cuntoboel and Ganadu. The objective of the project will be achieved through the implementation of a suite of interventions that focus on: i) developing technical and institutional capacity of government and civil society (private sector, local communities, NGOs) to address increasing climatic risk in climate change adaptation planning; ii) enhancing the resilience of existing agricultural productive systems and contribute to the diversification of production, including via implementation of climate-resilient water control and management actions to minimize risks from intense droughts and floods; and iii) promoting knowledge dissemination of lessons learned on climate-smart agriculture and adaptation planning to other regions of the country and other countries in West Africa.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and BOAD on 24 January 2018 and the programme started implementation on 22 January 2020.

4. The project Implementing Entity submitted two project performance reports (PPRs) that have been cleared by the secretariat. As of the date of the issuance of this document, a total amount of US\$ 7,752,000 including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 77.7 percent of the approved grant.

5. On 17 May 2024, BOAD submitted a request for a regular eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 22 January 2025 to 22 July 2026. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.34-35/6), an implementing entity may request for a project/programme extension beyond the original completion date for up to 18 months for a concrete adaptation project/programme if (i) no additional funds are required; (ii) the project/programme’s originally approved scope will not change; and (iii) the entity provides reasons and justifications for the extension.

6. The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by BOAD, are due to different reasons, including: i) the COVID-19 pandemic and associated major restrictions; ii) the country experienced elections in 2019 and 2023 which led to some crises and changes in the project’s supervisory Ministry – this caused slowdowns in project activities; iii) many tender turned out to be unsuccessful, despite several relaunches; iv) the Project Management Unit (PMU) experienced the resignation of the Project Coordinator necessitating the appointment of an Interim Coordinator.

Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by BOAD, the secretariat is of the view that this eighteen-month no-cost extension

request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by BOAD (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time for the project to compensate for accumulated delays encountered due to different challenges and constraints faced in the project start and implementation; and ensure the fulfillment of the project outcomes for enhanced sustainability.

8. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project 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

9. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 22 January 2025 to 22 July 2026, for the project “Scaling up climate-smart agriculture in East Guinea-Bissau”, as requested by BOAD.

ANNEXE I: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Implementing Entity Name : Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)			
AF Project/programme ID : GNB/RIE/Agri/2015/1			
Project/programme Title : Scaling up climate-smart agriculture in East Guinea Bissau			
Country : Guinea Bissau			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	10 octobre 2017		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	22 January 2025	Proposed Revised Completion (date) :	22 July 2026

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

In the context of extreme vulnerability of family farmers to climate change in dry land East Guinea-Bissau, the overall objective of this project is to strengthen practices and capacities in climate-smart agriculture in the project region and at institutional level. Through the project's activities, food security and livelihoods are to be strengthened at household level while simultaneously increasing capacities in climate risk management and adaptation planning at all levels of governance. In particular, the project will solidify and expand the activities of GEF/UNDP-00077229 project "Strengthening adaptive capacity and resilience to Climate Change in the Agrarian and Water Resources Sectors in Guinea-Bissau" both in the 14 original tabancas in Gabú 'region' of that project while integrating an additional ~100 tabancas in the 'regions' of both Gabú and Bafatá into the project's scope of action, with a total beneficiary target population of approximately 37,000 people in East Guinea-Bissau.

Notable progresses were made in Component 1, which focused on building technical capacity to deal with climate risks. However, components 2 and 3 suffered significant delays due to COVID-19, national political crisis and problems linked to the procurement processes as described below :

- COVID-19 pandemic** : Following its launching, the project first year (January 2020 – January 2021) coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and the major restrictions. During that time, the main activities focused on i) arrangements for effectiveness of the subsidiary agreement, ii) setting project management bodies, including procedures manuals, and iii) project launching workshop.
- Political crisis** : The country experienced elections in 2019 and 2023, which led to some crises and changes in the project's supervisory Ministry. This caused slowdowns in project activities.
- Procurement** : Many tenders turned out to be unsuccessful, despite several relaunches.
- Project Management** : The Project Management Unit (PMU) noted the resignation of the project coordinator, necessitating the appointment of an interim coordinator.

To these difficulties, it should be added the language barrier which is a significant factor in slowing down exchanges and delaying reporting due to the need for translation (Portuguese-French-English).

In general, significant progress towards all project outcomes have been achieved and still on going. The project is even entering the cruising phase of the works and requires additional time until completion. In this regard, an extension of the project duration is required based on the following factors :

Noting that according to Adaptation Fund policies « An implementing entity may request for a project/programme extension beyond the original completion date for up to 18 months for a concrete adaptation project/programme if (i) no additional funds are required; (ii) the project/programme's originally approved scope will not change; and (iii) the entity provides reasons and justifications for the extension», BOAD and the EE consider the above points as reasonable.

The 18 months no-cost extension will be used to undertake:

- i) the identification and validation of the sub-projects ;
- ii) the validation of the sub-projects studies and obtaining environmental permits ;
- iii) the launching of the selection process for the companies that will implement the sub-projects through the works : market gardeners, micro-dams, etc. ;
- iv) the launch of the baseline study coupled with the project's rapid mid-term evaluation ;
- v) the continuation of the implementation of the project activities, in particular : the pursuit of the capacity building activities, the formulation of contingency plans, the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into the policies and local plans, the acquisition of equipment, fertilizers, the construction of simple irrigation systems, the construction of micro-dams for irrigation of rice, vegetable crops and livestock water supply, the construction of drills/wells and ramps for improved livestock and domestic water supply and market gardens development, and the development of manual and other materials on best practices and measures for climate-smart agriculture.

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 authority (DA) has been notified.

Mr. Moubarak MOUKAILA, Head of the Department of Environment and Climate Finance
Name & Signature



Project/programme contact person : Mr. Eric AMOUSSOU, Head of Climate Finance Portfolio, Department of Environment and Climate Finance

Date : (May, 14, 2024)

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