



AFB/B.45- 46/3  
2 December 2025

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Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR A NO-COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT  
COMPLETION DATE:  
BANQUE OUEST AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT  
(BENIN, BURKINA FASO, GHANA, NIGER, TOGO)**

## Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during the intersessional period between its thirty-first and thirty-second meeting, approved a three- and half-year project titled “Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture in West Africa” implemented in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Togo, by the Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD) for a total amount of US\$ 14,000,000 (Decision B.31-32/16).
2. The overall objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of farmers and pastoralists to increased climatic risks, which undermine the level of food security, income generation, and the supporting ecosystem services of poor communities. This objective will be achieved through the implementation of a suite of interventions that focus on: i) Strengthening knowledge and technical capacity through regional and local interactions for the promotion of agriculture practices resilient to the adverse effects of climate change; ii) Scaling up best practices related to climate change adaptation in agriculture and pastoralism at the local and regional level; and (iii) Knowledge sharing on resilient agricultural best practices related to climate-smart agriculture.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and BOAD on 26 December 2018, and the project started implementation on 17 November 2020. The project Implementing Entity submitted three project performance reports (PPRs), which have been cleared by the Secretariat. As of the date of the issuance of this document, an amount of US\$ 12,282,000, including the project fees, had been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 87.7 per cent of the approved grant.
4. The Board, through its intersessional decision B.42-43/5, approved BOAD’s first request for a regular eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 17 May 2024 to 17 November 2025.
5. On 10 November, the Secretariat received BOAD’s second request for an additional eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 17 November 2025 to 17 May 2027.
6. The reasons for BOAD’s request, as outlined in the submitted memo, relate to a combination of political, institutional, and procurement delays that significantly slowed implementation: 1) following the withdrawal of Burkina Faso and Niger from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in January 2025, both countries became reluctant to sign extensions to agreements with ECOWAS’ Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF), temporarily halting activities; 2) during the first half of 2025, there were delays in validating ESIA reports and issuing environmental permits in Togo and Benin which further affected the start of sub-projects; and 3) the project also experienced substantial procurement bottlenecks, including delays in recruiting local NGOs to support farmers and in the acquisition and installation of automatic weather stations, all of which collectively necessitated an 18-month no-cost extension to complete the planned activities.
7. Finally, the project was approved with conditions expected to be met by project inception (refer to Annex II). The Implementing Entity has made substantial progress in fulfilling these conditions, and the Secretariat continues to provide the needed support to ensure full compliance with the Fund’s policies and Board’s decisions.

**Secretariat's review of the request**

8. Following a review of the request by the Secretariat and considering the explanation provided by BOAD, the Secretariat is of the view that the additional eighteen-month no-cost extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by BOAD (Annex I), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time for the project to compensate for accumulated delays due to different challenges and constraints faced in the project start and implementation.

9. 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 I.

**Recommendation**

10. Having considered document AFB/B.45-46/3 and its annexes, the Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 17 November 2025 to 17 May 2027 for the project "Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture in West Africa" implemented in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Togo, as requested by BOAD.

## Annex I: Request for an extension of the project completion date

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

*Request for extension of project/programme completion date*

<b>Implementing Entity Name</b> : Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)			
<b>AF Project/programme ID</b> : AFR/RIE/Food/2015/1			
<b>Project/programme Title</b> : Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture in West Africa			
<b>Country</b> : Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Togo			
<b>Project/programme Approval (date)</b>	16 July 2018		
<b>Expected Project/programme Completion (date)</b>	17 November 2025	<b>Proposed Revised Completion (date)</b> :	17 May 2027

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

The overall objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of farmers and pastoralists to increase climatic risk, which undermines the level of food security, income generation, and the supporting ecosystem services of poor communities. The main outcomes are to build capacities and climate resilient knowledge of stakeholders and farmers to implement CSA, to share experiences and expertise on best practices to CSA, to develop climate services adapted to the needs of producers including agricultural and livestock practices to contribute to the resilience of populations to improve productivity, incomes and carbon sequestration.

Notable achievements so far include : i) training of 488 (107 women) technicians from national and regional institutions in the development and implementation of climate-smart projects and integrated CSA approaches ; ii) organisation of workshops to provide farmers with tailored agricultural weather information benefiting a total of 262 stakeholders (101 of whom are women); iii) signing of agreements with CIAT and the AGRHYMET Centre to undertake dedicated training courses for producers to help them access climatic information and to produce and update regional agro-climatic and agro-ecological maps and trends in climatic parameters phenomena; iv) conducting of a process for the selection of NGOs to implement sub-projects; v) acquisition of automatic weather stations, which is currently underway; vi) production of geo-referenced maps to monitor agro-ecological zones.

Although significant progress towards all project outcomes have been achieved and still on going ; an extension of the projection duration is requested based on the following factors :

- Political aspects** : Following their exit from ECOWAS on 29 January 2025, Burkina Faso and Niger have shown reluctance to sign the extension to the agreements with RAAF, an ECOWAS agency, thereby halting the implementation of the project in these two countries. A series of negotiations were conducted between RAAF, BOAD and the national executing entities in order to allow project activities to continue in these countries.
- Institutional aspects** : In the first semester of 2025, there were delays in the validation process of the ESIA reports for the sub-projects and the issuance of environmental permits mainly for Togo and Benin, affecting the implementation of sub-projects.

3. **Procurement process** : There have also been significant delays in the procurement process, including the recruitment of local NGOs for technical support to farmers, and the supply and installation of weather stations.

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 finalization of the selection process for the project proponents whose role will be to support producers in setting up soil restoration and conservation sites ;
- ii) the launch of the baseline study coupled with the project's rapid mid-term evaluation ;
- iii) the continuation of the implementation of the project activities, in particular : the promotion of integrated techniques and activities related to water management, rehabilitation and conservation, the promotion of best farming and livestock practices are climate resilient and contribute to increased food security, the valorization and the management of the sites including water management, soil rehabilitation and livestock mobility.

No additional funds are required and there will be no change in the project framework. We also confirm the Project Management Costs will not exceed the originally approved PMC costs in the project budget.

*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 (DA) have been notified.

Mr. Moubarak MOUKAILA, Director of the Financing Sustainable Development Department

**Name & Signature**



**Project/programme contact person** : Mr. Eric AMOUSSOU, Head of Climate Portfolio Management, Financing Sustainable Development Department

Date : (Month, Day, Year)

10 NOV 2025

Tel. and email : +228 22 21 24 54

[mmoukaila@boad.org](mailto:mmoukaila@boad.org)  
[eamoussou@boad.org](mailto:eamoussou@boad.org)

## Annex II: AF Board Decision B.31-32/16



## ADAPTATION FUND

16 July 2018

Adaptation Fund Board

**Proposal for Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Togo (BOAD)**

Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Togo: Promoting climate-smart agriculture in West Africa (Fully Developed Project Proposal; *Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement* (BOAD; West African Development Bank) AFR/RIE/Food/2015/1;(US\$ 14,000,000)

Having considered the intersessional technical review of the regional fully-developed project document carried out by the secretariat and the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC), and the recommendation of the PPRC, the Adaptation Fund Board decides to:

- (a) Approve the regional project proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the *Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement* (BOAD; West African Development Bank) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) Approve the funding of US \$14,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by BOAD; and
- (c) Request the secretariat to draft an agreement with BOAD as the Regional Implementing Entity for the project. The agreement should include a commitment from BOAD to complete the following actions by project inception and report on them in the inception report:
  - (i) Finalization of the terms of reference of the perimeter committees and fee management structure;
  - (ii) Identification of a list of permitted activities, including inherent risks, and in line with national requirements, according to the 15 principles of the Environmental and Social Policy;
  - (iii) For each Environmental and Social Policy principle, preparation, by project inception, of methodology for the identification of relevant risks during unidentified sub-project identification, and for each participating country, country-specific elements that will be required for risk identification and included in the methodology;
  - (iv) An assessment for each participating country of the personnel and capacity requirements to apply the Environmental and Social Management Plan, and the financial implications reflected in a revised budget, as needed; and
  - (v) Adoption of guidelines for environmentally responsible pesticide use.

**Decision B.31-32/16**