



ADAPTATION FUND

19 January 2026

Adaptation Fund Board

Accreditation Panel Recommendation on the Re-accreditation of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Jamaica as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund

Having reviewed the re-accreditation application of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Jamaica, the Accreditation Panel recommended that PIOJ be re-accredited as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund.

A summary of the review is presented in Annex I below.

Re-accreditation Decision:

Having considered the recommendation of the Accreditation Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to re-accredit the ***Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Jamaica*** as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund for five years, as per paragraph 39 of the operational policies and guidelines for Parties to access resources from the Adaptation Fund. The accreditation expiration date is 19 January 2031.

Decision B.45-46/11

ANNEX I

REPORT OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL ON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PLANNING INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA (PIOJ), JAMAICA FOR REGULAR RE-ACCREDITATION AS A NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (NIE) OF THE ADAPTATION FUND

BACKGROUND

The Adaptation Fund Board accredited the Planning Institute of Jamaica (hereinafter PIOJ) on 17 September 2010 by Board Decision B.11/1 for a period of 5 years. PIOJ was re-accredited on 14 April 2016 by Board Decision B.27-28/3, for an additional period of 5 years expiring on 14 April 2021.

In November 2020, PIOJ initiated the re-accreditation process, leading to the submission of the application for the second re-accreditation on 28 May 2021. Subsequently, the Panel was entrusted with the assessment process, which involved various exchanges with the applicant, which was affected by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters in the country, and changes in policies and procedures within the applicant organization.

With Decision B.42-43/25 (September 2024), having considered Decision B.41-42/13, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to approve the official request by PIOJ for an extension of grace period for achieving re-accreditation until the date of completion of its project at the end of 2025.

The most recent United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter UNFCCC) report on Jamaica focuses on Jamaica's Nationally Determined Contribution (hereinafter NDC 3.0) under the Paris Agreement, submitted in 2025. It highlights Jamaica's high vulnerability to climate change impacts such as rising sea levels, severe storms, increased temperatures, and freshwater scarcity; this threatens key sectors including agriculture, tourism, and coastal infrastructure, overall, the economic long term sustainability of the country, which realizes more than 90% of its activities in the coastal areas

THE APPLICANT

PIOJ, an agency of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (hereinafter MOFPS), serves as the Government's (GoJ's) primary planning body.

PIOJ was established as a corporate body under the Planning Institute of Jamaica Act in April 1984. As successor institution to the National Planning Agency in 1972 and the Central Planning Unit in 1955, PIOJ was established specifically to strengthen the planning capability of the Government.

Its mission is to initiate and coordinate the development of policies, plans, and programs for Jamaica's sustainable development. As a government agency, PIOJ is obliged to

comply, implement and/or transpose directly the MOFPS acts, rules, regulations, processes, and procedures within its designated scope.

The Institute's Vision, *To be proactive in the provision of strategic and innovative policy, and programmatic responses to emerging issues at the national and organizational levels in pursuit of sustainable development*, mission and scope of activities are fully aligned to the GoJ and MOFPS more specifically.

MOFPS's portfolio includes PIOJ. The Minister appoints the Board of Directors (six to eight members), including the Director General who also serves as the Chair.

The Board has established two committees, the Finance and Audit Committee, fully active during the re-accreditation process, and the Corporate Governance Committee, which was not active during 2022 and/or 2023.

At the end of 2019, PIOJ was directly and/or indirectly involved in a project portfolio of 200+ projects estimated in excess of US\$ 2.0 billion. In 2022, the value of new official development assistance, in terms of new projects to Jamaica, amounted to US\$ 169.1 million, of which US\$ 2.8 million related to Environmental and Climate Change Resilience.

From public sources, at the end of 2024, the estimated portfolio of ongoing projects, does not change in numbers but is estimated at US\$ 1.6 billion, due to some closure and new projects for lower values.

ASSESSMENT FOR REACCREDITATION

The Assessment for regular re-accreditation was conducted in accordance with the Board Decision 34/3 on re-accreditation. The assessment was also conducted against the Fund's Accreditation Criteria related to Anti-Money-Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (hereinafter AML/CFT), pursuant to Board Decision B.32/36 based on AFB/EFC.23/4. Since PIOJ was already implementing an AF project, the assessment relied on implementation progress reports, and the completion report available at the AF Secretariat. Therefore, it did not assess the criteria for institutional capacity related to projects during implementation, criteria 6, 7, and 8.

The Criteria used in this assessment are those reported in the Summary assessment here below.

For the latter two criteria, the reviewers were assisted by an expert Consultant made available through the AF Secretariat. In addition, in accordance with the relevant Board Decision (Decision B.31/26 of March 2018), the Panel has considered the limited information available on third-party assessments on project performance.

The assessment was based on:

- the completed application form for re-accreditation,
- the comprehensive documentation provided throughout the process,

- responses provided by PIOJ to the inquiries of the Panel until mid-December 2025.
- the review of other documents obtained from PIOJ, MOFPS and GoJ websites, third parties documents and websites as well as those of other related institutions.

PIOJ's legal framework, internal management and control system, processes and procedures are those established for entities across the government by the GoJ and MOFPS, complemented by rules and regulations adopted internally, on a needs basis.

SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

Financial Management and Fiduciary Standards Assessment

Legal status

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. PIOJ legal status has remained unchanged since the last re-accreditation. The underpinning legal framework and the large project portfolio in which the Institute operates in various roles demonstrate that the applicant possesses the necessary legal personality, capacity to receive funds directly or supervise them, enter into contracts or agreements with international organizations, and serve as a defendant or plaintiff in a court of law.

Policies and procedures related to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) on disbursements, procurement, breaches of financing laws, and necessary investigation activities

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. In October 2025, PIOJ adopted its own AML/CFT Policy on a voluntary basis, which is in line with the AF AML-CFT criteria.

The new policy is tailored to the country's context and places a stronger emphasis on AML than CFT. It is in line with the PIOJ's legal framework, including the GoJ Public Procurement Act, which provides detailed provisions on Know-Your-Customer (KYC) at various stages of the procurement process, both for AML and CFT.

The policy also enhances the approach to KYC information, the use of digital services to consult sanctions lists, and establishes the Compliance Officer Function. The Panel provided also some feedback to PIOJ for consideration in further reviews of the policy.

An escalation process is in place to address any breaches of AML/CFT provisions. Reporting of AML/CFT breaches, investigation powers, disciplinary procedures, and other legal consequences are established. This process can involve different levels within the Institute, GoJ administration, or the Director of Public Prosecution, depending on the gravity of the facts and the extent of senior involvement.

Financial Statements Including Project Accounts statement and the Provisions for Internal and External Audits

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. PIOJ financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and externally audited in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Additionally, as a

GoJ agency, PIOJ is subject to GoJ Auditor General performance audits. The applicant uses an adequate software application to account for and report on its activities, including donor-funded projects, built upon IFRS accounting principles.

A complex transition process took place between 2022 and 2025, during which the internal auditing function was performed by an external provider and, when the position was filled, by an internal staff member. Since March 2025, the transition has been completed, and the Internal Audit function has been fully re-insourced. The Chief Internal Auditor, a single-person function, is now in place and fully operational. However, the Chief Internal Auditor retains the option to utilize external contractors for internal audits when necessary. PIOJ is committed to adhering to international internal auditing standards and practices, as mandated by GoJ legislation and more specifically the GoJ Internal Auditing Manual.

The Institute has a Finance and Audit Committee, whose independence is further enhanced by GoJ law, with regular meetings and effective oversight on Internal Auditing, External Audit, and many other components of the overall accountability framework. It reports regularly to the Board. The Committee has been active during the re-accreditation process.

Internal Control Framework with particular reference to control over disbursements and payments

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. PIOJ implements the Internal Control Framework established by the GoJ. It has established processes and procedures and adopted an effective approach to risk management. The oversight, management, internal, and external audit responsibilities are clearly defined and regularly updated; a code of conduct underpins the system, and it is complemented by different HR policies and procedures defining the ethical approach of the Institute. Regarding payments and disbursements, donor funding is directly managed by PIOJ in separate individual accounts. Appropriate processes and procedures are in place to manage financial flows. No remarks on the payment/disbursement system have been expressed by the external auditor or the Auditor General and/or Internal Auditing.

Preparation of Business Plans and Budgets, and ability to monitor expenditures in line with budgets

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. There have been no significant changes to the preparation of Business Plans and Budgets. Being an Agency of the GoJ, PIOJ's multi-annual and annual appropriations are included in the national strategic and annual budget plans. The latest GoJ strategic estimates include resources for PIOJ up to at least 2029.

The volume of the project portfolio and international donors' funding on a yearly basis supports the going-concern status of PIOJ and management properly assesses this annually as reported in the Financial Statements.

PIOJ's financial systems allow for timely monitoring and analysis of expenditure in line with budgets, which support the review by the Finance and Audit Committee and finally the Board.

Requisite Institutional Capacity

Procurement

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. Since the previous re-accreditation, the Jamaican public procurement legislation applicable to PIOJ was updated. PIOJ implements the GoJ Procurement Framework, which is well-developed, detailed, and is accompanied by detailed manuals, guidance, and clarifications. Since 2022, the progressive implementation of e-procurement enhances further the overall process. Transparency, equal treatment, confidentiality, complaints processes are all principles covered in the Procurement Framework. No internal audit has been performed on procurement activities, and no qualifications are reported by the External Auditors on the matter.

Project Closure and Final Evaluation

From the elements derived from various documents submitted by PIOJ, and additional research, it can be concluded that PIOJ is able to meet this Criterion. The ongoing AF-funded Project entrusted to PIOJ is not expected to be closed before Q1 2026, based on the latest information provided by PIOJ.

Transparency, self-investigative powers, anti-corruption measures, and Commitments to E&S and Gender Policies

Policies and Framework to deal with financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractices

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. PIOJ commits publicly to a zero tolerance for fraud, financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice. A comprehensive public website is available dealing with overall compliance and providing communication channels, although visibility could be improved for those who may need to make use of it. Whistleblower protection measures and capacity for objective, independent investigations are established, with the possibility to escalate outside the organization. PIOJ's approach is within the GoJ and MOFPS framework.

Commitment to comply with the Fund's environmental, social, and gender policies

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. PIOJ has provided a Top Level Management Commitment to comply with the Fund's environmental, social and gender policies.

In October 2025, PIOJ adopted a new Environmental and Social Framework and a Gender Policy. While the Environmental and Social Framework Policies & Procedures and, the Institute has committed at top level to taking specific actions and efforts in the design of potential AF-funded projects to ensure the implementation of the AF Policy.

Mechanism to deal with complaints on environmental and social harms and gender harms caused by projects/programs

PIOJ is assessed in compliance with the Criterion. PIOJ has in place a mechanism to receive complaints, including about environmental, social, and gender harms caused by projects or other activities. The mechanism is framed by the GoJ Citizens Charter, which aims to offer support to redress. As already mentioned with regards to reporting on fraud and mismanagement, the website visibility for these types of complaints could also benefit from improvements.

Additional information

Quality at entry

The PIOJ Jamaica AF project, approved in 2012 for USD 10.0 million, aims to enhance agricultural and coastal resilience to protect livelihoods and improve food security. An initial technical review process identified issues related to cost reasoning, budget, outputs, indicators, and gender inclusion that were addressed by PIOJ in the final project proposal approved by the AF Board.

Project Performance

The project, initially expected to be completed in 2016, is now scheduled for completion after December 2025, with several extensions approved by the Board. The Panel noted the reasons submitted for the delays, including the impact of natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other factors. Despite these challenges, the environmental and social management system remained functional and addressed critical situations.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the assessment of the application for re-accreditation, the Panel concluded that PIOJ meets the Criteria required for regular reaccreditation, and the Panel recommends PIOJ re-accreditation to the Adaptation Fund Board for a period of 5 years.