



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.37/29
16 March 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty seventh Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 7-8 April 2026

Agenda Item 6 (g)

PROPOSAL FOR BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, MALDIVES, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA

Background

1. The strategic priorities, policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund (the Fund), as well as its operational policies and guidelines include provisions for funding projects and programmes at the regional, i.e. transnational level. However, the Fund has thus far not funded such projects and programmes.

2. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board), as well as its Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) considered issues related to regional projects and programmes on a number of occasions between the Board's fourteenth and twenty-first meetings but the Board did not make decisions for the purpose of inviting proposals for such projects. Indeed, in its fourteenth meeting, the Board decided to:

- (c) Request the secretariat to send a letter to any accredited regional implementing entities informing them that they could present a country project/programme but not a regional project/programme until a decision had been taken by the Board, and that they would be provided with further information pursuant to that decision*

(Decision B.14/25 (c))

3. At its eighth meeting in March 2012, the PPRC came up with recommendations on certain definitions related to regional projects and programmes. However, as the subsequent seventeenth Board meeting took a different strategic approach to the overall question of regional projects and programmes, these PPRC recommendations were not included in a Board decision.

4. At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Board heard a presentation from the coordinator of the working group set up by decision B.17/20 and tasked with following up on the issue of regional projects and programmes. She circulated a recommendation prepared by the working group, for the consideration by the Board, and the Board decided:

- (a) To initiate steps to launch a pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, not to exceed US\$ 30 million;*
- (b) That the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes will be outside of the consideration of the 50 per cent cap on multilateral implementing entities (MIEs) and the country cap;*
- (c) That regional implementing entities (RIEs) and MIEs that partner with national implementing entities (NIEs) or other national institutions would be eligible for this pilot programme, and*

- (d) *To request the secretariat to prepare for the consideration of the Board, before the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board or intersessionally, under the guidance of the working group set up under decision B.17/20, a proposal for such a pilot programme based on consultations with contributors, MIEs, RIEs, the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and other relevant bodies, as appropriate, and in that proposal make a recommendation on possible options on approaches, procedures and priority areas for the implementation of the pilot programme.*

(Decision B.24/30)

5. The proposal requested under (d) of the decision above was prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the Board in its twenty-fifth meeting, and the Board decided to:

- (a) *Approve the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, as contained in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2;*
- (b) *Set a cap of US\$ 30 million for the programme;*
- (c) *Request the secretariat to issue a call for regional project and programme proposals for consideration by the Board in its twenty-sixth meeting; and*
- (d) *Request the secretariat to continue discussions with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) towards operationalizing, during the implementation of the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, the Synergy Option 2 on knowledge management proposed by CTCN and included in Annex III of the document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2.*

(Decision B.25/28)

6. Based on the Board Decision B.25/28, the first call for regional project and programme proposals was issued and an invitation letter to eligible Parties to submit project and programme proposals to the Fund was sent out on 5 May 2015.

7. At its twenty-sixth meeting the Board decided to *request the secretariat to inform the Multilateral Implementing Entities and Regional Implementing Entities that the call for proposals under the Pilot Programme for Regional Projects and Programmes is still open and to encourage them to submit proposals to the Board at its 27th meeting, bearing in mind the cap established by Decision B.25/26.*

(Decision B.26/3)

8. At its twenty-seventh meeting the Board decided to:
- (a) *Continue consideration of regional project and programme proposals under the pilot programme, while reminding the implementing entities that the amount set aside for the pilot programme is US\$ 30 million;*
 - (b) *Request the secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Project and Programme Review Committee at its nineteenth meeting, a proposal for prioritization among regional project/programme proposals, including for awarding project formulation grants, and for establishment of a pipeline; and*
 - (c) *Consider the matter of the pilot programme for regional projects and programmes at its twenty-eighth meeting.*

(Decision B.27/5)

9. The proposal requested in (b) above was presented to the nineteenth meeting of the PPRC as document AFB/PPRC.19/5. The Board subsequently decided:

- a) *With regard to the pilot programme approved by decision B.25/28:*
 - (i) *To prioritize the four projects and 10 project formulation grants as follows:*
 - 1. *If the proposals recommended to be funded in a given meeting of the PPRC do not exceed the available slots under the pilot programme, all those proposals would be submitted to the Board for funding;*
 - 2. *If the proposals recommended to be funded in a given meeting of the PPRC do exceed the available slots under the pilot programme, the proposals to be funded under the pilot programme would be prioritized so that the total number of projects and project formulation grants (PFGs) under the programme maximizes the total diversity of projects/PFGs. This would be done using a three-tier prioritization system: so that the proposals in relatively less funded sectors would be prioritized as the first level of prioritization. If there are more than one proposal in the same sector: the proposals in relatively less funded regions are prioritized as the second level of prioritization. If there are more than one proposal in the same region, the proposals submitted by relatively less represented implementing entity would be prioritized as the third level of prioritization;*
 - (ii) *To request the secretariat to report on the progress and experiences of the pilot programme to the PPRC at its twenty-third meeting; and*
- b) *With regard to financing regional proposals beyond the pilot programme referred to above:*

(i) *To continue considering regional proposals for funding, within the two categories originally described in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2: ones requesting up to US\$ 14 million, and others requesting up to US\$ 5 million, subject to review of the regional programme;*

(ii) *To establish two pipelines for technically cleared regional proposals: one for proposals up to US\$ 14 million and the other for proposals up to US\$ 5 million, and place any technically cleared regional proposals, in those pipelines, in the order described in decision B.17/19 (their date of recommendation by the PPRC, their submission date, their lower “net” cost); and*

(iii) *To fund projects from the two pipelines, using funds available for the respective types of implementing entities, so that the maximum number of or maximum total funding for projects and project formulation grants to be approved each fiscal year will be outlined at the time of approving the annual work plan of the Board.*

(Decision B.28/1)

10. At its thirty-first meeting, having considered the comments and recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

(a) *To merge the two pipelines for technically cleared regional proposals established in decision B.28/1(b)(ii), so that starting in fiscal year 2019 the provisional amount of funding for regional proposals would be allocated without distinction between the two categories originally described in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2, and that the funding of regional proposals would be established on a ‘first come, first served’ basis; and*

(b) *To include in its work programme for fiscal year 2019 provision of an amount of US\$ 60 million for the funding of regional project and programme proposals, as follows:*

(i) *Up to US\$ 59 million to be used for funding regional project and programme proposals in the two categories of regional projects and programmes: ones requesting up to US \$14 million, and others requesting up to US\$ 5 million; and*

(ii) *Up to US\$ 1 million for funding project formulation grant requests for preparing regional project and programme concepts or fully-developed project and programme documents.*

(Decision B.31/3)

11. The following project pre-concept document titled “Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)” was submitted for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri

Lanka by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which is a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.

12. This is the third submission of the regional project pre-concept proposal using the three-step submission process. It was first submitted as a concept note ahead of the of the forty-sixth Board meeting.

13. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the forty-sixth Board meeting. The secretariat carried out a technical review of the project proposal, with the diary number AF00000483, and completed a review sheet.

14. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with WMO, and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.

15. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC the summary and, pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, both prepared by the secretariat, along with the final submission of the proposal in the following section. In accordance with decision B.25.15, the proposal is submitted with changes between the initial submission and the revised version highlighted.



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Pre-Concept for a Regional Project

Countries/Region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Project Title: Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)

Thematic focal area: Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

Implementing Entity: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Executing Entities: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO), Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SA), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services or related Ministries of beneficiary countries

AF Project ID: AF00000483

IE Project ID:

Reviewer and contact person: Estefanía Jiménez

IE Contact Person(s):

Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):

Co-reviewer(s):

Technical Summary

The project Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA) aims to implementing the Integrated Drought Management (IDM) approach, aligned with the "Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia". This will be done through the five components below:

Component 1: Drought monitoring, early warnings and drought risk and impact assessment (USD 9,000,000).

Component 2: Integrated drought governance and regional cooperation (USD 3,000,000).

Component 3: Community-level drought resilience (USD 6,600,000).

Component 4: Capacity development for Integrated Drought Management (USD 3,600,000).

Component 5: Knowledge & awareness on climate-resilient and inclusive Integrated Drought Management (USD 2,400,000).

	<p><u>Requested financing overview:</u> Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 2,460,000 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 27,060,000 Implementing Fee: USD 2,706,000 Financing Requested: USD 29,766,000</p> <p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant and/or project formulation assistance grant of USD 39,000.</p> <p>The initial technical review raises several issues, such as duplication with existing initiatives, the clarity in outcomes and outputs, concrete adaptation actions, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p> <p>The second technical review finds that most of the issues raised in the first technical review have been adequately addressed and explained. However, there are a few remaining CARs and CRs still to be addressed in the pre-concept note related to the specification of some of the Outputs, the location and long term sustainability of the Regional Drought Management Centre, and the list of key stakeholders who will be consulted.</p> <p>The third technical review finds that the proposal has addressed all the CR and CAR requests.</p>
Date	January 27, 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	First Technical Review Comments [November 17, 2025]	Second Technical Review Comments [January 7, 2026]	Third Technical Review Comments [January 27, 2026]
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>All six countries are Parties to both the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.</p>	-	-

	2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>All six participating countries are developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The concept highlights the impacts of drought in each country.</p>	-	-
Project Eligibility	1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Editorial and formatting comments: Pre-concept is 7 pages excluding the cover page. It should not exceed 5 pages.</p> <p>As per the Endorsement letters dated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 26, 2025 Bangladesh; • June 16, 2025 Bhutan; • May 26, 2025 Maldives, • August 3, 2025, Nepal, • June 04, 2025 Sri Lanka, • October 17, 2025 Pakistan. 	-	-

	<p>2. Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective?</p>	<p>Yes, however further clarification is needed.</p> <p>The concept gives a general overview with geographic and demographic context and describes country describing drought vulnerabilities. The concept also mentions the existence of SADMS, ICIMOD, RIMES, and SAHF that are currently functioning in the region but does not include an explanation they haven't prevented drought impacts and what specific capabilities are missing. Without demonstrating that existing initiatives are insufficient, this project appears duplicative. The Regional Strategy, referred to in the concept and national consultations represent recent, participatory assessments. Ignoring their findings suggests either (a) duplication of effort or (b) lack of country ownership. The proposal should build on, not replace, this existing investment. The pre-concept further describes drought impacts but does not analyze why these impacts are so severe or how the proposed interventions address root causes.</p> <p>CAR1: Kindly provide in the background a thinking around the gaps of the existing systems to justify why additional investment is required.</p>	<p>CAR 1: Cleared Project Background and Context sections (pages 2 to 3) have been strengthened.</p> <p>CAR2: Cleared</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p>
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		<p>CAR2: Please explain how this WMO proposal aligns with or differs from the Regional Strategy implementation plans already under development by GWP/ADPC and using a brief sentence clarify why India (included in Regional Strategy) is excluded from this proposal. Can they at least benefit from learning and knowledge management aspects of Component 5?</p> <p>CR1: Kindly clarify if this is this project the implementation mechanism for the Regional Strategy, or a complementary initiative.</p> <p>CAR3: Provide causal analysis explaining how the proposed investment will reduce the impacts droughts. Further demonstrate why a regional approach is necessary versus six national projects.</p>	<p>Explanation on how the proposal aligns with the Regional Strategy Implementation plan is provided on page 2.</p> <p>With respect to India, Part II para 2 and Component 5 have been revised to include cross-regional knowledge exchange which will include India to ensure that India can both benefit from and contribute to regional knowledge exchange.</p> <p>CR1: Cleared Project Background and Context have been revised (Page 2, third paragraph).</p> <p>CAR3: Cleared The Project Background and Context section was revised to include the causal analysis explaining how the proposed investment will reduce the drought impacts. The revision also includes a valid justification for the regional approach</p>	-
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			versus six national projects.	
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	<p>3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?</p>	<p>Yes, however further clarification is needed.</p> <p>While the pre-concept note provides a basic structure of objectives, components, and budget allocation, there are substantial clarity and coherence issues that would require correction at the concept stage. Output 1.1.1 proposes "<i>Baseline drought risk assessments at the national level</i>" but national consultations were conducted in 2024-2025 as part of Regional Strategy development. Output 1.2.1 states "<i>Enhance and/or establish IDM and forecasting systems based on existing platforms.</i>" The pre-concept does not state which countries will have new systems and which ones need enhancing. Output 2.2.2 proposes establishing a "<i>WMO Regional Drought Management Centre in a selected host country.</i>"</p> <p>CR2: Please clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What drought risk assessments have already been completed through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional Strategy development process ○ National consultations (Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan) 2. If assessments exist, why are new "baseline" assessments needed? 	<p>CR2: Cleared</p> <p>No comprehensive regional drought assessments have been done nor have any comprehensive or systematic national-level drought risk assessments been undertaken. Moreover the desk based analyses which were conducted,</p>	<p>-</p>
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		<p>3. If assessments don't exist, what was the basis for the Regional Strategy and national consultations?</p> <p>4. Will Output 1.1.1 build on or replace existing assessments?</p> <p>CR3: Please clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which countries will "establish" new systems versus "enhance" existing ones? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For each country, specify why existing systems (SADMS, ICIMOD, RIMES) are insufficient 2. What is the technical difference between "enhancing" existing platforms and creating parallel WMO systems? 3. Will this create new drought bulletins or improve existing ones (e.g., SADMS weekly maps)? <p>CR4: Please clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will be the mandate/functions of the WMO Regional Drought Management Centre? 2. How will it relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Existing SAHF coordination o SAARC mechanisms o The Regional Strategy coordination structure o Existing Regional Climate Centres 	<p>did not produce detailed baselines, nor did they generate the type of evidence necessary to design targeted, context-specific interventions. Consequently Output 1.1.1 is relevant.</p> <p>Output 1.1.1 will not replace existing assessments; but will build upon them, fill critical information gaps, and integrate all available data into coherent, usable, and up-to-date national baseline assessments</p> <p>Output 1.1.2 has also been revised to include the implementation of periodic national assessments</p> <p>Please ensure that the explanation provided in the review is included in the Project Justification when developing the Concept Note.</p> <p>CR3: Cleared Section 1 of the Project Objectives has been</p>	-
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		<p>3. The pre-concept note does not state whether a host country has been identified, what the selection will apply, or how this new centre will differ from or add to existing institutions</p> <p>4. What is the long-term sustainability plan? Who funds it after project ends?</p> <p>5. Will this Centre coordinate or compete with ongoing Regional Strategy implementation?</p> <p>CR5: Kindly ensure the concept differentiate the technical baseline analysis in Component 1 from the institutional/policy gap analysis in Component 2. Kindly confirm whether the latter expands upon or merely repeat the findings already captured in the Regional strategy.</p> <p>CR6: Output 1.1.2: "Climate change responsive drought risk assessment and mapping methodology developed and agreed" Please clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who will "agree" on the proposed methodology? 2. How is this different from 1.1.1? 3. Is the project creating a new methodology or adopting an existing one? 4. Does "methodology" mean standardized approach for the region or country-specific? 	<p>revised to include the requested information on the existing systems at the Regional level.</p> <p>The project does not intend to create parallel WMO systems, but rather the approach focuses on strengthening and operationalizing national drought monitoring and forecasting capacities.</p> <p>With respect to the bulletins, the project aims to strengthen or support the development of national drought bulletins.</p> <p>Please ensure that (i) the details existing systems at the National level and (ii) the existing system with the drought bulletins are included in the Project Justification Section of the Concept Note.</p> <p>CR4: Not cleared</p>	<p>CR4: Cleared as per information</p>
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	<p>CR7: Output 1.1.3: "Drought impact monitoring and assessment methodology established incl. innovative crowdsourcing" Kindly clarify what systems (institutions/platforms) will host and manage this?</p> <p>CR8: Output 2.1.3 is a very long, unclear output statement That mixes "recommendations" with "policies supported" with "committees established"; these are different things. For clarity and monitoring, these functions should be separated into discrete deliverables.</p> <p>CR9: Output 2.2.1: "Establishment/enhancement of regional institutional arrangements based on existing structures (e.g. SAARC and SAHF)" Please clarify what does "based on" mean? The proposal should specify whether the project will work through these entities or if it is creating parallel arrangements that mirror their functions.</p> <p>CR10: Kindly outline the differences between Output 3.1.1: "<i>Community-level climate-resilient drought risk management plans developed, based on gender sensitive risk assessments (pilot communities), methodology documented to ensure scalability</i>"</p>	<p>The WMO Regional Drought Management Centre is contingent on the decision that it would be designated as a WMO WIPPS Centre (WMO Information System for Subseasonal to Seasonal Prediction Services). This designation depends on formal WMO processes and will only be confirmed at a later stage. What alternatives have been put in place if the decision is taken to reject such a proposal?</p> <p>Please include in the pre concept note a brief statement on: (i) the selection of the host country and that it will be included in the Concept Note or Full Proposal stage (ii) the arrangements for the long term sustainability of the Regional Centre and (iii) the role of the Centre in the on-going Regional Strategy Implementation.</p>	<p>added to Section II (Project Justification) under Component 2.</p> <p>-</p>
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		<p>and Output 3.1.2: "<i>Community-level action plans developed and tested</i>" kindly also clarify what is meant by 'tested'. Does it mean piloted or implemented or evaluated? The relationship between the two outputs should be clarified. Output 3.1.2 appears to be non-specific.</p> <p>CR11: On output 3.1.3: "Drought risk financing strategies developed" kindly clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The level of intervention: Community? National? Regional? 2. Types of financing envisaged (Pre-concept mentions microfinance, insurance, partnerships) 3. Who develops these? Who implements? 4. How will these align with national disaster risk financing strategies? <p>CR12: On output 4.1.1: "<i>Capacity development initiatives (incl. workshops/fellowships) for NMHSs, authorities, local pilot communities, and other key stakeholders conducted</i>" please clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What specific capacities will be built? 2. Has a baseline of current capacities been conducted? Is a needs assessment already available to guide the training? 	<p>CR5: Cleared Two additional Outputs have also been added to Component 2 (Outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4) which address drought coordination and policy frameworks, both of which are related to institutional and policy gaps.</p> <p>CR6. Cleared Output 1.1.2 was reworded.</p> <p>The difference between the Output 1.1.1 and Output 1.1.2 was clarified – the former focuses on conducting initial drought risk assessments and producing maps while the latter focuses on developing the methodology, a standardized, climate-change-responsive approach that countries can use every 3–5 years to update their drought risk profiles – thereby building on Output 1.1.1</p>	-
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	<p>CR13: On output 5.1.1: "Engagement plan for key stakeholders developed and implemented", how will this differ from the stakeholder engagement plan to be done before the project starts?</p> <p>CR14: On output 5.1.2: "Gender action plans, incl. indicators and trainings developed and implemented" please clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One plan or six (one per country)? 2. What if gender analysis shows different priorities per country? <p>CR15: On output 5.1.3: "Cross-regional knowledge management approach and community of practice (COP) on climate-resilient drought management established" Please clarify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for duplication as UNCCD CLP for Asia. • What's "cross-regional"? South Asia to other regions? • Who manages this COP? • What is the link to Regional Strategy COP? <p>CR16: On output 5.1.4: "Dissemination of user-centric sectoral drought information enhanced through co-production of tailored products (e.g. regular drought bulletins for agriculture and water</p>	<p>Please ensure in the elaborating the Concept Note and Full Proposal that these explanations and clarifications are clearly stated in the description of the Project Components.</p> <p>CR7. Not Cleared</p> <p>While the response provides a good explanation of the innovative crowdsourcing, Output 1.1.3 does not provide a clear indication of the systems for managing the methodology. Please revise Output 1.1.3.</p> <p>CR8: Cleared</p> <p>Output 2.1.3 revised and broken into two more precise outputs.</p> <p>CR9: Cleared</p> <p>In the preparation of the Full Proposal please ensure that it specifies that the project will work through and strengthen existing regional structures, not create</p>	<p>CR7: Cleared. Output 1.1.3 has been revised.</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
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		<p>sectors, crop advisories, irrigation schemes)" please clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Enhanced" from what baseline? 2. SADMS already produces bulletins - is this enhancing those or creating new ones? 	<p>parallel or duplicative arrangements.</p> <p>CR10: Cleared Output 3.1.2 was removed and Output 3.1.1 revised to include long term vulnerability reduction measures as well as contingency and preparedness plans.</p> <p>CR11: Cleared Output 3.1.3 (3.1.2 in revised version of the Pre-concept Note) was revised.</p> <p>CR12: Cleared Output 4.1.2 was added.</p> <p>CR13: Cleared Output 5.1.1 deleted and integrated into the mandatory stakeholder engagement plan developed before project start, so there is no duplication.</p> <p>CR14. Cleared There will be one overall gender action plan for the project with country specific sections for each of the six countries.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
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			<p>CR15: Cleared Output 5.1.3 (new Output 5.1.2) revised.</p> <p>CR16: Cleared Output 5.1.4 (new Output 5.1.3) revised to focus on user-centric sectoral products (e.g, crop advisories, irrigation guidance or farmer oriented drought information depending on the results of the capacity needs assessment and the specific requirements of agriculture, water and local user groups), while the drought bulletins have been excluded from this output since they are better placed under Component 1.</p>	- -
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	<p>4. Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it supports concrete adaptation actions? - it builds added value through the regional approach? - it promotes new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation? - it is cost-effective? - it is consistent with applicable strategies and plans? - it incorporates learning and knowledge management? - it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund? - it will take into account sustainability? 	<p>Yes, however further clarification is needed.</p> <p>The proposal mentions several action areas, and focuses mainly on early warning systems. There are very little links to response or action. Innovative approach mentioned is crowdsourcing for impacts of drought and integration of WMO Information System 2.0, though justification is not given as to how this is innovative. The Regional Strategy includes seven countries (including India). This proposal has six (excluding India) when India is the upstream nation on major rivers, and critical to regional coordination. Without India, the "regional" approach is incomplete for transboundary water management, regional climate forecasting, and cross-border drought impacts. The pre-concept note completely omits transboundary water management despite it being a thematic focal area and critically relevant to regional drought management in South Asia. The project references integrating all four pillars of EW4All but is limited in pillar 3 and does not have any outputs on pillar 4. As per component 5, it demonstrates an awareness and intent to integrate learning and knowledge management. Some indication of who will manage this is needed. As per page 5 Consultative</p>		
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		<p>process, it states key stakeholders will be involved. There is no language indicating consultation is beyond institutional (government and regional entities). The project concept shows awareness of types of sustainability issues but mechanisms ensuring continuity beyond project are generic. Note that a new Regional Drought Management Centre would entail capital and recurrent costs. Further clarity will be needed about cost-effectiveness.</p> <p>CAR5: Kindly clarify on how the project will achieve a regional integration without India, particularly given that the Regional Strategy includes India.</p> <p>CR17: Kindly state how the regional drought project will address the shared river basins, which play a role in the impact of drought.</p> <p>CR18: Kindly clarify how the four pillars mention of EW4All will be integrated when preparedness and response is not mentioned anywhere in the outputs.</p> <p>CR19: Regarding consultative process, please provide assurance in the pre-concept proposal that the consultation will be systematic,</p>	<p>CAR5: Cleared Part II Project Components paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 indicate how India will be included in the project.</p> <p>CR17: Cleared The Project Background and Context (page 2) and Project Components (paragraph 2) have been revised to include the transboundary considerations. The scope of the project is also limited to address transboundary aspects at the strategic regional level rather than through detailed basin-level interventions.</p> <p>CR18. Cleared The pillars are explicitly mentioned in Project</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
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		<p>inclusive and gender-responsive. There is no evidence that community-level or vulnerable group voices will be consulted. Please also briefly list the key stakeholders and ensure the national gender machinery/gender remit and women's associations will be included in the project's design.</p> <p>CR20: Kindly indicate the budget split between regional and national activities or indicate that this will be done in the concept note. Please clarify in the pre-concept note if a financing plan will be developed to sustain the Regional Drought Management Centre's core functions and address post-project funding gaps.</p>	<p>Components and Financing Table as well as in the revised Project Background and Context and Project Objectives sections.</p> <p>CR19. Not Cleared</p> <p>The section on the Consultative process has been revised to show that a systemic inclusive and gender-responsive process will be used ensuring meaningful participation of community-level stakeholders, vulnerable groups, women, and youth, whose perspectives are essential for shaping effective drought resilience interventions.</p> <p>The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will provide further details on the methodology, tools, and processes guiding these consultations.</p> <p>However, while the list of key stakeholders has</p>	<p>CR19: Cleared as per changes in Consultative Process section.</p>
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			<p>been provided in the response, it has not been included in the pre-concept note as was requested.</p> <p>Please briefly list the key stakeholders in the pre-concept note.</p> <p>CR20: Not Cleared</p> <p>The response indicates that the detailed budget split between regional and national activities will be provided at the concept note stage, when activity design and costing are further developed.</p> <p>With respect to the sustaining of the Regional Drought Management Centre, as indicated in CAR4, it would be hosted by a WMO Member State, which includes a formal commitment to budgeting for, operating, and maintaining its core functions. This information needs to be</p>	<p>CR20: Cleared as per additional information provided in Project Justification section.</p>

			<p>included in the pre-concept note.</p> <p>Please include in the Sustainability section of the pre-concept note, that the Regional Drought Management Centre will be hosted in a WMO Member state, which includes a formal commitment to budgeting for, operating, and maintaining its core functions. This ensures long-term institutional and financial sustainability in line with WMO regulatory material and established procedures.</p>	
	<p>5. Does the pre-concept briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/programme at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged? Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The pre-concept note identifies key implementing and executing entities but lacks critical detail on coordination mechanisms, national institutions' roles, and NIE involvement. The involvements of MHSs (National Meteorological and Hydrological Services) and their respective ministries as NIEs is stated.</p>	-	-

Resource Availability	6. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>CAR6: The executing agencies in the PFG are the national 6 Meteorological or related agencies and an additional 3 regional/global institutions. There are three activities to be implemented that will be done by contracted experts and consultants. Kindly clarify in the PFG which activities the EE (if any) will be executing as they seem to be stakeholders and not EEs.</p>	<p>CAR6: Cleared</p> <p>The pre-concept note has been updated and the NMHSs have been removed</p>	-
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	<p>7. Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The IE costs are at 10% while EE costs are 9.1%. of the project costs. All figures add up and rounded to who numbers – the amount request and project components and financing on pages 3-5</p> <p>As this is a pre-concept note, the IE is utilising a 3-step approach. The IE is requesting 195k and will initially request 39k which falls within the eligible amount to develop the concept note.</p> <p>CAR7: Please amend the cover note of the proposal to indicate that \$39,000 is the amount being requested at the Pre-concept stage.</p> <p>CR21:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please amend the start and end date of the PFG. 2. Please add the IE fee line to the PFG form. 3. Please clarify if WMO intends to execute the PFG, if yes please amend the EEs in the PFG request form. 	<p>CAR7: Cleared</p> <p>Cover note of the proposal amended.</p> <p>CR21:</p> <p>1. Cleared as per changes in PFG form.</p> <p>2. Not cleared. Kindly note that PFG IE fee should be no more than 8.5% of total PFG. This means the count should be no greater than 3,315, but currently it stands at 3,900. Please amend.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>CR21:</p> <p>2. and 3. Cleared as per changes in PFG request form.</p>
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			3. Not cleared. If WMO also serves as the EE for the PFG, include it under Executing Entities.	
Eligibility of IE	8. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	Yes. The project is submitted by the Multilateral Implementing Entity, World Meteorological Organisation. The accreditation expiration data is 30 March 2027.	-	-



ADAPTATION FUND

PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)

Countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Thematic Focal Area¹: Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

Type of Implementing Entity: Multilateral Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Executing Entities: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO), Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SA), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) or related Ministries of beneficiary countries

Amount of Financing Requested: 29,766,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request: Yes No

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: 39,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent) (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries: Yes No

Stage of Submission:

This pre-concept has been submitted before

This is the first submission ever of the pre-concept

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Please note that pre-concept should not exceed 5 pages (in addition to this first cover page)

¹ Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

Project Background and Context

South Asia spans over 5 million km² and features diverse climates, from southern tropical monsoons to northern alpine zones. It includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, about 11.5% of Asia's land area. With 24.15% of the global population, the region relies heavily on agriculture: 57% of land is farmed, and nearly 60% of people work in the sector. Despite its key role in food security and the global economy, South Asia faces major drought challenges. Drought adversely impacts food security, water availability, ecosystems, health, energy, and the broader economy.² Research indicates that frequency and severity of droughts in South Asia are expected to rise due to climate change³ and thus strongly impact a region already characterized by the highest concentrations of at-risk populations, significant income disparities, and sociopolitical instability.⁴ The region's dependence on agriculture, combined with its diverse climates and topographies, create complex challenges requiring coordinated responses, embedded in integrated water resource management. Droughts disrupt agricultural production, energy production, water availability, tourism, public health, economy as well as ecosystems. These impacts often disproportionately affect women, due to their roles in water collection, food production, and caregiving responsibilities, along with other groups with specific vulnerabilities, particularly in rural areas.⁵ Moreover, droughts have indirect and cascading effects, such as heatwaves and wildfires that harm a country's development.⁶ These cascading impacts underline the critical need for robust and timely drought-related information services to address social needs, mitigate economic losses and enhance resilience to climate change and extreme events. However, under current institutional and technical arrangements, these increasing drought risks are not proactively managed, as monitoring remains fragmented, seasonal to sub-seasonal forecasting is not operationalized, and available information is not systematically linked to drought policies, plans, or preparedness measures.

Drought affects all South Asian countries— all Members of WMO's Regional Association II (Asia), but its impact varies by each nation's geography and socio-economic conditions, influencing sectors like agriculture, energy, public health, and the economy differently. In **Bangladesh**, recurrent droughts particularly affect the northwestern regions, where water scarcity and declining groundwater levels threaten rice and jute production— key livelihoods for millions.⁷ In **Bhutan**, shifting rainfall patterns and prolonged dry spells are impacting hydropower generation and water availability, threatening both domestic needs and export revenues.⁸ In the **Maldives**, freshwater scarcity during the dry season is exacerbated by rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion, affecting drinking water supplies and the tourism sector.⁹ **Nepal** is increasingly vulnerable to seasonal droughts, particularly in the Terai region, where delayed monsoons and dry spells are reducing agricultural productivity and straining water resources.¹⁰ **Pakistan** suffers from chronic droughts in arid regions, where agricultural losses and water shortages have serious implications for food security and rural livelihoods.¹¹ In **Sri Lanka**, droughts have intensified over recent decades, especially in the dry zone, leading to reduced reservoir levels, crop damage, and heightened energy insecurity due to hydropower dependency.¹²

The proposed project focuses on implementing key components of the "Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia," developed under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by ADPC and adopted in 2024, explicitly addressing the strategy's short-term actions (information and forecasting systems for rapid response; foundational capacity building), medium-term actions (reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience, integrating drought into national development planning, undertaking priority resilience measures, and advancing investment planning including domestic and private-sector finance), while also laying the groundwork for long-term actions such as research and development and strengthened regional cooperation.¹³ Through this proposal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are undertaking a joint effort to implement the strategy at national and regional levels. It recognizes the linkages between drought and land degradation, contributing to a framework for incorporating land restoration as well as sustainable land management practices to achieve drought resilience and contribute to national and regional Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. While the strategy does not yet have a formal implementation plan in the respective countries, it was agreed during the preparation of the strategy that this project would be developed to support its implementation. As a contribution to the UN's Early Warnings for

² Kaffie, H., Khaitu, S., Gyawali, D., Shrestha, D., Koirala, D., Kamaruzzaman, M., Yamaguchi, Y., 2023. [Historical drought and its trend in South Asia: Spatial and temporal analysis 2000-2020](#). APN Science Bulletin, 12(1).

³ Naumann G, Alfieri L, Wyser K, Mentaschi L, Betts RA, Carrao H, Spinoni J, Vogt J, Feyen L., 2018. Global changes in drought conditions under different levels of warming. *Geophysical Research Letters*. 16;45(7):3285-96; IPCC, 2023. Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group II: Climate Change 2023 – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; FAO et UNEP, 2022. Global Assessment of Drought 2021–2022.

⁴ Kaffie et al. 2023; Naumann et al., 2018

⁵ Mwale, N.S., Sievers, L.M., Bokal, S., Salman, M., Stefanski, R., Aich, V. 2025. [Mainstreaming gender in national drought plans, national action plans and national policies](#). Rome, FAO.

⁶ Zaveri, E.D.; Damania, R.; Engle, N. L., 2023. [Droughts and Deficits - Summary Evidence of the Global Impact on Economic Growth \(English\)](#). Water Global Practice Washington, D.C. World Bank Group.

⁷ People's Republic of Bangladesh 2023. [National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh \(2023-2050\)](#)

⁸ Kingdom of Bhutan, 2023. [First National Adaptation Plan](#).

⁹ Maldives, 2020. [Update of Nationally Determined Contribution of Maldives](#).

¹⁰ Nepal, 2021. [National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) 2021-2050](#)

¹¹ Pakistan, 2023. [National Adaptation Plan Pakistan 2023](#).

¹² Sri Lanka, 2016. [National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka](#).

¹³ [ADPC, 2024: Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia](#).

All (EW4All) initiative¹⁴, the project aims to strengthen/establish drought early warning systems (EWS) by integrating all four pillars of EWS (Disaster Risk Knowledge; Monitoring and Forecasting; Warning, Dissemination and Communication; Preparedness and Response Capabilities) and improving governance at regional and national levels. Current drought monitoring efforts exist across the region, but they are not formally linked to policy processes, lack clear institutional mandates, and therefore face challenges in accountability and long-term sustainability. Given these systemic gaps in addressing a transboundary hazard like drought, a regional approach is essential. Only a shared mechanism can provide harmonized indicators, interoperable data, and consistent early warnings that strengthen and complement national systems. This project addresses these gaps by supporting countries in agreeing on a coherent structure in which regional monitoring enhances and complements national systems. Clear mandates and institutional arrangements will ensure stronger ownership, coordination, and lasting impact. The project further seeks to boost regional coordination, collaboration and capacity for drought management in line with sustainable development and disaster risk reduction goals, with a strong emphasis on gender inclusion. Ultimately, it aims to enhance drought resilience, support livelihoods, and protect ecosystems across the region.

Project Objectives

The project focuses on implementing the Integrated Drought Management (IDM) approach, aligned with the "Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia". Guided by the well-established approach of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), and strengthen and integrating all the four pillars of EWS, key goals are:

- 1. Enhance Capabilities and Capacities for Monitoring, Forecasting, and Early Warning:** Improve regional and national capacities for drought monitoring and forecasting to support drought EWS, ensuring timely and actionable information for decision-makers and communities. While several tools and initiatives exist in South Asia—such as those from WMO Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) and Regional Climate Outlook Fora, South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS), South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and the University of Tokyo,—they are not yet consistently linked to policy processes or supported by clear institutional mandates. This limits long-term sustainability, accountability, and comprehensive regional coverage. To address these gaps, the project will help establish a coherent regional–national structure with agreed mandates and improved interoperability, ensuring that drought information reliably informs planning and early action
- 2. Enhance Regional Collaboration and Governance:** Strengthen regional cooperation, incl. data sharing, enhance regional and national governance frameworks to enable coordinated engagement and inclusive IDM, ensuring that drought EWS are anchored in policy to effectively connect drought monitoring and warnings with action. These efforts will built on existing initiatives, integrate a multitude of stakeholders on national and regional level, and integrate collaboration with WMO’s RA II, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), SAHF, and other such mechanisms.
- 3. Enhance Community-Level Drought Resilience:** Strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities (to be identified during project development) by promoting scalable, sustainable, and inclusive drought preparedness strategies with a strong focus on gender and diversity. Ensure communities are equipped to understand and act on early warnings to reduce drought impacts.

Project Components and Financing

Project Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
1. Drought monitoring, early warnings and drought risk and impact assessment (IDM Pillar 1&2)	1.1 Sustained mechanisms for drought risk assessments as well as drought impact monitoring established. 1.2 Harmonised approach on national and regional level for drought monitoring,	1.1.1 Baseline drought risk assessments at the national level, identifying vulnerable areas and sectors, including land degradation status 1.1.2 Climate change responsive drought risk assessment and mapping methodology developed and implemented for periodic national assessments 1.1.3 <u>Nationally managed Drought impact monitoring and assessment methodology established incl. innovative crowdsourcing integrated into national drought impact monitoring systems</u>	All	9,000,000

¹⁴ See <https://earlywarningsforall.org>. Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Maldives were among the first 30 countries globally to receive targeted support and have developed comprehensive roadmaps to strengthen their multi-hazard early warning systems under the EW4All initiative.

	forecasting and early warnings established	1.2.1 Enhance and/or establish IDM and forecasting systems based on existing platforms incl. opportunistic data 1.2.2 Drought early warning methodology in all target countries and integrated in national drought policies incl. regular drought bulletins 1.2.3 End-to-end (E2E) dissemination channels for drought warnings established, tailored to key stakeholders' needs		
2. Integrated drought governance and regional cooperation (IDM Pillar 3)	2.1 National policies formulated /updated aligning with the regional strategy 2.2 Regional WMO drought management body/center established	2.1.1 Analysis of drought risk related institutional and policy gaps based on 1.1.1. 2.1.2. Socio-economic benefits studies (SEB) undertaken to inform policies 2.1.3 National drought committees established or strengthened in targeted countries, with defined mandates, membership structures, and operational procedures for drought coordination. 2.1.4 National drought policy frameworks introduced or updated. 2.2.1 Establishment/enhancement of regional institutional arrangements based on existing structures (e.g. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and SAHF as well as basin organizations) 2.2.2 Establishment of WMO Regional Drought Management Centre in a selected host country	All	3,000,000
3. Community-level drought resilience (IDM Pillar 3)	3.1 Community-level, climate-resilient drought risk management and financing solutions for sustainable implementation implemented in pilot communities in each of the target countries and plans for scaling developed	3.1.1 Community-level climate-resilient drought risk management plans incl. contingency developed, based on gender sensitive risk assessments (pilot communities), methodology documented to ensure scalability 3.1.2 National and Sub-national drought risk investment plans and financing strategies 3.1.3 Nature-based solutions implemented to increase drought resilience in pilot communities 3.1.4 Guidelines for implementation and scaling for above outputs developed incl. financing strategies	All	6,600,000
4. Capacity development for Integrated Drought Management	4.1 Strengthened capacity for drought management on national, regional and community level	4.1.1 Capacity needs assessment for NMHSs, authorities, local pilot communities, and other key stakeholders conducted 4.1.2 Capacity development initiatives (incl. workshops/fellowships) for NMHSs, authorities, local pilot communities, and other key stakeholders conducted	All	3,600,000
5. Knowledge & awareness on climate-resilient and inclusive Integrated Drought Management	5.1 Partner engagement, communication and awareness increased on national & regional level	5.1.1 Gender action plans, incl. indicators and trainings developed and implemented 5.1.2 Strengthened UNCCD Climate Learning Platform (CLP) as the central space for cross-regional knowledge exchange 5.1.3 Dissemination of user-centric sectoral drought information enhanced through co-production of tailored products (e.g. crop advisories, irrigation schemes)	All	2,400,000
Programme Execution cost (10%)				2,460,000
Total Project/Programme Cost				27,060,000
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (10%)				2,706,000
Amount of Financing Requested				29,766,000

Project Duration: 5 years

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Project Components

1. Baseline drought risk assessments will identify regional drought hazards, vulnerabilities, and impacts. Findings will inform a harmonized, methodology for assessment, monitoring, forecasting, and decision-making, guiding project other components and the enhancement/ establishment of monitoring networks for drought management and EWS. For drought monitoring, the project will strengthen regional observation networks, such as WMO's Regional Basic Observing Network, to improve real-time data access, exchange, and harmonization. Remote sensing data and products will be used to complement in-situ data. For drought forecasting, access to global and regional drought-relevant products from the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS) Centres will be ensured, incl. extended-range and sub-seasonal predictions as feasible.

This component will strengthen evidence-based decision-making in drought management at national and regional levels, ensuring improved preparedness, response, and resilience to drought events through an earth system approach. Existing global/regional drought products will be analyzed with the aim of defining standardized regional drought products that can be disseminated within the WIPPS, considering key user requirements. The project will support the adoption of the WMO Information System 2.0, enabling seamless exchange of hydrometeorological data to enhance regional monitoring and prediction capabilities, incl. the WMO Hydrological Observation System. The WMO Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System approach will be applied, integrating these monitoring, forecasting, and data-sharing components to provide comprehensive drought information. These efforts will be accompanied by capacity building efforts - component 4. A review of national and regional drought management institutions, policies, and strategies will be conducted using the IDMP Benefit of Action/Cost of Inaction Framework. To enhance long-term institutional capacity and sustainability, the project will support the establishment of a WMO Regional Drought Management Centre, leveraging and creating synergies with existing structures.

2. At the regional level, cooperation will be enhanced through the establishment or strengthening of institutional arrangements such as SAARC, and SAHF, complemented by the creation of a WMO Regional Drought Management Centre, similar to the Drought Management Centre for Southeastern Europe, in a selected host country, potentially as WIPPS Centre. The selection of the host institution will follow WMO's formal governance procedures and regulatory criteria, ensuring an open, transparent, and country-driven process. This procedure is planned to take place over the coming year and will be included in the Full Proposal preparation stage. A central selection criterion will be the host's long-term commitment to maintain and finance the Centre, which will support national and regional implementation of the drought strategy beyond the project times-scale and long-term regional coordination of drought resilience management.

Transboundary aspects of drought risk including shared river basins and regional climate drivers will be addressed at a strategic level through coordinated early warning and policies. At the national level, policies will be formulated or updated in line with the regional strategy, informed by institutional and policy gap analyses as well as socio-economic benefit studies. In addition, Drought Committees (with names depending on country context) will be established or strengthened, bringing together experts from drought-impacted sectors such as agriculture, forestry/wildfires, irrigation, and other relevant institutions to foster integrated collaboration and ensure a coordinated, systematic approach to drought risk reduction and resilience-building. While India is not a participating country in this proposal, the regional institutional arrangements and technical systems will be aligned so that they remain compatible with, and complementary to, India's existing drought-management frameworks, thereby supporting coherent regional information flows and wider collaboration.

3. At the community level, climate-resilient drought risk management plans will be developed in pilot areas, based on gender-sensitive risk assessments, with methodologies documented to ensure scalability. These integrated plans will combine risk management, preparedness and contingency planning (response capacity) in line with EW4All Pillar 4. User-centred dissemination channels developed under Component 1 will be applied at community level to ensure that drought information and warnings are timely and actionable (Pillar 3). To strengthen resilience, nature-based solutions will be implemented, alongside localized drought risk financing strategies that will identify financing sources and match these with local finance needs, using approaches such as community-based microfinance groups, cooperative insurance schemes, and partnerships with local private actors. Finally, guidelines will be produced to support the implementation and scaling of these approaches, including the financing mechanisms, so that successful models can be replicated more widely
4. Capacity-development for academic and non-degree professionals will directly leverage support mobilized under the other components through strengthening national and regional capabilities in drought risk assessment, monitoring, and forecasting. Additionally, national capabilities in utilizing Remote Sensing data, seasonal-to-subseasonal forecasting and other relevant application products will be enhanced through tailored capacity development activities. This will ensure that monitoring, forecasting, and data-sharing improvements are effectively sustained and integrated into institutional frameworks, strengthening

evidence-based decision-making. Capacity building activities will be implemented on national and regional level.

5. Knowledge and awareness on climate-resilient and inclusive Integrated Drought Management will be strengthened through increased partner engagement, communication, and awareness at national and regional levels. This includes the development and implementation of stakeholder engagement and gender action plans (with indicators and trainings), the establishment of a cross-regional knowledge management approach and community of practice (COP) that will build on and strengthen the existing UNCCD Community of Learning and Practice (CLP) for Asia, and the co-production and dissemination of user-focused drought information products such as regular bulletins, crop advisories, and irrigation guidance. Given India's importance for regional drought monitoring, India will be included in the regional learning and knowledge-exchange activities; this may also include twinning arrangements to facilitate mutual learning and the sharing of India's advanced experience.

Other considerations

Consultative Process: Given the diversity of countries, the identification, engagement and commitment of key stakeholders at regional, national and community levels is essential for project development and implementation. Building on the stakeholders involved in the development of the Regional Strategy, the project will ensure an inclusive consultative process that also integrates gender-transformative and socially inclusive engagement. ~~involving~~ Key stakeholders include national ministries and technical agencies responsible for drought management, climate resilience, water resources, agriculture, and the environment; national gender machinery; subnational and local authorities; community-based organizations (including women's associations, youth groups, and farmer organizations); vulnerable and drought-affected communities (such as smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and Indigenous groups); technical partners, research institutions, civil society organizations; and relevant private sector actors involved in climate services, water management, and resilience solutions. women's groups, vulnerable community representatives and other relevant actors to reflect diverse needs and perspectives.

Cost Effectiveness: A cost-effective, holistic approach integrating technical, social, economic, and environmental factors of each country will prioritize regional resilience over a single-country focus. Strategic pilot investments and local expertise will complement this approach and enhance national drought resilience. Synergies and alignment with other initiatives, e.g. the CREWS South Asia, WISER Asia Pacific, and other projects currently ongoing/planned will be sought to maximize financial efficiency.

Learning & Knowledge Management: Project activities will be underpinned by capacity development, knowledge management and awareness raising. COPs will foster informal collaboration. This project further strengthens knowledge exchange between the more advanced and lesser advanced target countries in the region and will be aligned with SAHF as well as built on an/or leverage ongoing regional and national activities.

Innovation & Coherence: Many projects address drought management, but this one offers a cohesive approach by building on the Regional Drought Strategy, linking local and national efforts and aligning with ongoing regional initiatives, such as amongst others Regional Frameworks for Climate Services and national EW4All Roadmaps. It promotes a shared understanding to effectively address drought and water scarcity, contributing to greater resilience and healthier ecosystems across the region.

SEB and Gender: SEB analysis' and a gender action plan, will guide the implementation. The project will generate SEBs through reduced losses, strengthened sectoral security, and protected ecosystems. It will follow Adaptation Fund and WMO environmental, social, and gender policies, using a user-centric approach to engage vulnerable communities and address gender issues.

Sustainability: Sustainability will be ensured through establishing governance mechanisms with sustainable financing, institutionalizing the regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy. Nature-based solutions will enhance ecosystem services and link them to livelihoods, while financing strategies will support scaling and sustainability. Institutional capacity on all levels will be enhanced through capacity development on decision-making for drought management and aligned with regional activities of e.g. SAHF, ensuring long-term results. The WMO Regional Drought Management Centre in collaboration with other regional institutions will coordinate ongoing, sustained implementation.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The initiative will be led by the WMO as the implementing entity, in close collaboration with executing partners to ensure effective implementation and inclusive stakeholder engagement. The Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) Technical Support Unit of the IDMP, supported by its network of Support Base Partners, will be responsible for designing technical solutions in cooperation with the executing entities. A dedicated project manager will oversee implementation, ensuring meaningful stakeholder participation, effective monitoring, and robust risk management. At the regional level, activities will be coordinated by ADPC and GWP South Asia, ensuring alignment with regional frameworks, institutions, and existing drought management initiatives. At the national level, implementation will be led by NMHSs and their respective ministries, in close coordination with local institutions and regional stakeholders. At local level, the Country Water Partnership Network of GWP will help to connect and include local organizations. Collaboration with national and regional stakeholders will be facilitated through workshops, formal agreements, and institutional arrangements. A project board composed of key stakeholders, including UNCCD who provides funding for project development, will provide strategic direction to the project. Implementation arrangements will be further developed/identified in the project development stage.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government¹⁵ *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as annexes to the project/programme proposal.*

Dr Farhina Ahmed Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Bangladesh	Date: 05/ 26/ 2025
Tshering Dorji Director Ministry of Finance Bhutan	Date: 06/ 16/ 2025
Ahmed Waheed Director Ministry of Environment and Energy Maldives	Date: 05/ 26/2025
Suman Subedi Under Secretary (Technical), Head, Adaptation Section Ministry of Forests and Environment Nepal	Date:08/03/2025
Ms. Sameera Sheik Joint Secretary Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Pakistan	Date: 02/28/2025
K.R. Uduwawala Secretary Ministry of Environment Sri Lanaka	Date: 06/04/2025

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (.....list here.....) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

Moyenda Chaponda

Implementing Entity Coordinator

Date: 28/08/2025

Tel. and email: +41 22 730 8646/
mchaponda@wmo.int

Project Contact Person: Valentin Aich

Tel. And Email: +41 22 730 8494/



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No. 23.09.0000.095.24.004.25.3612

Dated: 28 May 2025

From: Md. Nurul Karim (Mr.)
Deputy Director
Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)

To: Ms. Stephanie Gallasch
Project Officer
Development Partnerships Office
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
7bis, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Email: sgallasch@wmo.int

Sub: Signed Endorsement Letter of National Designated Authority (NDA), Bangladesh to the Adaptation Fund.

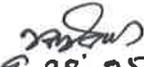
Dear Ms. Stephanie Gallasch,

Greetings from Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

With reference to your email dated 14 May 2025, please be informed that National Designated Authority (NDA), Bangladesh has signed in the endorsement letter for the pre-concept note of the 'Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)' Project. The signed endorsement letter attached herewith for your kind information and further necessary action.

Assuring you, our highest cooperation at all times.

With best regards,


28-05-25
(Md. Nurul Karim)
Deputy Director
For Director

CC to:

1. Mr. Valentin Aich, Senior Water and Climate Expert, WMO
Email: vaich@wmo.int
2. Mr. Robert Stefanski, Chief, WMO Agricultural Meteorology Division, WMO
Email: RStefanski@wmo.int
3. Mr. Jochen Luther, Scientific. Officer, WMO
Email: JLuther@wmo.int
4. Mr. Md. Monowar Hossian
Meteorologist, BMD and Focal Point for Bangladesh, IDM-SA Project.
Email: monowar1577@gmail.com



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

No: 22.00.0000.000.072.99.0004.25.191

Date: 26/05/2025

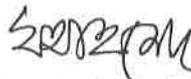
The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN N7-700
Washington, D.C., 20433
United States of America

Subject: Endorsement for the pre-concept note of the "Integrated Drought Management for South Asia" project.

In my capacity as the Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Bangladesh, I confirm that the above regional project aligns with the government's national and regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts and risks posed by drought in South Asia.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as well as other national and regional partners.

Sincerely,


Dr. Farhina Ahmed
Secretary

26/05/2025



MoF/DMD/DCDMD/AF_DA/2024-25/3103

June 16, 2025

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN N7-700
Washington, D.C., 20433
United States of America
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for the pre-concept note of the “Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)” Project

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Bhutan, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the government’s national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by drought in Bhutan.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by national and regional partners such as the National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) of the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

(Tshering Dorji)

Director/ Designated Authority to the Adaptation Fund

Copy to:

1. Director, National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology.
2. Director, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
3. Director, Department of Water, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.
4. Program Director, National Soil Services Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.



Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Male', Republic of Maldives

Date: 26 May 2025

No: 88-CCD/PRIV/2025/709

The Adaptation Fund Board,
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat,
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240

Sub: Endorsement for “Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)”

Your Excellency,

In my capacity as Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Maldives, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with our national priorities i.e Maldives NDC3, National Earlywarning Roadmap, and regional collaboration areas in implementing adaptation activities to reduce the adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the Maldives and South Asia.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project/programme will be implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and Maldives Meteorological Service.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Waheed,
Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forests and Environment



P.O. Box No. 3987
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu

Ref. No. 29

Letter of Endorsement

जल तथा मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
दर्ता नं.: ४३५
मिति: २०७२/४/१९

Date: August 3, 2025

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement of the pre concept note for regional project "Integrated Drought Management for South Asia (IDM-SA)"

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Nepal, I confirm that the above pre concept note for regional project is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Nepal.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the pre concept note with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SA), Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) and relevant National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and related ministries of beneficiary countries in close co-ordination with the climate change focal ministry in these countries.

Sincerely,


Suman Subedi
Designated Authority, Adaptation Fund
Under Secretary, Adaptation Section
Ministry of Forests and Environment
Email: s_subedi2003@yahoo.com
suman.subedi@nepal.gov.np

Tel: +92-51-9245589



No. F1(1)2024-Misc/PCCA/2863
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION
(LG&RD COMPLEX, G-5/2)

Islamabad, 17th October, 2025

**JOINT SECRETARY
(CC&ENV.)**

To:
The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MNS N7-700
Washington, D.C, 20433
United States of America
Email: secretariat@adaptation-fund.org

**Subject: - ENDORSEMENT FOR THE PRE-CONCEPT NOTE OF THE
"INTEGRATED DROUGHT MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH ASIA"
PROJECT TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION**

In my capacity as the designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Pakistan, I confirm that the above regional project aligns with the government's national and regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts and risks posed by drought in South Asia.

2. Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), as well as national and regional partners.

Sameera Sheikh

(Sameera Sheikh)

NDA for Adaptation Fund Pakistan

Copy to:

- PS to the Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
- Member Coordination, Climate Change Authority, Islamabad.
- Stephanie Gallasch (SGallasch@wmo.int)



පරිසර අමාත්‍යාංශය
சுற்றுநாடல் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Environment

"සොබාදාම පියා", අංක 416/සී/1, රොබට් ගුණවර්ධන මාවත, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.

"சொபாதம் பியா", இல. 416/சி/1, ரொபர்ட் குணவர்தன மாவத்தை, பத்தரமுல்லை, இலங்கை.

"Sobadam Piyasa", No. 416/C/1, Robert Gunawardana Mawatha, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.

Gen. Tel. +94-11-2034100

දුරකථන

செயலாளர்

Secretary

+94-11-2034121

ෆැක්ස්

தொலை நகல்

Fax

+94-11-2879944

මගේ අංකය
எனது இல
My No

ENV/CC/04/04/03/02/232

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல
Your No

දිනය
திகதி
Date

04.06.2025

The Chairman
The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

Dear Sir,

Endorsement for the Pre Concept Note
"Integrated Drought Management for South Asia" Project

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Sri Lanka, I confirm that the above regional project aligns with the Government's national and regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts and risks posed by drought in South Asia.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and executed by the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, Global Water Partnership (GWP), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as well as national and regional partners.

Sincerely,

K. R. Uduwawala
Secretary

Cc: Ms Stephanie Gallasch(World Meteorological Organization)- for your information please

"මේ මහපොළොව සහ ගහකොළ මිනිසාට මෙන්ම අනෙක් ජීවයාසන්න සියොතුන්ට ද මිනිමත සරන සිවුපාවුන්ට ද සියලු සතුන්ට ද එකසේ අයිතිය"
"இப் பூமியும், மரஞ் செடி கொடிகளும் மனிதனுக்குப் போன்றே வானில் பறந்து திரியும் பறவைகளுக்கும், பூமியில் வாழும் உயிரினங்களுக்கும், அனைத்து விலங்குகளுக்கும் ஒருமித்துச் சொந்தமானது"

"This great earth and the flora on it equally belong to the man and the birds flying in the sky, the quadrupeds and all creatures living on earth"



Revised PFG Submission Form¹
Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 28 October 2025

Adaptation Fund Project ID: ?

Country/ies: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Title of Project/Programme: Integrated Drought Management in South Asia

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): MIE

Implementing Entity: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Executing Entity: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	01 May 2026
Completion date of PFG	01 December 2026

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note²
Support in writing of the project concept by external consultant	Project concept well-coordinated with country stakeholders and in line with AF rules and regulations	22,000	Contracting of a consultant to support the coordination and writing of the concept at a daily rate of 400 USD for 60 days
Support of different experts within the executing entity in formulating the concept	Project concept in line with latest standards and state of the art methodologies	6,800	Contracting of experts to provide matter expert advice for concept at a daily rate of 500 USD for 15 days
Stakeholder consultations	Concept based on stakeholder needs	6,885	Support stakeholder engagement processes e.g. potentially travel

¹ As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

² The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

Implementing Entity Fee ³ (Administration and management of concept preparation)	Project concept coordinate and submitted in time	2,315	This will support the proposal coordination officer
		500	This will support WMO Human Resources Support for hiring a consultant
		500	Administration for hiring a consultant
Total Project Formulation Grant		39,000	

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

- Support in writing of the project concept by external consultant:** An external consultant will be hired to support the writing process and coordinate with all national and regional stakeholders as well as the executing entities. This will ensure that all needs and expectations are well coordinated with country stakeholders and in line with AF rules and regulations. The amount allows to hire a consultant for 50 days at a daily rate of USD 500.
- Support of different experts within the implementing and executing entity in formulating the concept:** Different experts of the implementing and executing entities will be engaged in the process of preparing the project concept, providing expert input on different fields like Early Warning Systems (EWS), Monitoring etc. This amount is to compensate the different departments internally.
- Stakeholder consultation:** Stakeholder consultations will be carried out at national and regional levels, either online or in person, primarily making use of the contacts and networks of partners and the GWP. These consultations will ensure broad input, alignment with country priorities, and stakeholder ownership of the project concept.
- Implementing Entity Fee:** The 10% share will be used to support the coordination and administration within WMO.

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Mr. Moyenda Chaponda	<i>Moyenda Chaponda</i>	28 August 2025	Mr. Valentin Aich	+41 22 730 8494,	vaich@wmo.int

³ 8.5% Implementing Entity Management Fee of USD 3,315 in total.

