



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.37/30
16 March 2026

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

Agenda Item 6 (h)

PROPOSAL FOR JORDAN, LEBANON

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 “Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods (TAWASUL)” was submitted for Jordan, Lebanon by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), which is a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.

12. This is the fourth 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 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 AF00000503, 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 UN-Habitat, 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: Jordan, Lebanon
Project Title: Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods"– A Regional Initiative in Lebanon and Jordan (Project acronym: TAWASUL)
Thematic focal area: Transboundary water management
Implementing Entity: UN-Habitat
Executing Entities: National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS-L), Saida Zahrani Union of Municipalities, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO
AF Project ID: AF00000503
IE Project ID: **Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):** 16,438,888
Reviewer and contact person: Estefanía Jiménez **Co-reviewer(s):**
IE Contact Person(s):

<p>Technical Summary</p>	<p>The project "Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods (TAWASUL): A regional initiative that promotes gender-responsive governance, sustainable financing schemes for local authorities, and Nature-Based solutions in Lebanon and Jordan" aims to strengthen urban climate resilience and adaptive capacity in the Awwali River Watershed (Lebanon) and Wadi Al-Karak (Jordan) by advancing ecosystem restoration, post-crisis recovery, gender-responsive governance, and sustainable financing. This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> Multi-Layered Vulnerability Assessments, Restoration Frameworks and Financing Models (USD 2,300,000).</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Implementation of Adaption and Restoration Interventions with a focus on Nature-Based Solutions and Post-Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (USD 9,650,000)</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange (USD 1,500,000)</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u> Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 1,494,444</p>
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	<p>Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 14,944,444 Implementing Fee: USD 1,494,444 Financing Requested: USD 16,438,888</p> <p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant of USD 30,000.</p> <p>The initial technical review raises several issues, such as coherence between the background and context and the objectives, elaboration of the project components and Expected Outcomes and outputs, sustainability, and Total Project/Program costs, among others, 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 found that most of the issues raised have been addressed with the exception of the CRs related to cost effectiveness and complementarity and duplication of other projects, as discussed in the Corrective Requests (CRs) raised in the review.</p> <p>The third technical review found that most of the issues raised have been addressed with the exception of the CRs related to PFG form, cost effectiveness and complementarity and duplication of other projects, as discussed in the Corrective Requests (CRs) raised in the review.</p> <p>The fourth technical review found that all issues raised have been addressed.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>
Date	March 9, 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	First Technical Review Comments January 7, 2026	Second Technical Review Comments February 24, 2026	Third Technical Review Comments March 4, 2026	Fourth Technical Review Comments March 9, 2026
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Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	Yes	-	<p>General Comment: When providing a response to a CR or CAR, please indicate the specific location in the proposal where it is addressed, such as the page number or paragraph reference.</p> <p>The proposal would also benefit from another round of proofreading and formatting adjustments to ensure it is easy to read.</p> <p>CAR1 (NEW): Part IV has to be signed.</p>	<p>CAR1 (NEW): Part IV has been signed in the clean version.</p>
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	<p>2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?</p>	<p>Yes, both Lebanon and Jordan are developing countries which are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly acute drought and water scarcity. Jordan is also vulnerable to flash floods. These effects are compounded by pollution, deforestation, sand mining, and unregulated territorial development (in Lebanon) as well as soil erosion, pollution and unsafe wastewater discharge (in Jordan).</p>	-	-	-
Project Eligibility	<p>1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?</p>	<p>Yes, as per the Endorsement letter dated August 31, 2025 for Jordan and July 2, 2025 for Lebanon</p> <p>CR1: The pre-concept note is 12 pages excluding the cover page and some blank pages within the document. It should not exceed 5 pages. Please amend.</p>	<p>CR1: Cleared. The pre-concept note has been reduced to 5 pages</p>	-	-

	<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, but additional information is required.</p> <p>The Background and Context of the pre-concept (pages 3 – 4) gives a general overview of the broad geographical context of two ecologically significant but highly vulnerable hydrological systems: - the Awwali River Watershed in Lebanon and Wadi Al-Karak in Jordan providing brief descriptions of the hydrology, ecology, culture, livelihoods as well as the climate vulnerabilities due to drought and water scarcity, and the pressures posed by urbanization, pollution, and conflict.</p> <p>It refers to Lebanon and Jordan's NDCs and the emphasis on ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated water resources management, and gender-responsive resilience, showing policy coherence.</p> <p>With respect to regional perspective, the pre-concept note proposes regional cooperation, peer learning, and shared governance on</p>			
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		<p>transboundary challenges, as a means of supporting scaling and regional applicability.</p> <p>However, it does not provide sufficient quantitative information on the target areas in terms of the size, population, contribution to economy, importance of agriculture, neither does it quantify the vulnerabilities of the two countries. For example, the pre-concept states that “per-capita water availability in Jordan already far below the absolute scarcity threshold” but no quantitative information is provided of the value of that per-capita water availability.</p> <p>The overall objective of the project mentions gender-responsive governance, and sustainable financing. However, there is no mention of a preliminary gender analysis or a description of the current financing situation in the countries which would justify the need for such objectives. There is also mention of an on-going Adaptation Fund Project</p>			
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		<p>regional Adaptation Fund initiative in Jordan and Lebanon, titled “Increasing the resilience of displaced persons and host communities to climate change-related water challenges,” which is a foundational project that has successfully mainstreamed climate and gender considerations into urban planning frameworks for Type 2 cities in both countries, established a cutting-edge climate-oriented urban observatory, and deployed a range of practical, water-focused adaptation measures. How is this on-going project different from the one being proposed and how does the current proposal build on the on-going one?</p> <p>CR2: Kindly provide more quantitative information in the Background and Context on the socio-economic context of target areas, and their vulnerabilities as well as the gaps to show how the interventions proposed by project will solve the problems.</p>			
			<p>CR2: Cleared. The requested information has been included in the</p>	-	-

		<p>CR3: Please provide some additional information on how the current proposal builds on the on-going AF project mentioned in the pre-concept note.</p> <p>CR4: The Pre-CN document includes guidance document from AF template which is not necessary. Kindly revise the Part II and delete all guiding questions.</p> <p>CR5: Please provide a causal analysis to explain how the proposed interventions will reduce the impacts of drought and water scarcity at both the national and regional levels.</p>	<p>Background and Context (pp 1 – 3)</p> <p>CR3: Cleared. See last paragraph of the Background and Context (page 4).</p> <p>CR4: Cleared. Guiding questions deleted</p> <p>CR5: Cleared. The causal analysis is provided particularly in the Background and Context and Justification</p>	-	-
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	<p>3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?</p>	<p>Yes, but additional information is required.</p> <p>The Project's overall objective and specific objectives are stated on pages 3 – 4. Based on the Background and context, the problem that the project aims to solve is well articulated and the objectives are explained. However, some mention should also be made of reducing the impacts of drought and improved water security which are the main climate vulnerabilities mentioned. In addition, the Components do not provide sufficient information to explain the proposed financing.</p> <p>Conflict related risks are mentioned, however, risk mitigation strategies, especially around displacement dynamics, security, and governance continuity, could be more explicit.</p> <p>What exactly is meant by water and climate diplomacy? What type of information will be shared on the Regional</p>			

		<p>Platforms? What kind of information will be provided in the “Peace through Water” documentation? How will these documents reduce climate vulnerability? With respect to the component on capacity building, will there be activities to assess the effectiveness of the capacity building activities and adjust them if necessary?</p> <p>CR6: Please provide additional information on the Components, Expected Outcomes and Outputs to take into consideration the responses to the questions above.</p> <p>CR7: Please give examples of the type of on-the-job training which will be provided.</p> <p>CR8: Please consider reducing the number of components by merging some of the proposed activities/components. For</p>	<p>CR6: Cleared. Additional information on the Components, Expected Outcomes and Outputs has been provided.</p> <p>CR7: Cleared. The on-the-job training will be informed by an institutional capacity assessment and a needs assessment. Potential examples have been included, such as training for NbS, adaptation</p>	-	-
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		example, activities under component 1 and 2 related to capacity building and vulnerability assessment can easily be merged to unload unnecessary implementation challenges.	planning, and related topics. CR8: Cleared. The number of components has been reduced to three.	-	-
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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 additional information is required.</p> <p>Part II (pages 6 to 10) provides the justification for the project and mentions several actions for each of the criteria (supporting concrete adaptation actions, added value through the regional approach, new and innovative solutions, cost-effectiveness, consistency with applicable strategies and plans, incorporation of learning and knowledge, consultative process and sustainability. While the justification is robust, innovation claims could be strengthened with more evidence of novelty relative to existing regional projects. Specifics such as benchmarks from similar initiatives, such as the Adaptation Fund's Jordan-Lebanon project which achieved measurable water security gains at lower per-community costs could also be included to support the information on cost savings.</p> <p>A preliminary risk identification process in line</p>			
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		<p>with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund. Risks has been assessed along environmental, social, institutional, and operational lines, and mitigation strategies have been developed accordingly.</p> <p>With respect to cost-effectiveness, an analysis of alternatives where available could also be included.</p> <p>With respect to applicable strategies and plans, there is no mention of sub-sectoral plans such as agriculture, water, which may be relevant to the project.</p> <p>With respect to sustainability, information on how infrastructure will be maintained and operated in the long term is not included.</p> <p>CR9: 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>CR9: Cleared. Although the complete list of key stakeholders</p>	-	-
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		<p>CR10: Please include information on how infrastructure will be maintained and operated in the long term.</p> <p>CR11: Where the information is available, please provide an analysis of alternatives to strengthen the arguments for cost effectiveness.</p> <p>CR12: While the proposed component 4 “Post-Crisis and Conflict-Sensitive Recovery” seems adequate for countries like Jordan and Lebanon, it is</p>	<p>has not been provided, relevant Ministries and farmers organizations have been mentioned in the Project Justification (pp 3 to 5) as well as the Implementation Arrangements (p5). Page 4 of the Preconcept note also states that the project will engage a range of stakeholders identified through stakeholder mapping and analysis. In addition, the list of gender equality bodies has also been provided to ensure the national gender machinery/remit and women’s associations will be included in the project.</p> <p>CR10: Cleared. Page 8 explains that long-term operation and maintenance are ensured through clear institutional responsibilities, integration into existing systems and capacity building to sustain</p>	-	-
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		<p>difficult to see the alignment with the overall project objectives and expected outcomes. Kindly describe briefly how the proposed activities will support adaptation reasoning in the context of post-crisis and conflict. Please substantiate it with relevant data and context specific information.</p> <p>CR13: The proposed regional approach needs more clarification. Please describe how the activities and components will be addressing regional cooperation and build regional climate resilience.</p> <p>CR14: The proposal barely highlights the complementarity and avoided duplication with other projects and initiatives except a reference to AF funded regional project in two countries. Kindly discuss briefly the avoided duplication and complementarity in line with AF guidelines.</p>	<p>project outcomes beyond the project period.</p> <p>CR11: Not cleared. Page 8 notes that cost effectiveness will be strengthened by reducing duplication through shared assessment tools, joint training, and harmonized reporting frameworks. However, the discussion does not adequately provide an analysis of alternatives. Please include a statement about the alternatives and the possible cost implications.</p> <p>CR12: Cleared. Component 4 has been deleted and Component 2 changed to include post disasters risk reduction and recovery to be aligned with the project overall objective.</p>	<p>CR11: Not cleared. The change on page 4 is noted, however the comment remains unaddressed. Please include a statement about the alternatives and the possible cost implications.</p> <p>-</p>	<p>CR11: Cleared as of changes made on page 4.</p> <p>-</p>
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			<p>CR13: Cleared. Further details have been provided under Component 3 as part of the section on components programme and justification (pp 5 – 7).</p> <p>CR14: Not cleared. The revised proposal mentioned two additional projects funded by UNDP and IUCN, and municipalities in addition to the AF funded regional project. However, no details are provided of these additional initiatives. It further states that initiative mapping and coordination will ensure complementarity and avoid duplication (page 9). Please provide brief details of the two additional projects to</p>	-	-
				<p>CR14: Not cleared. The change to the paragraph is noted, however the comment remains unaddressed. Please provide brief details of the two additional projects to show how they avoid duplication and are complementary.</p>	<p>CR14: Cleared based on page 4 changes.</p>

			show how they avoid duplication and are complementary.		
	<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, but additional information is required.</p> <p>Part III (pages 12 – 13) describes the organizations which will be involved in the proposed programme at national, sub-national and regional levels as well as their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Mention is made of civil society organizations such as local cooperatives, and women/youth associations which will play a central role in implementing on-the-ground activities, but the proposal does not indicate who will be responsible for coordinating the work of these groups.</p> <p>CR15: Please include information on the coordination of civil society organizations.</p>	<p>CR15: Cleared. The revised proposal states that the civil society organizations will be led and coordinated by Municipal Project Coordination Units supported by Community Climate Action Committees.</p>	-	-

Resource Availability	6. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?	Yes			
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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, but needs further information.</p> <p>The Implementing Entity Management Fee is 10% of the project cost and the Execution cost is less than 8.5% of the total Project/Programme budget.</p> <p>CR16: In the table in the section on Project/Programme Components and Financing, the Total Project. Programme cost is incorrect. It should be the total of the five components plus the Project/Programme Execution Cost. Please amend.</p> <p>CAR1: If you plan to ask for PFG support, make sure to add the PFG form request in your next submission.</p> <p>CAR2: A PFG of \$150,000 is shown on the cover page, which is appropriate for a project of this scale. However, at the pre-concept note stage, only \$30,000 is allowed. Please refer to the following links and amend:</p>	<p>CR16: Cleared. The correction has been made</p> <p>CAR1: Not Cleared. The PFG form request has been submitted however please clarify the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will Un-Habitat execute the PFG or will that be done through the 	<p>-</p> <p>CAR1: Not cleared.</p> <p>1. If UN-Habitat will execute the PFG, then add UN-Habitat in the <i>Executing Entity/ies</i> space at the top, still</p>	<p>-</p> <p>CAR1: Cleared as per changes made in the PFG form.</p>
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		<p>https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/readiness-grants/project-formulation-grants/</p> <p>https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/pfg-amount-calculator/</p>	<p>executing entities for the fully developed proposal as well? “National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS-L), Saida Zahrani Union of Municipalities, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO”. If UN-Habitat will execute the PFG please amend the PFG form.</p> <p>2. Please specifically indicate the IE fee as a separate budget line in the PFG form.</p>	<p>reads as: <i>‘National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS-L), Saida Zahrani Union of Municipalities, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO’</i>. Please amend.</p> <p>2. There is no separate budget line in the PFG form for the IE fee. Please amend. This cannot be more than 3,000 USD as PFG IE fee is capped at 10% of total of PFG amount.</p> <p>3. PFG form needs signature. Please sign.</p>	
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			<p>CAR2: Cleared. The amount has been amended in the revised pre-concept note.</p> <p>CAR3 (NEW): Given the number of executing entities proposed and the scope of coverage of execution costs, it is suggested that the EE fee currently at 7.74%.</p>	-	-
				<p>CAR3 (NEW): Cleared. The fees are good. The previous comment was wrong as it was not complete, apologies.</p>	-

Eligibility of IE	<p>8. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>UN Habitat is an eligible Multilateral Implementing Entity, however, its accreditation expired on 1 October 2025.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>	<p>UN Habitat is an eligible Multilateral Implementing Entity, however, its accreditation expired on 1 October 2025.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>	<p>UN Habitat is an eligible Multilateral Implementing Entity, however, its accreditation expired on 1 October 2025.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been</i></p>	<p>UN Habitat is an eligible Multilateral Implementing Entity, however, its accreditation expired on 1 October 2025.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been</i></p>
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				<i>achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i>	<i>achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i>
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ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

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

Countries/Region: Jordan, Lebanon
Project Title: Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods"– A Regional Initiative in Lebanon and Jordan (Project acronym: TAWASUL)
Thematic focal area: Transboundary water management
Implementing Entity: UN-Habitat
Executing Entities: National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS-L), Saida Zahrani Union of Municipalities, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO
AF Project ID: AF00000503
IE Project ID: **Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):** 16,438,888
Reviewer and contact person: Estefanía Jiménez **Co-reviewer(s):**
IE Contact Person(s):

<p>Technical Summary</p>	<p>The project "Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods (TAWASUL): A regional initiative that promotes gender-responsive governance, sustainable financing schemes for local authorities, and Nature-Based solutions in Lebanon and Jordan" aims to strengthen urban climate resilience and adaptive capacity in the Awwali River Watershed (Lebanon) and Wadi Al-Karak (Jordan) by advancing ecosystem restoration, post-crisis recovery, gender-responsive governance, and sustainable financing. This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> Multi-Layered Vulnerability Assessments, Restoration Frameworks and Financing Models (USD 2,300,000).</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Implementation of Adaption and Restoration Interventions with a focus on Nature-Based Solutions and Post-Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (USD 9,650,000)</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange (USD 1,500,000)</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u> Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 1,494,444</p>
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	<p>Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 14,944,444 Implementing Fee: USD 1,494,444 Financing Requested: USD 16,438,888</p> <p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant of USD 30,000.</p> <p>The initial technical review raises several issues, such as coherence between the background and context and the objectives, elaboration of the project components and Expected Outcomes and outputs, sustainability, and Total Project/Program costs, among others, 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 found that most of the issues raised have been addressed with the exception of the CRs related to cost effectiveness and complementarity and duplication of other projects, as discussed in the Corrective Requests (CRs) raised in the review.</p> <p>The third technical review found that most of the issues raised have been addressed with the exception of the CRs related to PFG form, cost effectiveness and complementarity and duplication of other projects, as discussed in the Corrective Requests (CRs) raised in the review.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>
Date	March 4, 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	First Technical Review Comments January 7, 2026	Second Technical Review Comments February 24, 2026	Third Technical Review Comments March 4, 2026	Response to Third technical review
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Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	Yes	-	<p>General Comment: When providing a response to a CR or CAR, please indicate the specific location in the proposal where it is addressed, such as the page number or paragraph reference.</p> <p>The proposal would also benefit from another round of proofreading and formatting adjustments to ensure it is easy to read.</p> <p>CAR1 (NEW): Part IV has to be signed.</p>	CAR 1 (NEW): part IV has been signed
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	<p>2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?</p>	<p>Yes, both Lebanon and Jordan are developing countries which are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly acute drought and water scarcity. Jordan is also vulnerable to flash floods. These effects are compounded by pollution, deforestation, sand mining, and unregulated territorial development (in Lebanon) as well as soil erosion, pollution and unsafe wastewater discharge (in Jordan).</p>	-	-	
Project Eligibility	<p>1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme ?</p>	<p>Yes, as per the Endorsement letter dated August 31, 2025 for Jordan and July 2, 2025 for Lebanon</p> <p>CR1: The pre-concept note is 12 pages excluding the cover page and some blank pages within the document. It should not exceed 5 pages. Please amend.</p>	<p>CR1: Cleared. The pre-concept note has been reduced to 5 pages</p>	-	

	<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, but additional information is required.</p> <p>The Background and Context of the pre-concept (pages 3 – 4) gives a general overview of the broad geographical context of two ecologically significant but highly vulnerable hydrological systems: - the Awwali River Watershed in Lebanon and Wadi Al-Karak in Jordan providing brief descriptions of the hydrology, ecology, culture, livelihoods as well as the climate vulnerabilities due to drought and water scarcity, and the pressures posed by urbanization, pollution, and conflict.</p> <p>It refers to Lebanon and Jordan’s NDCs and the emphasis on ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated water resources management, and gender-responsive</p>			
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		<p>resilience, showing policy coherence.</p> <p>With respect to regional perspective, the pre-concept note proposes regional cooperation, peer learning, and shared governance on transboundary challenges, as a means of supporting scaling and regional applicability.</p> <p>However, it does not provide sufficient quantitative information on the target areas in terms of the size, population, contribution to economy, importance of agriculture, neither does it quantify the vulnerabilities of the two countries. For example, the pre-concept states that “per-capita water availability in Jordan already far below the absolute scarcity threshold” but no quantitative information is provided of the value of that per-capita water availability.</p>			
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		<p>The overall objective of the project mentions gender-responsive governance, and sustainable financing. However, there is no mention of a preliminary gender analysis or a description of the current financing situation in the countries which would justify the need for such objectives. There is also mention of an on-going Adaptation Fund Project regional Adaptation Fund initiative in Jordan and Lebanon, titled “Increasing the resilience of displaced persons and host communities to climate change-related water challenges,” which is a foundational project that has successfully mainstreamed climate and gender considerations into urban planning frameworks for Type 2 cities in both countries, established a cutting-edge climate-oriented urban observatory, and deployed a range of practical, water-focused</p>	<p>CR2: Cleared. The requested information has been included in the</p>		
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		<p>adaptation measures. How is this on-going project different from the one being proposed and how does the current proposal build on the on-going one?</p> <p>CR2: Kindly provide more quantitative information in the Background and Context on the socio-economic context of target areas, and their vulnerabilities as well as the gaps to show how the interventions proposed by project will solve the problems.</p> <p>CR3: Please provide some additional information on how the current proposal builds on the on-going AF project mentioned in the pre-concept note.</p> <p>CR4: The Pre-CN document includes guidance document from AF template which is not necessary. Kindly revise the Part II and delete all guiding questions.</p>	<p>Background and Context (pp 1 – 3)</p> <p>CR3: Cleared. See last paragraph of the Background and Context (page 4).</p> <p>CR4: Cleared. Guiding questions deleted</p> <p>CR5: Cleared. The causal analysis is provided particularly in the Background and Context and Justification</p>		
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		<p>CR5: Please provide a causal analysis to explain how the proposed interventions will reduce the impacts of drought and water scarcity at both the national and regional levels.</p>			
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	<p>3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?</p>	<p>Yes, but additional information is required.</p> <p>The Project's overall objective and specific objectives are stated on pages 3 – 4. Based on the Background and context, the problem that the project aims to solve is well articulated and the objectives are explained. However, some mention should also be made of reducing the impacts of drought and improved water security which are the main climate vulnerabilities mentioned. In addition, the Components do not provide sufficient information to explain the proposed financing.</p> <p>Conflict related risks are mentioned, however, risk mitigation strategies, especially around displacement dynamics, security, and governance continuity, could be more explicit.</p>			
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		<p>What exactly is meant by water and climate diplomacy? What type of information will be shared on the Regional Platforms? What kind of information will be provided in the “Peace through Water” documentation? How will these documents reduce climate vulnerability? With respect to the component on capacity building, will there be activities to assess the effectiveness of the capacity building activities and adjust them if necessary?</p> <p>CR6: Please provide additional information on the Components, Expected Outcomes and Outputs to take into consideration the responses to the questions above.</p> <p>CR7: Please give examples of the type of on-the-job training which will be provided.</p>	<p>CR6: Cleared. Additional information on the Components, Expected Outcomes and Outputs has been provided.</p> <p>CR7: Cleared. The on-the-job training will be informed by an institutional capacity assessment and a needs assessment. Potential examples have been included,</p>		
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		<p>CR8: Please consider reducing the number of components by merging some of the proposed activities/components. For example, activities under component 1 and 2 related to capacity building and vulnerability assessment can easily be merged to unload unnecessary implementation challenges.</p>	<p>such as training for NbS, adaptation planning, and related topics. CR8: Cleared. The number of components has been reduced to three.</p>	<p>-</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 	<p>Yes, however additional information is required.</p> <p>Part II (pages 6 to 10) provides the justification for the project and mentions several actions for each of the criteria (supporting concrete adaptation actions, added value through the regional approach, new and innovative solutions, cost-effectiveness, consistency with applicable strategies and plans, incorporation of learning and knowledge, consultative process and sustainability. While the justification is robust, innovation claims could be strengthened with more evidence of novelty relative to existing regional projects. Specifics such as benchmarks from similar initiatives, such as the Adaptation Fund's Jordan-Lebanon project which achieved measurable water security gains at lower per-community costs</p>			
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	<p>the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund?</p> <p>- it will take into account sustainability?</p>	<p>could also be included to support the information on cost savings.</p> <p>A preliminary risk identification process in line with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund. Risks has been assessed along environmental, social, institutional, and operational lines, and mitigation strategies have been developed accordingly.</p> <p>With respect to cost-effectiveness, an analysis of alternatives where available could also be included.</p> <p>With respect to applicable strategies and plans, there is no mention of sub-sectoral plans such as agriculture, water, which may be relevant to the project.</p> <p>With respect to sustainability, information</p>	<p>CR9: Cleared. Although the complete list of key</p>	<p>-</p>	
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		<p>on how infrastructure will be maintained and operated in the long term is not included.</p> <p>CR9: 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>CR10: Please include information on how infrastructure will be maintained and operated in the long term.</p>	<p>stakeholders has not been provided, relevant Ministries and farmers organizations have been mentioned in the Project Justification (pp 3 to 5) as well as the Implementation Arrangements (p5). Page 4 of the Preconcept note also states that the project will engage a range of stakeholders identified through stakeholder mapping and analysis. In addition, the list of gender equality bodies has also been provided to ensure the national gender machinery/remit and women's associations will be included in the project.</p> <p>CR10: Cleared. Page 8 explains that long-term operation and maintenance are ensured through clear institutional</p>	<p>-</p> <p>CR11: Not cleared. The change on page 4 is noted, however the</p>	<p>CR11: a statement about alternatives has been added.</p>

		<p>CR11: Where the information is available, please provide an analysis of alternatives to strengthen the arguments for cost effectiveness.</p> <p>CR12: While the proposed component 4 “Post-Crisis and Conflict-Sensitive Recovery” seems adequate for countries like Jordan and Lebanon, it is difficult to see the alignment with the overall project objectives and expected outcomes. Kindly describe briefly how the proposed activities will support adaptation reasoning in the context of post-crisis and conflict. Please substantiate it with relevant data and context specific information.</p> <p>CR13: The proposed regional approach needs</p>	<p>responsibilities, integration into existing systems and capacity building to sustain project outcomes beyond the project period.</p> <p>CR11: Not cleared. Page 8 notes that cost effectiveness will be strengthened by reducing duplication through shared assessment tools, joint training, and harmonized reporting frameworks. However, the discussion does not adequately provide an analysis of alternatives. Please include a statement about the alternatives and the possible cost implications.</p> <p>CR12: Cleared. Component 4 has been deleted and Component 2 changed to include post disasters risk reduction and recovery to be</p>	<p>comment remains unaddressed. Please include a statement about the alternatives and the possible cost implications.</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>	
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	<p>more clarification. Please describe how the activities and components will be addressing regional cooperation and build regional climate resilience.</p> <p>CR14: The proposal barely highlights the complementarity and avoided duplication with other projects and initiatives except a reference to AF funded regional project in two countries. Kindly discuss briefly the avoided duplication and complementarity in line with AF guidelines.</p>	<p>aligned with the project overall objective.</p> <p>CR13: Cleared. Further details have been provided under Component 3 as part of the section on components programme and justification (pp 5 – 7).</p> <p>CR14: Not cleared. The revised proposal mentioned two additional projects funded by UNDP and IUCN, and municipalities in addition to the AF funded regional project. However, no details are provided of these additional initiatives. It further states that initiative</p>	<p>CR14: Not cleared. The change to the paragraph is noted, however the comment remains unaddressed. Please provide brief details of the two additional projects to show how they avoid duplication and are complementary.</p>	<p>CR14: additional information of the was added.</p>
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			mapping and coordination will ensure complementarity and avoid duplication (page 9). Please provide brief details of the two additional projects to show how they avoid duplication and are complementary.		
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	<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, but additional information is required.</p> <p>Part III (pages 12 – 13) describes the organizations which will be involved in the proposed programme at national, sub-national and regional levels as well as their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Mention is made of civil society organizations such as local cooperatives, and women/youth associations which will play a central role in implementing on-the-ground activities, but the proposal does not indicate who will be responsible for coordinating the work of these groups.</p> <p>CR15: Please include information on the coordination of civil society organizations.</p>	<p>CR15: Cleared. The revised proposal states that the civil society organizations will be led and coordinated by Municipal Project Coordination Units supported by Community Climate Action Committees.</p>	<p>-</p>	

Resource Availability	6. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?	Yes			
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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, but needs further information.</p> <p>The Implementing Entity Management Fee is 10% of the project cost and the Execution cost is less than 8.5% of the total Project/Programme budget.</p> <p>CR16: In the table in the section on Project/Programme Components and Financing, the Total Project. Programme cost is incorrect. It should be the total of the five components plus the Project/Programme Execution Cost. Please amend.</p> <p>CAR1: If you plan to ask for PFG support, make sure to add the PFG form request in your next submission.</p> <p>CAR2: A PFG of \$150,000 is shown on the cover page, which is appropriate for a project of this scale. However, at the pre-concept note</p>	<p>CR16: Cleared. The correction has been made</p> <p>CAR1: Not Cleared. The PFG form request has been submitted however please clarify the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will Un-Habitat execute the PFG or will 	<p>-</p> <p>CAR1: Not cleared.</p> <p>1. If UN-Habitat will execute the PFG, then add UN-Habitat in the <i>Executing Entity/ies</i> space at the top, still reads as: <i>'National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS-L), Saida Zahrani</i></p>	<p>CAR1: UN-Habitat has been added as the Implementing Entity (IE) on the cover page for the PFG. The IE fee has been placed on a separate line, and it does not exceed the 10% ceiling. In</p>
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		<p>stage, only \$30,000 is allowed. Please refer to the following links and amend:</p> <p>https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/readiness-grants/project-formulation-grants/</p> <p>https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/pfg-amount-calculator/</p>	<p>that be done through the executing entities for the fully developed proposal as well?</p> <p>“National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS-L), Saida Zahrani Union of Municipalities, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO”. If UN-Habitat will execute the PFG please amend the PFG form.</p> <p>2. Please specifically indicate the IE fee as a</p>	<p><i>Union of Municipalities, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO</i>’. Please amend.</p> <p>2. There is no separate budget line in the PFG form for the IE fee. Please amend. This cannot be more than 3,000 USD as PFG IE fee is capped at 10% of total of PFG amount.</p> <p>3. PFG form needs signature. Please sign.</p> <p>-</p> <p>CAR3 (NEW): Cleared. The fees are good. The previous comment was wrong as it was not complete, apologies.</p>	<p>addition, PFG request form has been signed.</p>
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			<p>separate budget line in the PFG form.</p> <p>CAR2: Cleared. The amount has been amended in the revised pre-concept note.</p> <p>CAR3 (NEW): Given the number of executing entities proposed and the scope of coverage of execution costs, it is suggested that the EE fee currently at 7.74%.</p>		
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Eligibility of IE	8. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	<p>No</p> <p>UN Habitat is an eligible Multilateral Implementing Entity, however, its accreditation expired on 1 October 2025.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat’s review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE’s accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board’s decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>	<p>UN Habitat is an eligible Multilateral Implementing Entity, however, its accreditation expired on 1 October 2025.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat’s review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE’s accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board’s decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the</i></p>	<p>UN Habitat is an eligible Multilateral Implementing Entity, however, its accreditation expired on 1 October 2025.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat’s review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE’s accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board’s decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>	
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			<i>development of the funding proposal.</i>		
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PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods"– A Regional Nature-Based Solutions Initiative in Lebanon and Jordan (Project acronym: TAWASUL)

Countries: Jordan, Lebanon

Thematic Focal Area¹: Transboundary water management

Type of Implementing Entity: Multilateral Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: UN-Habitat

Executing Entities: UN-Habitat, National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS-L), Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO
~~National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS-L), Saida-Zahrani Union of Municipalities, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO~~

Amount of Financing Requested: 16,438,888 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request: Yes No

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: 30,000 (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: ~~1/30/2026~~2/27/2026

Project/Programme Background and Context:

The proposed regional project targets climate resilience in two ecologically significant but highly vulnerable hydrological systems: The Awali River Watershed in Lebanon and Wadi Al-Karak Basin in Jordan. Both sites are emblematic of the climate-water nexus in arid and semi-arid regions, where pressures from extreme weather events, rapid urbanization, and environmental degradation intersect with social vulnerability and post-disaster fragility.

In Lebanon, the Awali River, also known in its upper section as the Bisri River, originates in the Barouk and Niha mountains and flows approximately 48 km to the Mediterranean Sea. It traverses 44 cadastres across the districts of Saida, Jezzine and Chouf. The river is a major source of irrigation and freshwater in southern Lebanon,² and serves as an important ecological corridor supporting riparian biodiversity, including the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The Awali watershed covers about 301 km², home to roughly 162,800 individuals, and includes some of Lebanon's most vulnerable cadastres in terms of pressure on resources.³ It encompasses the Bisri Valley, designated in the National Physical Master Plan of the Lebanese Territory⁴ (NPMPLT) for its exceptional natural and landscape value, and intersects with both urban areas and rural villages, including Saida, Lebanon's third largest city. The valley features oak forests, pine groves, archaeological remains, and traditional agricultural terraces. Land cover in the basin is dominated by wooden land (around 46%), followed by grassland (27%), agricultural area (18%), artificial/urban area (7%) and unproductive area (1%).⁵ Despite its importance, the watershed is increasingly threatened by pollution, deforestation, sand mining, and unregulated territorial development. Recent flood risk assessment conducted by NCRS-L indicated that flood hazards are significantly underestimated, with extreme events potentially reaching peak discharges of up to 506 m³/s, posing serious threats to downstream agricultural land, settlements, and infrastructure, particularly the Bisri Valley.⁶ Another NCRS-L study⁷ finds that flooding in the most critical river sections (around 16% of total length), could impact up to 1,000 people with estimated damages to structures increasing from USD 4.0 million in a 10-year event to USD 5.6 million in a 100-year scenario. The study highlights significant impacts on livelihoods and infrastructure, including seasonal agricultural losses of up to USD 1.5 million, affecting approximately 125 ha of fruit trees, 30 ha of cropland, and high-value greenhouse areas, alongside extensive road flooding and high exposure of residential and commercial assets, underscoring substantial vulnerability to flood and climate-related risks. Beyond flooding, the basin is also vulnerable to droughts, heatwaves, landslides, and erosion. The Awali watershed is characterized by a Mediterranean climate with strong rainfall seasonality and erosion-sensitive soils, receiving a mean annual precipitation around 1,067 mm, increasing from 600–700 mm along the coast to 1300-1400 mm in the mountains. In the past 70 years, 12 intense storm events

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

² Assessment of treated wastewater for agriculture in Lebanon, FAO (2016)

³ [List of 332 most vulnerable localities \(cadastres\)](#), Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon (2022)

⁴ National Physical Master Plan of the Lebanese Territory; designation of Bisri Valley as a cultural and ecological landscape.

⁵ Land use/land cover analysis, NCRS-L (2013)

⁶ Flood Hazard Mapping Assessment for El-Awali River Catchment-Lebanon, Conference: EGU General Assembly 2016At: Vienna, Austria Volume: Vol. 18, EGU2016-17305-1, 2016, <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301747463>

⁷ CNRS-SuNaR 2015; Flood Risk Assessment for Lebanon

occurred (notably in January 2013 which delivered 277 mm in six days), have caused severe flooding, infrastructure failure, and severe agricultural damage, placing the Awali River among the most flood-affected rivers in Lebanon.⁸ The watershed exhibits a coast-mountain climatic gradient, with annual mean temperatures of around 15°C along the coast and 11°C in the mountainous headwaters, and humidity decreasing from 70-80% compared to 50-60% at higher elevations. Climate change is intensifying temperature extremes, with more frequent summer heatwaves pushing coastal temperatures above 35°C. The recent controversy surrounding the now-suspended Bisri Dam project highlighted both the ecological sensitivity and civic mobilization capacity in the area.⁹ In Lebanon, overlapping crises including conflict, economic collapse, the refugee influx, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Beirut Port explosion, have weakened institutions and livelihoods, heightening conflict-related vulnerability to climate impacts, while NbS and climate adaptation offer low-cost, rapidly deployable solutions to restore ecosystems, reduce environmental risks, and support livelihoods and social stability.

Wadi Al-Karak Basin is an essential multi-climate ecological system in southern Jordan, linking the highland city of Karak an urban area characterized by a warm semi-arid climate, with the Jordan Valley Dead Sea Bioclimate Zone. The basin covers approximately 249km² within Karak Governorate, 40.5km² administered by Greater Karak Municipality. Around 32% of the basin is classified as agricultural and rural, while nearly 42% of the land is under the Jordan Valley Authority. This topographic gradient from highlands to low-lying valley areas drives pronounced climatic contrasts, shaping hydrological processes, ecosystem functions, and land-use patterns across the basin. Historical climate records for Karak Governorate, including Wadi Al-Karak, indicate a clear warming trend over recent decades, particularly in extreme maximum temperatures. Peak temperatures increased from approximately 39.4°C in 1990 to 42.2°C in 2000, 43.3°C in 2010, and reached nearly 43.9°C by 2025, despite minor interannual variability. Between 1990 and 2020, the governorate experienced approximately 60–160 heatwave events, indicating significant exposure to recurrent extreme heat. Climate projections under the RCP 4.5 scenario suggest that heatwave occurrence could increase by more than 200% by 2070–2100, with longer duration and higher intensity events. This escalation substantially heightens risks to water availability, agricultural productivity, infrastructure performance, and public health, particularly in rural and peri-urban communities with limited adaptive capacity. Rainfall patterns in Wadi Al-Karak exhibit strong spatial variability. Average annual precipitation for the period 1990–2020 generally decreases from the highlands toward the lower elevations of the basin. In the upper catchment areas, average annual rainfall reaches approximately 350 mm, while downstream areas receive significantly lower amounts 150mm. Despite overall aridity, the basin is increasingly exposed to short-duration, high-intensity rainfall events. In January 2026, Wadi Al-Karak experienced three extreme rainfall events the most intense since 1971 causing rapid runoff, soil saturation, and overflow of the Wadi Al-Karak Dam after reaching its ~2 million m³ capacity. The resulting flash floods caused severe downstream impacts, damaging nearly 60% of critical infrastructure, including transport networks, services, agricultural lands, and residential areas. These events illustrate the basin's growing exposure to compound climate risks. Over the past 70 years, Karak Governorate has experienced 14 drought years, averaging two severe droughts per decade. Climate projections indicate a shift from episodic droughts to prolonged multi-year drought conditions, lasting more than three consecutive years under moderate scenarios and over five years under high-emissions scenarios, with up to 180–240 dry days per year. These trends underscore increasing pressure on surface and groundwater resources, exacerbating water scarcity in a basin already characterized by high demand and limited supply, where per-capita water availability is estimated at approximately 79 liters per person per day, significantly below national adequacy levels and indicative of severe water stress. The socio-economic system is highly water-dependent, supporting around 143,460 people. Water scarcity, rising temperatures, and flooding reduce productivity, increase household costs, and disproportionately affect vulnerable, underserved communities. These impacts are compounded by environmental degradation and planning gaps such as pollution, unsafe wastewater discharge, land degradation, and urban encroachment into floodplains which heighten climate, urban, and biodiversity risks by weakening the basin's natural buffering capacity. Wadi Al-Karak is a key hydrological and ecological corridor that supports biodiversity, ecosystem services, and local livelihoods. Climate stress, land degradation, water scarcity, and flooding are degrading habitats and reducing ecosystem resilience and contribute to environmentally driven displacement and agriculture-related livelihood migration, as repeated climate shocks, flood damage, and declining water availability make certain areas increasingly unsafe or economically unviable, particularly for vulnerable households. These multi-layered risks highlight the need for Nature-Based Solutions and green infrastructure, to strengthen climate resilience, protect biodiversity, and sustain livelihoods. Taken together, the Awali River Watershed and the Wadi Al-Karak Basin face shared climate risks that undermine water security, ecosystems, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Through ecosystem-based and nature-based solutions supported by integrated assessments, planning, and pilot interventions, the project offers a scalable pathway to enhance climate resilience, protect biodiversity, and strengthen socio-economic stability in line with national priorities and NDCs in Lebanon and Jordan. Building on the current AF regional project, the project scales up climate-informed planning, smart water management, and nature-based solutions to reduce flood risks and promote non-conventional water sources, including rainwater harvesting, treated wastewater reuse, and permaculture. This approach addresses water scarcity, particularly in Jordan where agriculture accounts for 51% of water use and nearly 98% of treated wastewater is reused for irrigation.

Project/Programme Objectives: —

⁸ Rouya Hdeib. A Framework for Flood Modelling in Data-Sparse Regions Based on a New Cost- Performance Grid, Application on the Awali Basin in Lebanon. Hydrology. Montpellier SupAgro, 2019. English. NNT : 2019NSAM0005. tel-04106725

⁹ "The Bisri Dam Controversy" – see Middle East Eye, World Bank documents (2020).

This regional project seeks to strengthen climate resilience in the Awali Watershed (Lebanon) and Wadi Al-Karak Basin (Jordan) by advancing ecosystem restoration, post-disaster recovery, gender-responsive governance, and sustainable financing. It directly addresses national priorities and regional gaps by integrating scientific data, traditional knowledge, and participatory planning.

Specific Objectives:

1. Undertake multilayered vulnerability and gender assessments through the use of remote sensing, participatory methods, and geospatial databases to identify risk hotspots.
2. Develop **climate-resilient restoration** and planning frameworks, supported by technical guidelines aligned with the **Lebanon and Jordan NDCs/NAPs**, reflecting national climate and water security goals.
3. Propose inclusive **blended financing mechanisms** to attract climate funds, green recovery financing, and municipal investment.
4. Capacitate local authorities and civil society in climate adaptation and landscape urbanism, leveraging GIS tools for effective landscape planning and monitoring.
5. Promote NbS and post-disaster ecological recovery, including restoring disaster-impacted zones.
6. Foster **regional “Peace through Water”** dialogue and climate adaptation cooperation between Jordanian and Lebanese institutions.

Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
1. Multi-Layered Vulnerability Assessments, Restoration Frameworks and Financing Models	Enhanced governance, data-driven planning, and evidence based financing	Multi-layered vulnerability assessments, GIS databases, restoration planning frameworks, financing models, and capacity building	Lebanon, Jordan	2,300,000
2. Implementation of Adaption and Restoration Interventions with a focus on Nature-Based Solutions and Post-Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery	Community-led ecological restoration and risk reduction	Pilot priority interventions identified under Component 1 and capacity building	Lebanon, Jordan	9,650,000
3. Regional Cooperation & Knowledge Exchange	Local, National, and Regional water and climate diplomacy	Bilateral platforms, regional observatory, municipal partnerships, “Peace through Water” Knowledge series	Lebanon, Jordan	1,500,000
4. Project/Programme Execution Cost				1,494,444
5. Total Project/Programme Activity Cost				14,944,444
6. Project/Programme Implementing Entity Fee (if applicable)				1,494,444
Amount of Financing Requested				16,438,888

Project Duration: 4 years (48 months)

PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

The regional project is structured around three components designed to address site-specific climate vulnerabilities while maximizing cross-country synergies through a regional approach. **Comp. 1** establishes a comprehensive GIS dataset and ecosystem multi-layered vulnerability assessments tested in UN-Habitat’s RISE UP portfolio which is a spatial, integrated approach to assess urban, climate, and biodiversity vulnerabilities, using remote sensing, field participatory, socio-gender inputs, and translates findings into climate-resilient restoration frameworks and financing models, that prioritize NbS, post-disaster interventions, costed adaptation interventions, and evidence-based financing. **Comp. 2** implements and pilots the priority interventions identified in component 1 focusing on scalable NbS and post-disaster ecological recovery interventions to restore degraded ecosystems, reduce climate and disaster risks, enhance ecosystem services, and strengthen local adaptive capacity and climate-resilient livelihoods, with strong attention to gender equality, social inclusion, and conflict sensitivity. **Comp. 3** operationalizes the regional approach by strengthening Lebanon-Jordan cooperation through joint knowledge platforms, municipal partnerships, the Arab mayors academy, urban vulnerability atlas, and a regional observatory to exchange data and lessons, harmonize tools, and scale climate-resilient watershed management and NbS, contributing to water and climate diplomacy by strengthening dialogue, trust, and coordinated action on shared climate and water challenges. The “Peace through Water” series strengthens regional climate resilience by documenting how cooperative approaches can reduce climate vulnerability and support disaster-sensitive adaptation. Capacity building, awareness raising, and knowledge management are cross-cutting components, guided by baseline capacity assessments and monitored through pre- and post-training evaluations, feedback surveys, and performance reviews, with activities including on-the-job training, technical support, and peer exchanges on adaptation planning, NbS, GIS, and data management. The project is innovative in integrating advanced geospatial analysis, participatory planning, and ecosystem-based adaptation within a regional framework. It links multi-layered vulnerability assessments to investment-ready restoration, planning, and financing frameworks, and pioneers the use of NbS combined with post-

disaster ecological recovery as climate-risk reduction infrastructure. The regional approach strengthens cost-effectiveness by reducing duplication through shared assessment tools, joint trainings, and harmonized reporting frameworks. Peer learning between Lebanese and Jordanian municipalities and relevant institutions accelerates capacity development and shortens the learning curve. A continuous two-way knowledge exchange ensures that local data informs regional and national decision-making, while tested methodologies and guidance flow back to the local level, supporting scalable, investment-ready ecological adaptation. ~~In contrast, alternative implementation options would involve separate national projects, requiring parallel development in the absence of a coordinated regional approach, separate national implementation modalities would require parallel of assessment tools design,~~ duplicated technical assistance and capacity-building, and fragmented reporting systems, resulting in higher administrative costs and less efficient use of limited adaptation resources. ~~Alternative implementation approaches were considered during project design. These included implementing separate national projects in each target area. However, this approaches would entail higher costs due to parallel project development, duplicated assessments, and separate capacity-building and coordination structures in each country. The proposed regional approach enables the sharing of technical expertise, assessment tools, training programmes, and knowledge platforms across Lebanon and Jordan, reducing duplication and generating economies of scale. Furthermore, alternative approaches relying primarily on grey infrastructure for flood and watershed management would entail significantly higher capital and maintenance costs while providing fewer ecosystem and livelihood co-benefits. Pilot interventions are designed as scalable models that municipalities can replicate beyond the project sites. The project also leverages existing tools and methodologies, including UN-Habitat's RISE UP framework and available national datasets.~~ Disaster-related risks, including dynamic displacement, security constraints, and governance disruptions, will be addressed through a conflict-sensitive and adaptive implementation approach. This includes flexible site selection, inclusive targeting of host and displaced communities, conflict-sensitive assessments, reliance on local partners, and institutional measures such as redundancy, system-based tools, and remote coordination to ensure continuity. The project is fully aligned with national and sub-national policies in both countries. In Lebanon, it supports the 2025 Updated NDC, the 2025 National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the NPMLT, and recovery priorities related to environment and heritage. In Jordan, it aligns with the 2021 NDC, the NAP, the National Urban Policy, the Jordan Green Growth National Action Plan, and the Karak Spatial Development Plan (2024–2027). Regionally, it complements climate resilience and water security strategies led by UNESCWA and the League of Arab States. **Consultations** and community engagement are central to proposal development and will continue through culturally appropriate, gender-sensitive community consultations. Outreach will ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups (women-headed households, youth, and disaster-affected populations). Inputs will validate project activities and inform safeguard design in full compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the AF. The project will engage a wide range of stakeholders identified through stakeholder mapping and analysis. To ensure gender responsiveness, national gender equality bodies will be consulted, including the Higher Council for Women's Affairs in Jordan and the National Commission for Lebanese Women in Lebanon. In addition, relevant ministries and organizations with demonstrated experience in working with women such as FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture as well as farmers' associations will be actively engaged through their ongoing initiatives. In delivering adaptation outcomes, the project will generate broad **economic, social, and environmental benefits**. Economically, it will create green jobs through reforestation, NbS infrastructure, and sustainable community-based tourism. Socially, it will strengthen local ownership and rebuild community cohesion. Environmentally, it will reduce erosion, enhance water regulation, and restore critical biodiversity corridors. These benefits will be distributed equitably by embedding gender-responsive targeting and conflict-sensitive design throughout the project cycle. All activities will comply with national technical and environmental standards in Lebanon and Jordan and with applicable international environmental and social safeguards. Risk screening and mitigation measures will be applied in line with the AF's Environmental and Social Policy. The project builds on existing ~~UNDP, IUCN initiatives focused on water sector, climate resilience, EBA and NBS, as well as municipal~~ and ongoing AF regional efforts ~~aimed at increasing the resilience of both displaced persons and host communities to climate change-related water challenges in both countries by managing urban risks and vulnerabilities through mainstreaming climate change adaptation strategies and gender considerations into urban planning; supporting the operation, maintenance and replication of resilient water solutions; and strengthening knowledge across the region. In Lebanon, the focus has been on Zahleh District, and in Jordan the focus has been on the municipalities of Irbid and Mafraq municipalities. UNDP supports climate adaptation, responsible natural resource management, and NBS in Jordan and Lebanon, while IUCN's Water and Climate Change Programme in promotes improved water governance and participatory approaches to climate-resilient water management. it avoids duplication by operating at watershed scale, thereby complementing rather than replicating sector-specific or site-based interventions. The proposed project complements these efforts by focusing on watershed-scale climate adaptation, multi-layered vulnerability assessments, and the implementation of NBS linked to municipal planning and post-disaster ecological recovery. Initiative mapping and coordination will ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.~~ It also strengthens regional collaboration, including the establishment of a cross-country Community of Practice (CoP), Municipal Climate Finance Forums, and study tours and knowledge exchange meetings. ~~Initiative mapping and coordination will ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.~~ The funding requested is justified on a full-cost-of-adaptation basis. In both Lebanon and Jordan, the baseline scenario is one of growing climate risk, degraded ecosystems, weak institutional capacities, and limited access to inclusive finance. Without the project, vulnerabilities will worsen, deepening poverty and increasing future recovery costs. The project instead delivers an integrated package that addresses immediate risks while building long-term resilience, sustainability, and peacebuilding. Sustainability is embedded across institutional, financial, environmental, and social dimensions, with clear long-term

arrangements for operation and maintenance of project-supported infrastructure that will be reflected in the ESMP to ensure continued compliance with the AF's Environmental and Social Policy beyond project closure, with clear institutional responsibilities and monitoring mechanisms. NbS and green infrastructure will be embedded in municipal and sectoral systems, with responsibilities assigned to municipalities, relevant ministries, and community actors. Institutional ownership is ensured by integrating assessments, restoration frameworks, and monitoring tools into existing planning and adaptation processes, supported by capacity building, on-the-job training, and tailored operation and maintenance guidelines. Financial sustainability will be strengthened through gender-responsive financing mechanisms, municipal climate budget allocations, and green recovery pathways, while risks will be managed in line with the AF's Environmental and Social Policy to ensure long-term functionality and resilience.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented through a coordinated regional structure led by UN-Habitat's Country Offices in Lebanon and Jordan (COs), responsible for fiduciary oversight, coordination, reporting, and compliance with AF policies. National implementation will be carried out by designated **executing entities (EEs)** under the COs strategic and technical guidance. These EEs are expected to include **In Lebanon: the National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS) for knowledge management and data-driven-related components, National academic institutions and NGOs with relevant expertise in watershed management and cultural heritage (e.g., the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon [SPNL], the American University of Beirut – Nature Conservation Center [AUB-NCC], Nohye Alard, etc.) may also serve as sub-executing partners. Partners will include the Ministry of Environment (MoE) which will serve as the national lead institution and local governments within the districts of Saida, Jezzine and Chouf. The Ministry of Environment (MoE) which will serve as the national lead institution, supported by the National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS) for knowledge management and data driven-related components, and in close collaboration with local governments within the districts of Saida, Jezzine and Chouf. National academic institutions and NGOs with relevant expertise in watershed management and cultural heritage (e.g., the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon [SPNL], the American University of Beirut – Nature Conservation Center [AUB-NCC], Nohye Alard, etc.) may also serve as sub-executing partners.** **In Jordan: the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO will be the EEs and –T** the MoE, in collaboration with other specialized ministries, will oversee execution in partnership with the **Greater Karak Municipality along with Jordan Valley Authority.** Jordanian universities and research may also be engaged for technical support and capacity building. In both countries, **civil society, local cooperatives, and women/youth associations** will lead community-based assessments, ecosystem restoration, and awareness activities, selected through a competitive process to ensure inclusiveness, sustainability, and community ownership. The project will establish a **Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC)** supported by a **National Technical Advisory Groups (NTAGs)** led by Ministries of environment an UN-Habitat, ensuring policy alignment, adaptive management, and compliance with national climate policies and NDCs. Local implementation will be led by municipalities and unions of municipalities through Municipal **Project Coordination Units (MPCUs)** will lead local implementation, supported by **Community Climate Action Committees (CCACs)** to ensure inclusive co-design, participatory monitoring, and accountability. A shared **CO-led knowledge and reporting system** will enable monitoring and learning, complemented by quarterly rotating regional meetings to support coordination, transparency, cross-country learning, and replication.

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government¹⁰

Dr. Tamara el Zein, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon	Date: (July, 02, 2025)
Dr. Aiman A. Soleiman, Minister, Ministry of Environment of Jordan	Date: (August, 31, 2025)

B. Implementing Entity certification

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 (*Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) emphasize ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in both countries, integrated water resource management, and gender-responsive climate resilience. Lebanon's Updated NDC 3.0 (2025) commits to reducing GHG emissions by up to 31% and highlights adaptation across water, agriculture, and ecosystems. It identifies the restoration of degraded land and watershed management as key national priorities. Similarly, Jordan's NDC 3.0 (2025) advances an economy-wide climate framework that integrates mitigation, adaptation, and resilience across sectors, with strong emphasis on water security, climate-resilient agriculture, urban systems, public health, and nature-based solutions, while progressing toward a net-zero pathway by 2050.¹¹ Both NDCs and associated strategies stress the importance of stakeholder engagement, public awareness, institutional coordination, and science-policy integration—all principles embedded in this project's approach*) 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.

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.

¹¹ Jordan and Lebanon NDCs – climatepromise.unep.org; UNFCCC submissions, 2025 (Lebanon), 2025 (Jordan).

Name & Signature
Implementing Entity Coordinator

Date: *(Month, Day, Year)*

Tel. and email:

Project Contact Person:

Tel. And Email:



Ministry of Environment

Ref.No 7-2-5200
Date 31-8-2025

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

Subject: Endorsement for "Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods" TAWASUL Project – A regional initiative that promotes gender-responsive governance, sustainable financing schemes for local authorities, and Nature-Based solutions in Lebanon and Jordan

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Jordan, I confirm that the above national grant proposal 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 the Jordan.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by UN-Habitat and executed by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO and Karak Municipality.

Sincerely,

Minister of Environment

Dr. Aiman A. Soleiman



Ministry of Environment

Ref.No 7-2-5200
Date 31-8-2025

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

Subject: Endorsement for "Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods" TAWASUL Project – A regional initiative that promotes gender-responsive governance, sustainable financing schemes for local authorities, and Nature-Based solutions in Lebanon and Jordan

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Jordan, I confirm that the above national grant proposal 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 the Jordan.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by UN-Habitat and executed by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO and Karak Municipality.

Sincerely,

Minister of Environment

Dr. Aiman A. Soleiman

Cc: Secretary General

Cc: Director of Climate change directorate



REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

THE MINISTER

Beirut, July 2, 2025
Ref.: 2450 B 2025

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

Subject: : Endorsement for “Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods” TAWASUL Project – A Regional Nature-Based Solutions Initiative in Lebanon and Jordan

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Lebanon, I confirm that the above national grant proposal 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 Lebanon.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by UN-Habitat and executed by National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS-L), Saida Zahrani Union of Municipalities, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, and Wadi NGO.

Sincerely,

Minister of Environment
Tamara El-Zein, PhD



Cc: -- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN House, riad El Solh, +961 1 978398, Beirut, Lebanon)
-- MoE - DGoE - Service of Environmental Technology – Department of Air Quality
-- MoE - Climate Change Projects

وزارة البيئة
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المكتب الإقليمي للدول العربية
شارع التحرير - الدور التاسع ، الدقي - مصر 87
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unhabitat-ROASinfo@un.org, www.ar.unhabitat.org
نحو مستقبل حضري أفضل



Ref: ADM/ROAS/25-20

القاهرة، 24 حزيران 2025

وزارة البيئة
مكتب لوجيا البيئة
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معالي وزيرة البيئة في لبنان
الدكتورة تمارا الزين المحترمة،

الموضوع: خطاب دعم رسمي من وزارة البيئة في لبنان للتقدم بمقترح أولي لمشروع إقليمي إلى صندوق التكيف

تحية طيبة وبعد،

يسرنا إعلامكم بأن موئل الأمم المتحدة (UN-Habitat) في لبنان، بالتعاون مع مكتب الموئل في الأردن، بصدد التقدم إلى صندوق التكيف (Adaptation Fund) بمقترح مشروع إقليمي بعنوان: "التكيف العابر للحدود من أجل استدامة الأحواض المائية وسبل العيش" - مبادرة إقليمية قائمة على الحلول الطبيعية في لبنان والأردن.

"Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods" - A Regional Nature-Based Solutions Initiative in Lebanon and Jordan (Project acronym TAWASUL)

يهدف المشروع لتعزيز قدرة المجتمعات المحلية والأنظمة البيئية على التكيف مع التغير المناخي، من خلال تطبيق نهج قائم على الحلول القائمة على الطبيعة (Nature-Based Solutions)، في كل من حوض وادي الكرك في الأردن وحوض نهر الأولي في لبنان. كما يهدف المشروع إلى استعادة النظم البيئية المتدهورة، وتحقيق التعافي بعد الكوارث، وتعزيز الحوكمة البيئية، وإيجاد آليات تمويل مستدامة وشاملة، مع التركيز على الفئات الأكثر عرضة للخطر، بما في ذلك النساء والشباب.

ويأتي هذا المشروع استجابةً لأولويات لبنان والأردن الوطنية بالمساهمات المحددة وطنياً (Nationally Determined Contributions - NDC)، والخطة الوطنية للتكيف (National Adaptation Plan - NAP)، وغيرها من السياسات والاستراتيجيات القطاعية ذات الصلة، لا سيما في قطاعات المياه، والزراعة، والحفاظ على الطبيعة، والسياحة، والتخطيط الحضري، والتنمية المحلية.

وعليه، نرجو من معاليكم بتزويدنا بخطاب دعم رسمي صادر عن وزارة البيئة، بصفتها الجهة الوطنية المعنية، لتأييد التقدم بهذا المقترح إلى صندوق التكيف.

نرفق طياً مقترح المشروع الأولي (Pre-Concept Note) الذي يوضح خلفية المشروع، أهدافه، الجهات المنفذة، ومكوناته الرئيسية، ونبقى على استعداد لتقديم أي معلومات إضافية قد ترونها ضرورية.

كما وقد أرفقنا نموذج "خطاب الدعم" المطلوب من صندوق التكيف.

وتفضلوا معاليكم بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير،

رانيا هدية
المدير الإقليمي للدول العربية (بالإنابة)
موئل الأمم المتحدة



ملاكة كوروسيا البيئية

نانسي الخوري

رئيس مصلحة الديوان بالإنابة

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حزيران



Revised PFG Submission Form¹ (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 29 of January 2026

Adaptation Fund Project ID:

Country/ies: Lebanon and Jordan

Title of Project/Programme: Transboundary Adaptation for Watershed Sustainability and Livelihoods"– A Regional Nature-Based Solutions Initiative in Lebanon and Jordan (Project acronym: TAWASUL)

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): UN-Agency

Implementing Entity: UN-Habitat

Executing Entity/ies: UN-Habitat, National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS-L), Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Jordan, Wadi NGO

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	After approval of pre-concept note
Completion date of PFG	After 3 months of pre-concept note approval

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note²
Inception, Scoping, and Stakeholder/initiatives Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreed regional project scope and structure. ▪ Defined roles of implementing and executing entities. ▪ Stakeholder and initiative mapping to identify complementarities and avoid duplication 	5,400 USD	Covers coordination meetings, regional scoping discussions, and stakeholder/initiative mapping needed to frame the regional concept and ensure alignment with existing initiatives and will be executed through UN-Habitat in cooperation with local/ international consultants if necessary.

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.

Baseline Review and Problem Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary baseline 	16,200 USD	Supports preliminary technical review of existing data and studies, analytical inputs, and synthesis required to define the adaptation rationale and approach and will be executed through UN-Habitat in cooperation with local/ international consultants if necessary
Drafting, Validation, and Submission of Concept Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft AF-compliant regional concept note. ▪ Stakeholder validation inputs incorporated ▪ Final concept note submitted 	5,400 USD	Covers drafting, coordination with local, national and regional stakeholders and Designated Authorities, validation consultations, and finalization and submission of the concept note, and will be executed through UN-Habitat in cooperation with local/ international consultants if necessary.
IE Fees	Project formulation oversight, technical guidance	3,000	
Total Project Formulation Grant		30, 000 USD	

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

For LLA Projects only:

If requesting additional funding for LLA projects to enable devolving decision making to the local level, please specify the activities that would directly serve to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented:

Please provide justifications for their need and for the amount of additional funding required:

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
Raf Tuts		06 March 2026	Yasmine Mostafa	00201092051217	Yasmine.mostafa@un.org