



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.46-47/4
13 July 2026

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR NO-COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT
COMPLETION DATE: CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
(SAINT LUCIA)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during the intersessional period between its thirty-third and thirty-fourth meetings approved a four-year project titled “*Building Resilience for Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Variability in Saint Lucia (BRACCCVAS)*”, submitted by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), for a total amount of US\$ 9,858,570 (Decision B.33-34/15).
2. The project objective is to strengthen the resilience of Saint Lucia’s agricultural sector to climate change and climate variability. The project focuses on two main components: (1) Building resilience and sustainability of farming systems through interventions for water security, soil conservation and management; and (2) Establishing green Agroparks, including the use of solar energy, for increased efficiency in resilient farming systems. The expected mid-term impacts are improved enabling conditions to sustain climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector. In the long term, it is expected that this will result in improved adaptive capacity for farmers and rural communities in Saint Lucia.
3. As mandated by Decision B.33-34/15, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and CDB on December 24, 2020, and the project started implementation on September 3, 2021. As of June 2026, the project Implementing Entity has submitted four Project Performance Reports (PPRs), which have been cleared by the Secretariat, and a total of US\$ 7,066,356 (including fees) has been disbursed by the Trustee, which corresponds to 71.7% of the approved grant.
4. In 2023, CDB submitted a first request for an 18-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 3 September 2025 to 3 March 2027, which was approved by the Board (Decision B.40-41/14).
5. On 27 May 2026, CDB submitted a second request for a no-cost extension of the project completion date, proposing to extend it from 3 March 2027 to 1 October 2028 (see Annex 1).
6. Since the approval of the previous extension, implementation constraints have remained particularly acute in relation to the development of the Agroparks under Component 2, where delays in finalizing planning documents, procurement capacity constraints, and the complexity of the required site assessments have slowed progress. Under Component 1, engagement with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the provision of technical assistance proved unfeasible within the project timeframe after approximately six months of engagement, requiring a transition to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). This shift has since been successfully resolved, and IICA is now positioned to deliver the required technical assistance. Additional delays resulted from leadership and staffing transitions within the Ministry of Agriculture and the Project Management Unit. In both cases, corrective measures have been implemented and the project is now transitioning from preparatory stages to full implementation.

Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following its review of the request and considering the explanation provided by CDB, the Secretariat is of the view that this additional eighteen-month no-cost extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by CDB in Annex 1, this request should allow sufficient time to complete the remaining activities.
8. The Secretariat acknowledges that the Designated Authority has been notified, in accordance with the amended Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

9. The Board may wish to consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 3 March 2027 to 1 October 2028 for the project “*Building Resilience for Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Variability in Saint Lucia (BRACCCVAS)*” as requested by CDB.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of project completion date from CDB.

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the programme completion date**ANNEX A****REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME****Request for Extension of Project/Programme Completion Date**

Implementing Entity Name: The Caribbean Development Bank			
AF Project/Programme ID: GA 58/STL			
Project/Programme Title: Building Resilience for Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Variability in Saint Lucia (BRACCCVAS)			
Country: Saint Lucia			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	July 8, 2019. (The Grant Agreement was signed on December 24, 2020)		
Expected Project/Programme Completion (date)	March 2027	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	October 1 2028

Reasons/justifications for the extension of Project/Programme completion:**Executive Summary:**

The request for a second extension of the BRACCCVAS project to October 1, 2028, is necessitated by implementation delays that have constrained progress toward key milestones within the timeline ending March 31, 2027. These delays stem from challenges in securing technical assistance, infrastructure development for the Agropark, and staffing transitions.

Significant time was spent pursuing technical collaboration with the FAO for Component 1 Project (Building resilience and sustainability of farming systems through interventions for water security, soil conservation and management). This engagement was, however, ultimately deemed unfeasible within the project timeframe, requiring a transition to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). This shift caused delays but has since been successfully resolved, with IICA now positioned to provide the necessary expertise for implementation. Under Component 2 (Establishing green Agroparks, including the use of solar energy, for increased efficiency in resilient farming systems), progress on development of the Agroparks was slowed by delays in finalizing essential planning documents, compounded by procurement capacity constraints and the complexity of the interventions. Additional delays arose from extended decision-making and completion of site assessments, particularly in Region 7, where a condition assessment was required to determine site viability. These preparatory steps are now complete, and procurement processes are underway, with construction expected to begin in January 2027.

Further implementation setbacks resulted from leadership and staffing transitions within the Ministry of Agriculture and the Project Management Unit. Despite these disruptions, key planning instruments have now been finalized, funding has progressed with the second disbursement secured, and institutional coordination has strengthened, positioning the project for accelerated execution.

The project is transitioning from preparation to full implementation, however, the scale and complexity of Agropark investments mean that critical activities, such as construction, installation, and operationalization will extend beyond the current closing date.

Overall, an extension is critical to safeguarding project outcomes, maximizing the effectiveness of Adaptation Fund resources, and achieving long-term resilience benefits for Saint Lucia's agricultural sector without requiring additional financing.

Main Implementation Challenges:

The request for an extension of the BRACCVAS project is driven by implementation delays that have affected the project's ability to achieve its key milestones within the current closing date of March 31, 2027.

Finalization of Technical Assistance for Component 1:

Project implementation experienced delays due to interrelated factors, including the extended preparation and revision of proposals for the provision of technical assistance through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) or IICA. The engagement of technical assistance was identified as essential to strengthening the quality and effectiveness of project delivery, particularly in relation to agricultural technical guidance, implementation support, and institutional capacity enhancement. Additional co-benefits were also anticipated given the established regional presence of these institutions and experience in delivering comparable interventions in the Caribbean.

Substantial time was invested in advancing a potential collaboration with FAO, however, following approximately six months of engagement, it was concluded that this arrangement could not be operationalized within the project timeframe. As a result, efforts were subsequently redirected toward engaging IICA. This process has since been successfully concluded, and IICA is now positioned to provide the required technical assistance in support of effective implementation of project activities.

Development of the Agroparks:

Delays were encountered in the finalization of critical planning documents for the Agroparks, particularly under Component 2. These planning documents include the articulation of the Government's vision, condition assessments, and the preparation of implementation and procurement plans for the development of the Agroparks. These challenges were compounded by capacity constraints within the Ministry of Agriculture, particularly in procurement, as well as the inherent complexity of the Agropark interventions, which require significant preparatory work, inter-agency coordination, and sequencing of technical activities.

In the case of the Agropark in Region 7, due to the condition of the site and existing buildings, the government decided to conduct a further condition assessment to determine the suitability of the site and whether specific buildings needed to be demolished. The decision to undertake and complete this assessment took approximately five months, which contributed to the implementation delay. The condition assessment has now been completed, and the procurement plan for the activities related to the Agroparks are underway. It is expected that construction activities in the Agropark will commence in January 2027.

Staffing and Institutional Transitions:

Implementation timelines were further affected by staffing and institutional transitions, including changes in key leadership positions within the Ministry of Agriculture and the Project Management Unit, which necessitated a period of adjustment. Notwithstanding these challenges, the project has made important progress and has now addressed several of the key constraints that had previously impeded implementation. Core planning instruments, including the Annual Work Plan, Project Implementation Plan, and Procurement Plan have been finalized, and the second disbursement has been secured, providing a sound financial basis for accelerated execution. Additionally, there is clear evidence of renewed institutional

commitment and strengthened coordination mechanisms through the provision of additional management assistance by Deputy Director and the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project is now transitioning from preparatory stages to full implementation. Activities under Component 1 are expected to be substantially completed by March 2027, while Component 2 will progress to the design and procurement phase by August 2026. Given the scale and complexity of the Agropark investments, including design, construction, installation, and operationalization, implementation will, however, extend beyond the current project's end date.

An extension is therefore required to:

- Complete the construction and operationalization of the two Agroparks, which constitute the project's primary infrastructure outputs.
- Finalize outstanding activities across all three components, including climate-resilient farming interventions, capacity building, and knowledge management.
- Ensure that project outputs translate into sustainable adaptation outcomes and measurable resilience benefits for targeted beneficiaries.
- Allow adequate time for monitoring, evaluation, and consolidation of results, including the Mid-Term Evaluation scheduled for June 2027.

The proposed 18-month extension, through October 1, 2028, is necessary to ensure the full achievement of the project's development objectives without requiring additional financial resources. In summary, the requested extension is critical to safeguarding the integrity of project outcomes and maximizing the effectiveness and sustainability of Adaptation Fund resources in strengthening climate resilience within Saint Lucia's agricultural sector.

Implementing Entity Certification:

This request has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, has been agreed by participating executing entities, and the designated authority has been notified.	
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Date: May 27, 2026	