



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.37-38/3
24 June 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY AND GENDER
POLICY (TA-ESGP) FOR MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT (MFEM), COOK ISLANDS**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund (the Fund) delivers readiness and capacity-building support to developing countries that are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement through its Readiness Programme for Climate Finance (the Readiness Programme). The objectives of the Readiness Programme as established by the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its twenty-ninth meeting through Decision B.29/42 are:

- I. to increase the preparedness of applicant national implementing entities seeking accreditation by the Adaptation Fund, and;
- II. to increase the number of high-quality project/programme proposals submitted to the Board after accreditation.

2. The Fund systematically delivers readiness and capacity building support using a country driven approach and employs a diverse range of activities and instruments. These include readiness grants, workshops, webinars, communities of practice, country exchanges, and other knowledge sharing platforms.

3. At its twenty-third meeting, the Board had decided through decision B.23/26 to approve the execution arrangements and eligibility criteria to allocate the funds to the accredited implementing entities for specific activities, contained in document AFB/B.23/5, which included grants for technical assistance and South-South Cooperation (SSC).

4. At its thirty-sixth meeting, and following completion of the pilot phase, the Board approved the readiness package grant (RPG) as a standing grant to support national implementing entity (NIE) accreditation to the Fund (Decision B.36/25). The RPG aims to enhance support for the accreditation of NIEs via accredited implementing entity (IE) intermediaries that have experience programming adaptation finance through the Fund's resources.

5. The RPG can be accessed up to a maximum of US\$150,000 per entity seeking accreditation with the Fund. The grant facilitates peer-peer support through South-South cooperation. The grant project proposal template and technical review sheet are available on the Fund website and were approved by the Board through Decision B.38/38. It should be noted that a maximum of two NIEs can be accredited per country¹.

6. Peer support for accreditation provided by the intermediary can involve a combination of activities that include (i) support to the designated authority (DA) to nominate a suitable NIE candidate (ii) In-country support by the intermediary to an NIE candidate (iii) technical support through experts (iv) organization of local, national or regional consultations/workshops, and (v) continuous support during the accreditation application process to address and respond to feedback provided by the accreditation panel (AP) during assessment of the NIE candidate application for accreditation. It is expected that the peer-peer support would effectively help build national capacity and sustainability and that RPGs will enhance South-South cooperation for accreditation to the Fund through a more comprehensive suite of tools to help entities in countries seeking direct access to the Fund's resources, to prepare and submit their applications for accreditation.

7. In response to the call for readiness grant project proposals launched by the secretariat intersessionally between the forty-fifth and forty-sixth meetings of the Board, the secretariat

¹ Decision B.36/42

received two project proposals for a technical assistance grant and one RPG for a single country to receive peer support for accreditation from one intermediary multilateral implementing entity (MIE).

8. The present document introduces the Technical Assistance grant for the environmental and social policy and gender policy (TA-ESGP) project proposal submitted by Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) of Cook Islands.

9. The secretariat carried out a technical review of the project proposal and completed a review sheet.

10. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with EIF and offered them the opportunity to provide responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.

11. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, 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.



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ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL UNDER THE READINESS PROGRAMME

PROJECT CATEGORY: Technical Assistance Grant for the ESP and GP

Country: **Cook Islands**Implementing Entity: **Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM)**AF Project ID: **AFRDG00087**Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): **25,000**Reviewer and contact person: **Farayi Madziwa**

Co-reviewer(s):

Implementing Entity Contact Person: **Mani Mate**

Technical Summary	The project to support NIE capacity in environmental and social risk management and addressing gender related issues in Cook Islands will be done through the components below: <u>Component 1:</u> Strengthening of the MFEM environmental and social safeguard framework (USD 7,000). <u>Component 2:</u> Strengthen existing guidelines for undertaking project environmental and social risk assessment, gender assessment (USD 9,000). <u>Component 3:</u> Training of select entity staff on simplified environmental, social and gender tools (USD 7,041.48). <u>Requested financing overview:</u> Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 23,041.48 Implementing Entity Fee: USD 1,958.53 Financing Requested: USD 25,000 The final technical review finds that the revised proposal has sufficiently addressed all the clarification and corrective action requests made in the initial technical review.
Date:	23 June 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments 4 June 2026	Comments 23 June 2026
Country Eligibility	1. Is the country Party to the Kyoto Protocol?	Yes	
Eligibility of IE	1. Is the project submitted through an Implementing Entity accredited by the Board?	Yes	
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project?	No. The signatory to the letter of endorsement is different from the recorded DA on file. The DA on file is: Wayne King, Climate Change Cook Islands, Office of the Prime Minister. CAR1: Please send the letter of endorsement signed by the DA with a wet signature.	Cleared. A signed LOE was sent and received by the secretariat on 16 June 2026
	2. Are the proposed activities to support the implementing entity to implement the Environmental and Social Policy and/or the Gender Policy of the Fund adequate?	Cleared. The activities include ESP and GP policy review, standardization of risk screening tools and guidelines, development of guidelines for developing gender responsive risk management plans, and training of the IE's project staff.	
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project funding within the cap for Technical Assistance Grants for the Environmental and	Cleared. The amount is within the funding cap of USD 25,000.	

	Social Policy and Gender Policy set by the Board?		
	2. If the implementing entity has requested, is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	Cleared. The fee is 8.5% and is within the limit of the cap.	
Implementation Arrangements	1. Is the timeframe for the proposed activities adequate?	Cleared. The stated timeline is 13 months.	
	2. Is a summary breakdown of the budget for the proposed activities included?	Cleared. A budget breakdown for the experts, and staff training is included.	



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ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL UNDER THE READINESS PROGRAMME

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Technical Summary	The project to support NIE capacity in environmental and social risk management and addressing gender related issues in Cook Islands will be done through the components below: <u>Component 1</u>: Strengthening of the MFEM environmental and social safeguard framework (USD 7,000). <u>Component 2</u>: Strengthen existing guidelines for undertaking project environmental and social risk assessment, gender assessment (USD 9,000). <u>Component 3</u>: Training of select entity staff on simplified environmental, social and gender tools (USD 7,041.48). <u>Requested financing overview:</u> Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 23,041.48 Implementing Entity Fee: USD 1,958.53 Financing Requested: USD 25,000 The initial technical review raises some issues, such as submitting a letter of endorsement signed by the current DA, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.
Date:	4 June 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments	Response from AE 16 June 2026
Country Eligibility	2. Is the country Party to the Kyoto Protocol?	Yes	
Eligibility of IE	2. Is the project submitted through an Implementing Entity accredited by the Board?	Yes	
Project Eligibility	3. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project?	No. The signatory to the letter of endorsement is different from the recorded DA on file. The DA on file is: Wayne King, Climate Change Cook Islands, Office of the Prime Minister. CAR1: Please send the letter of endorsement signed by the DA with a wet signature.	LOE signed by DA sent to AF 16 June 2026
	4. Are the proposed activities to support the implementing entity to implement the Environmental and Social Policy and/or the Gender Policy of the Fund adequate?	Cleared. The activities include ESP and GP policy review, standardization of risk screening tools and guidelines, development of guidelines for developing gender responsive risk management plans, and training of the IE's project staff.	
Resource Availability	3. Is the requested project funding within the cap for Technical Assistance Grants for the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy set by the Board?	Cleared. The amount is within the funding cap of USD 25,000.	

	4. If the implementing entity has requested, is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	Cleared. The fee is 8.5% and is within the limit of the cap.	
Implementation Arrangements	3. Is the timeframe for the proposed activities adequate?	Cleared. The stated timeline is 13 months.	
	4. Is a summary breakdown of the budget for the proposed activities included?	Cleared. A budget breakdown for the experts, and staff training is included.	



ADAPTATION FUND

Request for assistance in complying with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy

Submission Date:
1 April 2026

Adaptation Fund Grant ID: TA-ESGP
Country: Cook Islands
Implementing Entity: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

A. Timeframe of Activity

Expected start date of activity	1 July 2026
Completion date of activity	30 June 2027

B. Type of support requested

Describe the activities to be undertaken to support the compliance of the NIE with the Fund's Environmental and Social policy and Gender policy

Types of Support Activities	Support requested (please provide short description)	Type/name of provider for the requested support ¹	Requested budget (USD)
Strengthening of the MFEM environmental and social safeguard framework	Technical Expert to support the review, strengthening, and to standardise the MFEM environmental, social and gender risk screening tools and guidelines to improve usability.	Local Consultant with expertise in environmental and social safeguards. USD200 per day for 30 days.	6,000.00
		Local Consultant with expertise gender. USD200 per day for 5 days.	1,000.00

¹ Specify if it is an institution, consulting firm or individual consultant. When possible, provide the name of the institution, firm or individual identified or selected.

Strengthen existing guidelines for undertaking project environmental and social risk assessment, gender assessment.	Technical expert to support the review, strengthening of MFEM ESS and gender risk assessment tools and development of Guidelines for formulating risk management plans that are gender responsive.	Local Consultant with expertise in environmental and social safeguards. USD200 per day for 30 days.	6,000.00
		Local Consultant with expertise in gender. USD200 per day for 15 days.	3,000.00
Training of select entity staff on the simplified environmental, social and gender tools.	Delivery of targeted, hands-on training for MFEM project staff to carry out the relevant tasks related to the implementation of the MFEMs and the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy, guidelines and tools and Training of relevant agencies focused on the practical application of MFEMS simplified environmental, social and gender tools.	Local Consultant (lead trainer). USD120 per day for 20 days.	2,400.00
		Workshops/Training: 8x half day training workshops at USD580.185 per workshop. This covers venue and catering costs for 10 participants per session. This also covers the cost of the office supplies required for the workshops.	4,641.48
Other type of support requested (please describe)			
Total Project/Programme Cost			23,041.48
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity, if any. (Maximum of 8.5%)			1,958.53
Total Grant Requested (USD)			25,000.00

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures

Head of Implementing Entity	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Implementing Entity Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Mani Mate, Director of Development Coordination Division, MFEM	 on behalf of Director	04/01/2026	Mani Mate	+682 29521	mani.mate@cookislands.gov.ck tessa.vaetoru@cookislands.gov.ck eileen.story@cookislands.gov.ck

D. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government

Provide the name and position of the government official, Designated Authority (DA) of the Adaptation Fund, and indicate date of endorsement. The DA endorsement letter must be attached as an annex to the request.

Elizabeth Wright-Koteka Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration	Date: <i>March, 29th 2026</i>
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CLIMATE CHANGE COOK ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

Private Bag, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, Phone: (682) 25 494, Fax: 20 856.
Email: wayne.king@cookislands.gov.ck Website: www.pmooffice.gov.ck

15 June 2026

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

Subject: Endorsement for TA-ESGP for the project/programme: Strengthening and Simplifying Environmental, Social and Gender Tools in the Cook Islands.

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Cook Islands, I confirm that the above project 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 Cook Islands.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above Technical Assistance Grant for the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy (TA-ESGP) with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented and executed by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management.

Sincerely,

Wayne King
Director, Climate Change Cook Islands
Office of the Prime Minister
Cook Islands DA – Adaptation Fund



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CLIMATE CHANGE COOK ISLANDS
Office of the Prime Minister