



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.38/24/Add.1
10 September 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty eighth Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 19-23 October 2026

Agenda Item 5 (c)

PROJECT FORMULATION GRANT FOR CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

I. Background

1. The Board at its eleventh meeting discussed the document “Funding for Project Formulation Costs” (AFB/11/6) and agreed, in its Decision B.11/18, that:

- i. project formulation grants (PFG) should be given once a project concept has been approved
- ii. consideration should be given in terms of differentiating between NIEs and MIEs, since some NIEs might have financial difficulties in trying to formulate project or programme proposals;
- iii. a flat rate should be given for project formulation costs;
- iv. a list of eligible activities and items still needed to be prepared; v. the grant should be additional to the project cost; and
- v. the fate of funds if the final project document was rejected should be determined.

2. There was consensus that a three-tiered system should be considered for project formulation grants: endorse a project concept with a PFG amount, endorse a project concept without a PFG amount, or reject the project concept.

3. Following the discussion, the Board decided:

To request the secretariat to reformulate the document, to include a comparison of eligible activities provided by other funds for project formulation grants, to take into account guidance provided by the Board at the present meeting, and to submit the document to the Board at its twelfth meeting, through the EFC. The EFC should review and finalize the process and policy of the project formulation grant focusing, in particular, on: the issue of unspent project funds; the procedures followed by other funds in that regard; and the determination of a flat-rate.

4. A document was prepared by the secretariat in response to the above mandate and presented at the third EFC meeting, which made specific recommendations to the Board at its twelfth meeting. Having considered the recommendation of the Ethics and Finance Committee, the Board, in its Decision B.12/28, decided that:

(a) Project Formulation Grants (PFGs) will only be made available for projects submitted through NIEs. The Board would continue reviewing the question of PFGs for projects submitted through MIEs and would solicit comments from members and alternate members by February 14, 2011; the views would be compiled by the secretariat for presentation to the Board at its March 2011 meeting;

(b) If a country required a project formulation grant, a request should be made at the same time as the submission of a project concept to the secretariat. The secretariat will review and forward it to the PPRC for a final recommendation to the Board. A PFG could only be awarded when a project concept was presented and endorsed;

(c) A PFG form, reproduced in Annex V, should be submitted;

- (d) Only activities related to country costs would be eligible for PFG funding;*
 - (e) A flat rate of up to US\$30,000 shall be provided, inclusive of the management fee, which cannot exceed 8.5 per cent of the grant amount. The flat fee would be reviewed by the Board at its thirteenth and all subsequent meetings;*
 - (f) If the final project document is rejected, any unused funds shall be returned to the Adaptation Fund Trust Fund;*
 - (g) Once a project/programme formulation grant is disbursed, a fully developed project document should come to the Board for approval within 12 months. No additional grants for project preparation can be received by a country until the fully developed project/programme document has been submitted to the Board; and*
 - (h) The Trustee was instructed to remove the set-aside of US\$100,000 for project preparation that had been decided at the June 2010 meeting, as project preparation would be approved on a project-by-project basis.*
5. In its twenty-fourth meeting, the Board had initiated steps to launch a pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, not to exceed US\$ 30 million and had requested the secretariat to prepare for the consideration of the Board a proposal for such a pilot programme (Decision B.24/30). In its twenty-fifth meeting, the secretariat submitted such document 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. The approved document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2 contained provisions for the approval of project formulated grants for regional project and programme proposals, at different development stages, as follows:
- "It is proposed that the Board open a structured call for MIEs and RIEs to submit pre-concepts for regional projects and programmes. The optional pre-concepts would be very brief proposals of maximum 5 pages that would explain the proposed regional adaptation project/programme. The pre-concepts would be screened and technically reviewed by the*

secretariat, and subsequently reviewed by the PPRC. Together with the pre-concept, the proponent could submit a Phase I PFG request, up to the maximum level of US\$ 20,000. While endorsing the pre-concept, the Board could also approve the Phase I PFG request. The endorsement of the pre-concept would not create an obligation for the Board for later funding. As the next step, the proponent would submit a concept, and with it the proponent could submit a Phase II PFG request. The maximum AFB/PPRC.18/25/Add.1 level of the Phase II PFG would be US\$ 80,000 for proposals that had been previously granted Phase I PFG, and US\$ 100,000 for proposals that bypassed the optional pre-concept stage. While endorsing the concept, the Board could also approve the Phase II PFG request. The endorsement of the concept would not create an obligation for the Board for later funding, as it is the case for the national projects. The final stage of the proposal process would be the submission of the fully-developed regional project document”.

II. The Project Formulation Grant Request

7. This addendum to the document AFB/PPRC.38/24 “Proposal for Cuba, Dominican Republic” includes a request for a Project Formulation Grant, requesting a budget of US\$ 150,000, which was received by the secretariat along with the concept for the regional programme AF00000464 “Nature-based adaptation in urban and riverine areas of Cuba and the Dominican Republic”. This proposal was submitted by UN Environment Programme (UNEP), which is a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund, in time for consideration by the Adaptation Fund Board at its forty-seventh Board meeting.

8. In accordance with Decision B.12/28, paragraph (b), the secretariat carried out an initial review of the PFG request and found that the document provided detailed information on the use of the requested funds. The proposed activities were aligned with the goal of the project and would support stakeholder consultations; validation workshops and full proposal formulation.

9. Therefore, the PPRC may want to consider and recommend to the Board to approve the PFG Request, provided that the related concept proposal is endorsed.



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR
"NATURE-BASED ADAPTATION IN URBAN AND RIVERINE AREAS OF CUBA AND THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. "

Project Title Nature-based adaptation in urban and riverine areas of Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

Project ID AF00000464

Category Regular size project (over \$1 million)

Type Regional project

Stage Concept

Country Regional (Cuba, Dominican Republic)

Implementing Entity UNEP

Financing Requested USD 30,000,000.00

Reviewer Lystra Fletcher-Paul Fletcher-Paul

Co-reviewer(s)

IE Contact Person

Jessica Troni, Maximilien Pardo Y Fernandez, Ruth Mutinda

Secretariat's Overall Comment

The project “Nature-based adaptation in urban and riverine areas of Cuba and the Dominican Republic” aims to improve the resilience of urban and riverine communities in Cuba and the Dominican Republic to the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change by integrating nature-based adaptation measures into territorial planning and implementing them with a gender-responsive lens.

The initial technical review raised several issues, such as the sustainability of the cost effective measures, the inclusion of sectoral and regional plans in the list of relevant strategies and plans, and the category in which the project was classified after screening, among the main issues discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.

The second technical review raised several issues such as the arrangements required to capture and disseminate lessons learned; how replication and scale up will be achieved; and to ensure the Implementing Entity is accredited by the Adaptation Fund Board, among the main issues discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.

The third technical review raises some issues such as clarifications about USPs, and the financial and institutional arrangements required for sustainability, among the main issues discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.

The fourth technical review finds a few remaining CRs and CARs to be addressed concerning signature on PFG request form, output level costs for components financing table and addressing FCOA correctly in the project document.

The fifth technical review finds that the proposal needs to address decimal points in the components financing table as well as the results framework alignment table as well as properly calculating the components costs in the results framework alignment table.

The sixth technical review finds that all outstanding issues raised in the fifth review have been addressed.

Country Eligibility

Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol, or the Paris Agreement?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Yes.

Cuba and Dominican Republic have signed both the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

August 25, 2025

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Note: Reference pages are those of the track change document, unless otherwise noted.

May 5, 2026

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Editorial Note:

1. Add Table of contents and lists of abbreviations, tables and figures (will not count towards document length).
2. A round of editing/ proofreading is recommended. It will help reduce document length to 50 pages (now 52 pages) by fixing some formatting/ spacing issues in tables, text, etc.

May 5, 2026

Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Yes.

Both Cuba and the Dominican Republic are developing countries, and they are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly hurricanes, drought and floods all of which are predicted to become more intense because of climate change.

August 25, 2025

Project Eligibility

Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Yes.

As per the Endorsement letters dated July 7, 2025 (Cuba) and June 2, 2025 (Dominic Republic).

August 25, 2025

Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than fifty (50) pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes.

The concept note is 52 pages including its annexes.

August 25, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: No.

The concept note is 63 pages including its annexes.

CAR1(NEW): Kindly amend the concept note to a maximum of 50 pages, including the annexes.

CR1(NEW): Please revise footnotes as some are blank and the numbering is not sequential.

December 15, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes.

The concept note is 50 pages in total, including its annexes.

CAR1(NEW): Clear.

CN is 50 pages in total.

CR1(NEW): Cleared.

Footnotes are sequential.

CR2(NEW): Please update to the latest date of submission at stage of submission stage on page 1.

February 2, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR2(NEW): Cleared. See p.1.

May 5, 2026

Does the regional project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience, and do so providing added value through the regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed.

The proposed project contains a set of adaptation actions and clearly explains the root causes of the problems and the factors that contribute to the vulnerability of the targeted population. The adaptation needs and solutions are outlined for each of the climate risks as well as the barriers to the adoption of those adaptation technologies. The concept note provides a coherent Theory of Change alongside with a diagram for better understanding (Figure 11).

It is established that the regional approach for this project is based on an existing agreement between Cuba and the Dominican Republic signed in 2022, and because of the shared climate hazards exposure and vulnerabilities.

The proposed project contributes to the following thematic focal areas: Food Security, and Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems.

CR1: Kindly indicate explicitly how the project supports one or more of the Adaptation Fund Strategic Objectives, ensuring consistency of these outcomes with those indicated in tables 13 and 14, pages 35-37.

August 25, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: No.

The concept note is 63 pages including its annexes.

CAR1(NEW): Kindly amend the concept note to a maximum of 50 pages, including the annexes.

CR1(NEW): Please revise footnotes as some are blank and the numbering is not sequential.

CAR2(NEW): Please confirm if the project has USPs and address in the narrative under Components 2 and 3.

Please utilize the USP guidance at Guidance Document for Project/Programme with Unidentified Sub-Projects.

CR1: Cleared.

As per information provided in paragraph 39. The project supports Outcomes 5, 6 and 7, and it is consistent with Table 14.

December 15, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes.

The concept note is 50 pages in total, including its annexes.

CAR1(NEW): Clear.

CN is 50 pages in total.

CR1(NEW): Cleared.

Footnotes are sequential.

CR2(NEW): Please update to the latest date of submission at stage of submission stage on page 1.

CAR2(NEW): Not cleared.

While the response confirms that no USPs are part of the proposed project, this information is not included in the CN. Please add this clarification in the CN, including that during full proposal the geographic scope will be defined.

February 2, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR2(NEW): Cleared. See p.1.

CAR2(NEW): Cleared. See p. 21 and IE response.

May 5, 2026

Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed.

Under Part II.C, the concept note outlines the expected social, economic and environmental benefits of the proposed project. Compliance with the Gender policy is also demonstrated as a result of the Gender Analysis (Annex A). The section on Gender (Page 23) shows how the gender dimensions are taken into consideration by each Component of the project – and used to determine the needs, capabilities, roles and knowledge. However, it does not clearly identify indigenous groups nor demonstrate how benefits will be equitably distributed among vulnerable communities. Also, it does not provide quantification of the potential benefits.

CAR1: Please include a sentence on whether any negative or maladaptation concerns that are likely to arise because of the project. Otherwise, kindly outline it explicitly. CR2: Please outline if indigenous peoples will benefit from the proposed project and, if so, describe how benefits will be equitably distributed.

CR3: Kindly quantify the economic, social and environmental benefits, whenever possible. In cases where exact figures are not available, please provide reasoned estimates or qualitative proxies to support the anticipated impact of the project. Also, provide a brief explanation of the method used for these calculations.

August 25, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CAR1: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II.C, paragraph 78.

CR2: Not cleared.

1. Please indicate clearly whether indigenous people will benefit from the proposed project, and if so, how the project will ensure that these benefits are distributed equitably.

2. At paragraph 75 please re-phrase the sentences containing 'directly benefit' and 'indirectly benefit' to say 'direct beneficiaries and 'indirect beneficiaries'.

CR3: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II.C, paragraphs 74, 75 and 76.

December 15, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR2:

1. Not cleared.

Please define what marginalized groups are part of it (paragraph 78) to ensure the benefits are distributed equitably.

2. Cleared.

Paragraph 75 was re-phrased to contain "direct beneficiaries" and "indirect beneficiaries".

February 3, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR2: Cleared. See para 78, p. 28 and IE response.

May 5, 2026

Is the project / programme cost-effective and does the regional approach support cost-effectiveness?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes.

Section II.D of the concept note outlines how the project is cost effective. Specifically, it seeks to use a regional, knowledge-based, nature-focused, and gender-responsive strategy to provide efficient, evidence-backed climate adaptation measures that cost less than traditional infrastructure, benefit large vulnerable populations, and promote collaboration—all contributing to a highly beneficial cost-benefit ratio. However, the sustainability point of view of the cost effectiveness is not provided.

CR4: Please, when possible, provide quantitative estimates through proxies or qualitative justifications to support the comparison for the cost effectiveness of the proposed project. Additionally, please highlight the sustainability point of view of the proposed interventions.

August 25, 2025

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR4: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II. D, paragraphs 79-86.

December 15, 2025

Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments? If applicable, it is also possible to refer to regional plans and strategies where they exist.

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed.

Under Section II.E, table 7, it is provided a list of relevant national and regional plans and strategies as well as their relationship with the proposed project for each of the countries. However, there is no mention of sectoral (e.g. Food Security or Water resources management) or regional plans or strategies which may also be considered.

CR5: Please provide a more comprehensive list including all relevant sectoral plans and strategies among those mentioned in the table, as well as any other relevant plan at regional level. For each identified plan/strategy, please state the dates, including for the following plans listed in the table: (i) State Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba (NAU-Cuba), and (ii) Santiago de los Caballeros Resilience Strategy (ER-SC).
August 25, 2025

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR5: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II. E, Table 7.

December 15. 2025

Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed.

Under Part II.F, a list with national technical standards for both countries are provided alongside a description of each one, and how the proposed project adhered to them. However, some sectoral-specific regulations are not identified in the list.

CR6: Please specify all sectoral-specific national/regional technical standards applicable to the proposed project (e.g., water and land use regulations) and explain how it will comply with each one of these. For example, for Dominican Republic, may include Decree No. 396-25 for land use.
August 25, 2025

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR6: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II. F, Table 8.

December 15, 2025

Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: No, but further information is needed.

Under Part II.G, table 9, the concept note provides a list with relevant regional and national projects, currently being implemented, stating briefly their relevance and complementarity with the proposed project, including lessons learned in some cases. However, more specific details are needed to clarify if any duplication exist.

CR7: Kindly include a more comprehensive list of projects that are or have been implemented in both countries and are relevant to the proposed project. The lack of overlap should be clearly justified (e.g. by indicating the distinct geographic locations and/or types of interventions) for each related project identified. Please include the budget currency for all listed projects.

August 25, 2025

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR7: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II. G, Tables 9 and 10.

December 15, 2025

Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed.

Under Part II.K, knowledge management strategies for the proposed project are described, including the dissemination of lessons learned. The proposed project includes an exclusive component (number 4) for Knowledge management and MEL. In particular, seeks to build an accessible and centralised information repository in each country as well as to share best practices and lessons learned on mainstreaming a gender perspective in climate change adaptation. However, the arrangements to implement these actions are not clearly stated.

CR8: Kindly elaborate how, who and when will be tracking the experiences gained and all the arrangements needed for the implementation (institutional, financial, among others).

August 25, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR8: Not cleared.

Kindly elaborate on all financial, institutional, and coordination arrangements required to capture and disseminate lessons learned. Please also indicate, if applicable, whether an agreement should be signed and which entity will have final responsibility for managing the Data platform.

December 15, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR8: Not cleared.

The additional information provided is noted. However, some of the information which is critical for strengthening the proposal is included in the response sheet only. Please provide the additional details from the response sheet in the proposal.

February 2, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR8: Cleared. See Part IIH, pp. 40-41 and IE response.

May 5, 2026

Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed.

Part II.I describes the consultative process. Stakeholder consultations were held in both countries, leading to the development of problem trees and potential solutions to inform the project design. Gender considerations were included in all consultations. However, In Cuba, owing to electricity and mobility restrictions, stakeholder consultations were conducted in Havana. Additional information about the other target areas was obtained through meetings and interviews with experts from ministries, government and non-government institutes, and augmented with telephone communications with stakeholders in the municipalities. In the Dominican Republic, bilateral meetings were conducted in three cities of the project.

CR9: Please indicate whether additional consultations are planned for the other target areas in Cuba to get a better perspective of the interests and concerns in those areas to better inform the development of the final proposal.

CR10: Kindly provide for each workshop:

- (a) Main topics discussed.
- (b) Numbers of attendants disaggregated by gender.
- (c) How their interests were included in the proposed project.

August 25, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR9: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II. I, paragraph 93.

CR10: Not cleared.

Please include, for each country, the main topics discussed during each consultation and explain how these topics have been incorporated into the proposed project.

December 15, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR10: Cleared.

As indicated in paragraphs 93 and 94, the main topics discussed in each country are presented, along with an explanation of how these topics were integrated into the proposed project as solutions.

February 2, 2026

Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Unsure.

Part II.J provides justification for full funding of the project on the basis of the vulnerability of the two countries as well as their limited availability of financial resources, the very low incomes of their population and their limited capacity to cope with climate impacts. However, specific information is needed to clarify the reasoning per component as well as whether the proposed project considers cofinancing.

CR11: Please provide a clear explanation of how each component and activity is justified solely on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning i.e. that it can stand alone and be effectively implemented with AF resources only.

CR12: Please state clearly if the proposed project considers additional funding from other donors.

August 25, 2026

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR11: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II. J, paragraph 99.

CR12: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II. J, paragraph 98.

December 15, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CAR6 (NEW):

At paragraph 98 the following is stated “All components and activities have been formulated on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning, meaning that each intervention directly addresses climate-induced risks and vulnerabilities that would not be tackled under a baseline or development-only scenario.

This is not what FCOA meant in the context of the adaptation fund. Please indicate in the section that the project as presented will be able to be effectively delivered with the AF resources requested from the AF.

May 5, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR6 (NEW): Cleared

Paragraph 98 revised

June 22, 2026

Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed.

The concept note provides the project alignment with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund. However, the alignment table need to be revised to ensure consistency at Adaptation Fund outcome and output levels.

Based on the information provided in this table, the supported AF outcomes include outcomes 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8 are currently selected at table 13 but the associated outputs do not all align with these in table 14 as it currently includes 8, 3, 4 and 7 as well.

CR13: Kindly revise Part III,

1. Tables 13 and 14 should be one table with a top and a bottom with both top and bottom being aligned with the outcomes selected (top) matching the outputs associated with that outcome (bottom).

2. Please ensure that the grant amount is separate per outcome/output indicator and that the top and the bottom of the table provide equal amounts with both summing separating to the total components costs

reflected in Table 4. Project Components and financing.

August 25, 2026

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR13: Not Cleared.

Kindly ensure that table 14 separates the grant amounts by outcomes. Please utilize the updated template Results Framework Alignment Table (Amended in November 2025) (77 kB, DOC)

December 15, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR13: Not Cleared.

While the wording and numbering of the outcomes, outputs, and indicators are correct, please revise the upper part of the table related to the objectives. According to the Results Framework Alignment Table, this section should include all specific objectives rather than the general objective. Consequently, the Grant Amount should be presented per component.

February 2, 2026

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR13: Cleared. See Table 13, pp. 47-50, and IE response.

May 5, 2026

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR 12(re-opened):

At table 13 please ensure that;

1. the total being presented represents only the total component costs (\$25,545,454)and not the total project cost.
2. all decimal points are removed from the table.

June 22, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR12 (reopened): Cleared

1/ Total figures in Table 13 represent the total component costs (not the total project cost)

2/ Table 13 does not contain decimals

July 31, 2026

Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed.

Part II. K outlines broadly the project's sustainability, including institutional strengthening, private sector participation, participation of local communities and strategic alliances. However, information on the benefits sustainability is limited and it is unclear how they will be sustained after the end of the project. Moreover, no information is provided on the arrangements for the maintenance of infrastructure and equipment after the life of the project, nor is there information on the commitment of government allocate additional resources to the

project after the life of the project.

CR14: Kindly explain the arrangements required for the project's benefits sustainability, including regulatory, institutional and financial resources. Please explain clearly how replication and scaling up of the proposed project activities and benefits will be achieved.

August 25, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR14: Not cleared.

Kindly indicates all arrangements required for the project's benefits sustainability. Please state clearly how replication and scaling up of the proposed project activities and benefits will be achieved.

December 15, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR14: Cleared.

Based on information in PFG form that Sustainability and exit strategy will be further explored through the PFG.
February 2, 2026

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CR1 (NEW):

1. Please revisit the start date of the PFG to a date post AFB 47.
2. Please update the project implementation timeline at the project calendar since a PFG is being applied for and the PFG implementation must be completed before project start.

CAR5 (NEW): Please ensure that the PFG is signed once re-submitted.

May 5, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR1(NEW):Cleared

The PGF has been revised to start

November 2026 which is after AFB 47 (October 2026). New Project start date July 2028.

CAR5 (NEW): Cleared. PGF is signed

June 22, 2026

Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Unsure.

The proposed project provides an assessment of the 15 risks of the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy. An initial gender analysis is included in Annex A, pages 41-47. However, please note that ESP 1,4, and 6 will always require assessments and the project classification (A, B or C) from the screening is not included.

CAR2: Kindly state the category in which the screening process has classified the project (Category A, B or C). Please see the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and its guidance document. Also, ensure that these categories reflect AF ESP and not necessarily the IE policy, and make reference to the gender assessment.

CAR3: Please revise all principles in table 12 to properly address all the project's risks. Also considers in the

review that principles 1, 4 and 6 always apply. Additionally, kindly rephrase each as a risk. For example, by stating “There is a risk that XX”.

CR15: For each identified risk, please include the following:

- (a) all potential direct, indirect, dary, and cumulative impacts and risks that could result from the proposed project based on the 15 Adaptation Fund ESP principles.
- (b) Risk level [low, medium or high]
- (c) Any mitigation plan/action.
- (d) In case of no further assessment required, it should include a sound justification.
- (e) Remove all text from column 2 and only include an ‘X’ in the event no further assessment is required.

August 25, 2025

Response: Pending

Secretariat: CAR2: Not cleared.

- 1. Please state the category in which the screening process has classified the project (Category A, B or C).
- 2. At part II Section L please insert a few sentences addressing how USP risks will be addressed in the implementation of the project and its compliance to the ESMP which will be developed for the proposal since based on the elements in Component 2 and 3 the project will likely contain USPs.

CAR3: Not cleared.

Please revise Principles 1, 4, and 6, as they are always applicable.

CR15: Not cleared.

For each identified risk:

- (a) Any mitigation plan or action should begin with the statement: “This risk will be mitigated [specific action]”.
- (b) After describing the risk, if no further assessment is required, please provide the justification in a separate paragraph, starting with: “No further assessment is required as [sound justification]”.
- (c) Please revise all 15 principles to amend which ones require further assessment. Only include an ‘X’ in the event no further assessment is required.

December 15, 2025

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR2: Cleared.

- 1. See p. 47; 2. See CAR2 (NEW) above.

CAR3: Cleared.

Principles 1, 4, and 6 have been applied.

CR15: Cleared.

For each identified risk, the risk level, potential impacts, and mitigation measures are described. In cases where “No further assessment is required for compliance”, all justifications have been provided.

February 2, 2026

Does the project promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, such as new approaches, technologies and mechanisms?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes.

As per information provided in Part II.A titled “Innovation and the opportunity to learn from each other” (pages 16 – 17) and Part II.H (pages 30-31). It describes how the project contributes to: Rolling out innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies that have demonstrated success in one country to new countries/regions

August 25, 2025

Resource Availability

Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the regional projects/programmes?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes

August 25, 2026

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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes. However amendment is required.

CAR4: Please ensure that all figures are rounded to a whole number (no decimal points), and fees are correct in size (10% each). In addition, numbers add up correctly throughout the concept note.

CR16: The proposed project includes a PFG request, correct in size, at USD 150,000. However, please clarify if both 1. UNEP 2. Cuban National Institute of Territorial Planning and Urbanism (INOTU) and 3. Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources will be executing the PFG. If not, please amend the PFG request form.

August 25, 2025

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR4: Not cleared.

Please ensure that all figures do not include decimal points, for example, in Table 4.

CR16: Cleared.

The PFG indicates that UNEP will be executing the PFG. The form has been amended to include IE fee, set at USD 12,750

December 15, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR4: Not cleared.

Figures for components 2, 3 and 4, as well as the "Project Execution Cost", "Total Project Cost", the Implementing Entity Fee and the "Amount of Financing Requested" still have decimals (.00). Please remove all decimal points. This should be consistent throughout the CN.

February 2, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR4: Cleared.

See "Components & Financing" Table 4, pp.16-17.

CAR4 (New): In Table 4, pp.16-17,
please indicate costs at output level.
May 5, 2026

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR4 (New): Cleared

Costs are at output levels indicated in table 4. However, the table reflects figure with decimals such as .6; .3 etc.
please amend as there should be not decimal points figures should be rounded.
June 22, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR4 (NEW): Cleared

Table 4 figures have been rounded.
July 31, 2026

Eligibility of IE

Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Multilateral or Regional Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?

Response: Pending

Secretariat: Yes.

UNEP is an accredited Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE). Its accreditation expires on 29 November 2025.
August 25, 2026

Response: Pending

Secretariat: No.

UNEP is an accredited Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE). Its accreditation expired on 29 November 2025. 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.
December 15, 2026

Response: Pending

Secretariat: No.

UNEP is an accredited Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE). Its accreditation expired on 29 November 2025. 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.

February 2, 2026

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes.

UNEP is an accredited Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE). as per Decision B.46/43.

May 5, 2026



Revised PFG Submission Form¹
Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 05/15/2026

Adaptation Fund Project ID:

Country/ies: Cuba and the Dominican Republic

Title of Project/Programme:

Type of IE (MIE): Nature-based adaptation in urban and riverine areas of Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

Implementing Entity: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Executing Entity/ies: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	November 2026
Completion date of PFG	November 2027

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note²
1.Stakeholder consultations	Stakeholder consultation reports	25,250	Includes stakeholder consultation meetings and community level consultations per country
2. Full proposal formulation	Full proposal document and annexes endorsed by the Designated Authorities.	102,000	Consultancy firm cost based on market rates
3 Validation workshop	Validation workshop report	10,000	1 validation workshop per country
Total PFG activities		137250	
IE management fee		12,750	

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.

Total Project Formulation Grant		150,000	
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The PFG activities include:

1. Stakeholder consultation

Building on the concept note stage consultation workshops carried out in Cuba and in Dominican Republic as part of the Nature for Cities project the PFG funding will enable the implementation of more in-depth stakeholder consultation including key informant interviews and field level consultations among the communities in the selected river basins and target municipalities and to collect further data and information to develop the full proposal. In particular more in-depth local level consultations will allow:

- Further site prioritization within target municipalities and river basins.
- Identification of the roles and responsibilities of each government institution and stakeholders at the national, regional, district, and community levels in project implementation and monitoring at different levels.
- Identification of result framework SMART indicators and targets aligned with the Adaptation Results Framework.
- Identification of costed activities necessary to attain the planned outputs and outcomes and a detailed budget.
- M&E and knowledge management plan, Gender Action Plan and Environmental and Social Management Plan.
- Sustainability and exit strategy

2. Full proposal development and annexes

The information gathered during the above in-depth and implementation-oriented consultation process will be used to develop the full proposal (PART III), including:

- Detailed Results Framework for the project, including SMART indicators and targets aligned with the Adaptation Results Framework.
- Implementation workplan and milestones.
- Costed M&E and knowledge management plan.
- Risk register
- Implementation arrangements
- Detailed budget and budget notes including quantification of stakeholders' in-kind contributions
- Sustainability and exit strategy

During full proposal development and particularly during stakeholder consultations phase, the geographic scope with delineation of the boundaries of the target basin and urban areas of intervention will be defined in a participatory and consultative manner. This will result in the identification of exclusion zones such as protected areas, areas of disputed land to avoid uncertainty on the risk categorization. Additionally, the full proposal will develop a fixed menu of interventions with eligibility and exclusion criteria. Based on the above, this level of spatial clarity and scope of eligible activities will allow the project to conduct an ESS screening and ESMP at full proposal stage, avoiding USPs due to undetermined location.

Annexes:

- Stakeholder Engagement and Project Implementation Plan defining the roles and responsibilities of each government institution, implementation partners and stakeholders at the national, regional, district and community level in the project implementation and monitoring at different levels. The plan will include measures to mitigate financial, reputational, security and other risks.

- Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan

A project gender assessment will be developed to identify gender-differentiated climate impacts, risks, and opportunities to address gender gaps and promote women's empowerment in the specific context of target rural and urban settings along the Shabelle watershed. A costed Gender Action Plan for the project will be developed identifying gender-responsive measures to address differences, identified impacts, risks, and opportunities. The plan will include indicators and sex-disaggregated targets in the project results framework.

- Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

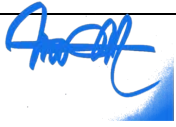
A re-screening of the project design for ESS risks will be carried out. An environmental and social management plan will scope the main environmental and social safeguards risks and identify mitigation measures through consultations and lessons learned. The ESMP will be developed to align with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and UNEP's Social and Environmental Sustainability Framework.

3. Validation workshop

A validation workshop will enable the incorporation of final stakeholder's feedback and validate the project design prior to the obtention of the letters of endorsement and submission.

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
UNEP Mirey Atallah		05/15/2026	Jessica Troni	+254795751062	Jessica.troni@un.org



ADAPTATION FUND

Letter of Endorsement by Government

DRI: 787/2025

September 25, 2025

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

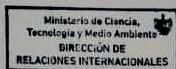
Subject: Approval of Nature-based adaptation in urban and riverine areas of Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by UNEP and executed by National Institute of Territorial Planning and Urbanism (INOTU).

Sincerely,

Dr. C. Lisbet Font Vila
Designated Authority of Cuba for the Adaptation Fund





VCCyS-0139-2025

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
August 8th, 2025

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

Subject: Endorsement for *"Nature-based adaptation in urban and riverine areas of Cuba and the Dominican Republic."*

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,


Ana Emilia Pimentel
Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund
Deputy Minister of Climate Change and Sustainability
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources



AEP/ICB/sd
