



Approval of request for the extension of project inception date: World Meteorological Organization (Regional: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria)

Weight of request: Minor

Summary of request

On 9 July 2026, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) submitted a first request for extension of project inception date for the project “Integrated Water Resources Management and Early Warning System for Climate Change Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin”, implemented in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

The project inception was expected to take place by the 6 July 2026. WMO has requested that the inception date be postponed to 20 December 2026, while indicating that the inception workshop is most likely to be held by 31 October 2026. According to the memo provided by WMO, the delay is primarily attributed to financial challenges caused by recent USD/CHF exchange rate fluctuations, which have affected the planned recruitment arrangements for the WMO Project Manager. WMO has explained that the originally budgeted resources are no longer sufficient under the initial implementation approach. As a result, alternative implementation arrangements are being explored and require approval by executing entities’ management. Preparations of the agreements with the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Global Water Partnership Central Africa are also underway, including the Memorandum of Understanding, the first-year Annual Work Plan and the recruitment of executing entity project staff.

WMO has identified mitigation measures to support timely project start-up, including finalizing the implementation arrangements for the WMO Project Manager, continuing the parallel preparation of agreements with the executing entities, maintaining regular coordination between the implementing and executing entities, and communicating the tentative dates of the inception workshop to member countries, Designated Authorities and other stakeholders.

Secretariat’s review of the request

The secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by WMO and considers the request for extension of project inception date to be justified. It also acknowledges that the DAs have been duly notified, in line with the Policy for Project/Programme Delays (Amended, 2025).

Conclusion

Following the review of the request for a postponement of the project inception date from 6 July 2026 to 31 December 2026 submitted by WMO for the project “Integrated Water Resources Management and Early Warning System for Climate Change Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin” implemented in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, the request has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy for Project/Programme Delays.

Clearance: AFSEC-2026-22