



ADAPTATION FUND

Approval of request for extension of project inception date: International Fund for Agricultural Development (Cuba, Panama)

Weight of request: Minor

Summary of request

On 3 August 2026, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) submitted a second request for extension of the project inception date for the project “Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity of Coastal Communities of Cuba and Panama to Climate Change through the Binational Exchange of Best Practices for Climate Management and Local Food Security” implemented in Cuba and Panama, from 18 September 2026 to 15 March 2027.

This request follows a previous extension of the project inception date from 19 March 2026 to 18 September 2026, which was cleared by the Secretariat on 16 March 2026 (AFBSEC-2026-09). The initial delay was attributed to the complexity of coordinating a regional project involving three executing entities, requiring additional time for joint planning, governance arrangements, and downstream agreements.

IFAD reports that significant progress has been made since the approval of the first extension, including the finalization of downstream agreements, the initiation of recruitment processes for key project staff, and the preparation of an operational manual. However, IFAD was unable to reach an agreement with FAO regarding the verification mission obligations required under the Project Agreement. As a result, alternative implementation arrangements are being developed, including the identification of a replacement for FAO’s role as Executing Entity and regional coordinator, which will require formal approval by the Adaptation Fund Board before project implementation can commence, as per the Policy for Post-Approval Request for Changes in Projects/Programmes.

Secretariat’s review of the request

The Secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by IFAD and considers the request for extension of project inception date to be justified. It also acknowledges that the Designated Authorities have been duly notified, in line with the Policy for Project/Programme Delays.

The Secretariat notes that the cumulative extension remains within the 12-month threshold established under the Policy for Project/Programme Delays. The Secretariat further notes the progress achieved since the approval of the first request, including the finalization of agreements with national executing entities and other project start-up activities. The Secretariat also acknowledges that unforeseen challenges related to the implementation arrangements with FAO have necessitated the development of alternative execution arrangements and the submission of a formal request for changes to implementation arrangements before project launch. The Secretariat further notes the mitigation measures being undertaken by IFAD, including enhanced coordination with project partners, consolidation of project documentation, and continued planning efforts to facilitate project launch as soon as the revised implementation arrangements are finalized and approved.

Conclusion

Following the review of the request for extension of project inception date from 18 September 2026 to 15 March 2027 submitted by IFAD for the project “Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity of Coastal Communities of Cuba and Panama to Climate Change through the Binational Exchange of Best Practices for Climate Management and Local Food Security” implemented in Cuba and Panama, the request has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy for Project/Programme Delays.

Clearance: AFBSEC-2026-24