AFB/B.47-48/5
19 November 2026

Adaptation Fund Board

REQUEST FOR NO COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLMENTS PROGRAMME (SOLOMON ISLANDS)

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its thirtieth meeting, approved a four-year project titled “Enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters: Honiara” submitted by the Secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for a total amount of US$ 4,395,877 (Decision B.30/26).

2. The overall objective of the project is to work with vulnerable urban communities in Honiara to implement climate adaptation actions and to undertake capacity strengthening initiatives across multiple urban scales – community, ward and city-wide (including issues that cross the city-province boundary) – in order to strengthen the city’s climate resilience. This will be achieved through the following components: (i) Community level actions; (ii) Community level capacity strengthening; (iii) Ward level actions; (iv) Ward level capacity strengthening; (v) City-wide governance and capacity strengthening; and (vi) Knowledge Management and advocacy.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and SPREP on 18 January 2018 and the project started implementation on 28 July 2018.

4. As of 29 October 2026, seven PPRs were cleared by the secretariat and a total project funding for an amount of US$ 3,938,550 including the project fees has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 89.6 % of the approved grant.

5. UN-Habitat was granted in 2021 and 2023 two COVID-related twelve-months no-cost extensions of the project completion date respectively from 27 June 2022 to 27 June 2023, and from 27 June 2023 to 27 June 2024, which the secretariat cleared in accordance with Decision B.35.b/16 (Ref. 2021/166 and 2023/118). On 25 March 2024, UN-Habitat submitted a third request for a regular eighteen month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 27 June 2024 to 27 December 2025, which was approved by the Board through decision B.42-43/8. On 24 June 2025, UN-Habitat submitted a fourth request for a regular eighteen month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 27 December 2025 to 27 June 2027, which was approved by the Board through decision B.44-45/17.

6. On 28 October 2026, UN-Habitat submitted a fifth request for a regular eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 27 June 2027 to 27 December 2028 (see annex 1). The request is primarily driven by the need to complete outstanding adaptation interventions following earlier delays associated with COVID-19, institutional capacity constraints and the strengthening of implementation arrangements. While implementation has accelerated and institutional coordination has improved, additional time is required to complete remaining ward-level interventions and activities related to capacity strengthening, city-wide governance and knowledge management, which involve further technical preparation, procurement and coordination with government institutions, implementing partners and communities. The extension would also enable the project to consolidate the sustainability of its investments through appropriate commissioning, handover and operation and maintenance arrangements, as well as continued monitoring and dissemination of results and lessons learned.

Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by UN-Habitat, the secretariat is of the view that this eighteen-month extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by UN-Habitat, it is noted that this request should allow sufficient time to deliver all remaining activities. Finally, 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

8. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 27 June 2027 to 27 December 2028, for the project “Enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters: Honiara” as requested by UN-Habitat.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from UN-Habitat.

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date from UN-Habitat

ANNEX A: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Implementing Entity Name:	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
AF Project/programme ID:	SLB/MIE/Urban/2016/1
Project/programme Title:	Enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters: Honiara
Country:	Solomon Islands
Project/Programme Approval (date):	12-13 October 2017, project started 28 June 2018 (Inception workshop)
Expected Project/programme Completion (date):	27/06/2022 (original) 27/06/2023 (first extension) 27/06/2024 (second extension) 27/12/2025 (third extension) 27/06/2027 (fourth extension)
Proposed Revised Completion (date):	27 December 2028

Reasons/justifications for the extension of project/programme completion:

Since the approval of the previous no-cost extension, significant progress has been made in project implementation. Following earlier delays associated with COVID-19, institutional capacity constraints and the need to strengthen implementation arrangements, the project has entered an accelerated delivery phase. Institutional coordination and implementation capacity have been strengthened, particularly through the engagement of Honiara City Council and other project partners. A substantial portfolio of community- and ward-level adaptation interventions is now underway or being mobilized across Honiara, addressing priority climate and disaster risks identified by communities, including flooding, inadequate drainage, coastal erosion and limited access to safe infrastructure. These interventions encompass drainage and access improvements, water and sanitation infrastructure, evacuation and community facilities, and nature-based solutions, with the majority expected to be completed by May 2027.

Nevertheless, additional time is required to complete the remaining activities across several project components, particularly additional ward-level interventions, capacity strengthening, city-wide governance and knowledge management. These activities require further technical preparation, procurement and coordination with government institutions, implementing partners and communities. Procurement and contracting must also account for site-specific technical requirements, environmental and social safeguards, contractor capacity and the limited local supplier market. The requested extension will allow these activities to be appropriately sequenced and implemented in accordance with UN-Habitat's applicable technical, fiduciary and safeguards procedures.

Beyond completing physical investments, the project must also consolidate their contribution to lasting urban resilience. Additional time is needed to strengthen the linkages between infrastructure delivery, community engagement, institutional capacity development and city-wide governance, while ensuring appropriate commissioning, handover and operation and maintenance arrangements. Continued monitoring, documentation and dissemination of project results and lessons learned will further reinforce institutional ownership, sustainability and the potential for replication of successful adaptation approaches.

UN-Habitat accordingly requests an additional 18-month no-cost extension, from 27 June 2027 to 27 December 2028, with the intention of completing the remaining substantive activities within the first 12 months and allowing the final six months for project closure. With implementation arrangements substantially strengthened and a significant portfolio of adaptation investments underway, the proposed extension will provide a realistic timeframe to complete outstanding activities, effectively utilize remaining project resources and safeguard the Adaptation Fund's investment, ensuring the full achievement and sustainability of the project's intended outcomes for Honiara's vulnerable communities.

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 (DA) has been notified.



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