



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.42-43/13
13 July 2024

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR NO-COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT
COMPLETION DATE: THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION (CHILE, COLOMBIA, PERU)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during the intersessional period between its thirty-third and thirty-fourth meeting, approved a four-year project titled “Enhancing adaptive capacity of Andean communities through climate services (ENANDES)” submitted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for a total amount of US\$ 7,432,250 (Decision B.33-34/23).

2. The overall objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of society and communities to adapt to a varying and changing climate by producing, communicating and assessing the use of credible, authoritative, and useful information as the scientific evidence for decision- and policy-making on preparedness for, and reduction of damages from climatic hazards in Chile, Colombia and Peru. This will be achieved through the following outcomes: (i) Enhanced design, production and communication of climate/water information and services; (ii) Strengthened institutional coordination and value-adding tools and processes allow climate/weather information to be tailored and translated into user-centric and sector-specific adaptation actions; (iii) Engaged and empowered stakeholders have participated in the co-development and implementation of local plans and activities for adaptation to climate variability and change that rely on climate/water information; and (iv) Regional and global coordination and cooperation mechanisms are strengthened; lessons, tools and approaches from ENANDES help others to provide climate services and replicate adaptation actions elsewhere.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and WMO in November 2019 and the project started implementation on 2 February 2021.

4. The project implementing entity submitted two project performance reports (PPRs), which have been cleared by the secretariat, and as of 22 May 2024, a total project funding for an amount of US\$ 6,688,800 including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 89.9% of the approved grant.

5. On 30 April 2024, WMO submitted a request for a regular twelve-months no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 1 February 2025 to 1 February 2026 (see Annex 1).

6. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.34-35/6), an implementing entity may request for a project/programme extension beyond the original completion date for up to 18 months for a concrete adaptation project/programme if (i) no additional funds are required; (ii) the project/programme’s originally approved scope will not change; and (iii) the entity provides reasons and justifications for the extension. The DA must be notified of an extension request.

7. As outlined in the memo shared by WMO, the reasons for such a request are multi-faceted. They include COVID-19 related restrictions which affected the implementation of the project activities, unexpected administrative challenges which delayed the finalization of implementation agreements between WMO and the Executing Entities, and staff turnover within the Executing Entities, among others.

Secretariat’s review of the request

8. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by WMO, the secretariat is of the view that this twelve-months no-cost extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by WMO (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time to complete all remaining activities, including the community adaptation investments and project terminal evaluation.

9. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entities and that the Designated Authorities have been notified, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

10. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for a twelve-months no-cost extension of the project completion date from 1 February 2025 to 1 February 2026, for the project “Enhancing adaptive capacity of Andean communities through climate services (ENANDES)” as requested by WMO.

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date from WMO

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

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Ref: 0687Z2024-13 SACS
Approved by Christopher Hewitt, Tue Apr 30 07:55:44 UTC 2024

Implementing Entity Name: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)			
AF Project/programme ID: -LAC/MJ E/DRR/2018 2			
Project/programme Title: Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Andean Communities through Climate Services (ENANDES)			
Country: Chile, Colombia, Peru			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	8 July 2019		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	01 February 2025	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	01 February 2026

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

About the project:

The "Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Andean Communities through Climate Services" - ENANDES is a USD 7,4 Million project funded by the Adaptation Fund that seeks to strengthen the capacity of society and communities in Chile, Colombia and Peru to adapt to climate variability and change. The project aims at enhancing the provision of "climate services" at regional and national levels. Climate services is the timely production, translation, and delivery of climate information and knowledge for societal decision making. These services are intended to support both climate risk management and adaptation planning to promote sustainable development in the region. The project will address three priority sectors as identified in the countries NDCs: i) agriculture and food security, ii) disaster risk reduction, and iii) water and energy. ENANDES helps building human and infrastructure capacity, and seeking to overcome institutional, technological and cultural barriers through increased coordination among climate and non-climate actors of society.

The project is structured around four major components, generating four outcomes, focused on:

- 1) Enhancing the design, production and communication of climate and water information and services (Outcome 1)
- 2) Strengthening institutional coordination to facilitate the targeting of information, products, and services to user needs (Outcome 2)
- 3) Engaging and empowering of stakeholders in the co-development and implementation of local plan for adaptation (Outcome 3)
- 4) Strengthening regional and global coordination and cooperation for the provision of climate services and adaptation actions (Outcome 4).

Rational for extension:

Significant progress has been made since the project's inception in February 2021 in the three countries involved. The regional articulation among National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and Regional Centers have significantly improved. Nevertheless, an extension of the project duration is requested based on the following factors outside the scope of the project:

1. **COVID19 related restrictions** affected the implementation of the activities for more than a year after the project inception and public kick-off. Executing Entities belonging

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to National Public Administration were compelled to shift to remote working and faced restricted access to their offices until Q3 2022 or later. For instance, the Meteorological Directorate of Chile did not resume normal operations until October 2022 when 100% of staff returned to the office facilities. Similarly, in Colombia the emergency measures were lifted in June 2022. Lastly in Peru, the NMHS faced severe restrictions until May 2023 limiting officers' displacement and making community engagement unfeasible. Besides reducing the mobility of project staff, COVID19 severely **limited access to project demonstration areas**. Vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people, were subject to tight protection measures throughout the entire region and access/contact with them was subjected to severe restrictions in most of project pilot areas. This led to an overall delay in the inception of field activities and co-design of adaptation planning.

2. **Administrative challenges delayed the formalization of implementation agreements (IAs) between WMO and the executing entities (EE)s.** NMHS are not independent in their decision-making processes and any agreement with financial implications must go through a multiple step review carried out by different national authorities. This process led to a late signature of the IAs with partners: CIIFEN in May 2021; DMC in September 2021; IDEAM in October/December 2021; and SENAMHI in February 2022. This meant that the agreements were finalized at the end of the first year of implementation for two out of the four partners, namely IDEAM and SENAMHI. These partners therefore had no opportunities to receive their first shares of the grant before the beginning of second year of implementation. Even though DMC received the first disbursement before the end of 2021, it still faced administrative restrictions applied by the Government Accountability Office and could not access the project funding until July 2022.
3. Due to political elections, two of the Executing Entities faced a repeated **turnover among highest executives, including their directors**. The case of SENAMHI in Peru was notable, since the Executive President changed four times since the kickoff of ENANDES. While high-level turnover does not have a direct impact on project implementation, it generates a significant reduction in the implementation rate due to the time needed for official hand over and the related changes in the second lines of executives and officers. New Directors were promptly informed and engaged by the Project Manager and National Focal Points in order to reduce any delay or pause, and to keep the institution interested in the activities. Nevertheless, internal processes can slow down without the possibility of interacting and putting in place any corrective measure.
4. The above-mentioned situations generated a **reduced financial** expenditure that affected project partners. At the end of the third year of project implementation we recorded an overall execution of 40% of the project budget, that is reflecting the limitations faced during most of the first year and part of the second.
5. In Peru and Chile, the co-design of the adaptation strategy with the Energy Sector and DRR institutions is still in progress as well as the **evaluation of socio-economic benefits (SEB)** generated by the access and use of information on weather, water and climate. This is a crucial activity of the project with a significant number of tasks to be performed by IE and EEs with the support of academic allies. The findings of the evaluation will result in fundamental evidence of the long-term benefits generated by climate services for the targeted communities and sectors, displaying the added value generated by the information provided by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. Negotiation with HAFL was finalized at the end of 2021, nevertheless an unpredictable turnover in its executive board, forced the project to wait until the election of new representatives which resulted in a delay of the signing of the partnership agreement, mid 2023. Now the collaboration is ongoing, and it is imperative to finalize the work in order to provide new features and evidence of the value for money of the project strategy and the investment.

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6. A **Mid-term Evaluation (MTE)** was scheduled at the end of the second year of the project in order to assess progress made towards achievement of outcomes and to pinpoint corrective actions, leveraging on lessons learned and guaranteeing the sustainability of project outcomes. Due to the overall delay in 2021 and part of 2022, we believe that the real mid-point of the project is between January and February 2024, so the extension of project lifespan would permit a more accurate evaluation and application of any corrective action/strategy
7. We consider it important to highlight **the scale up of ENANDES** to 3 more countries (Bolivia, Argentina and Ecuador) and 2 more regional centers (Regional Climate Centre for Southern South America and regional Training Centre of Argentina), through the financial contribution of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) which **generated the ENANDES+** Initiative. With this extension, the regional collaboration and articulation covers almost all of the Andean Region. In this sense, an extension of ENANDES duration will permit to reduce the mismatch between the workplans of the two projects and to support and consolidate the collaboration between all the institutions involved under the umbrella of the ENANDES+ to achieve common goals, share best practices and keep on working together across borders to generate regional tools and platforms.

The IE has taken various actions to reduce delays, such as requesting the authorization for providing Direct Project Service to DMC and carrying out procurement on their behalf. At the same time WMO is preparing a similar request to support IDEAM and SENAMHI in order to overcome administrative challenges and for speeding up financial execution of national budget shares. Overall, the project is on track to deliver all major project outcomes and WMO has updated project Risk and Control Matrix with mitigation measures for any future implementation challenges.

WMO and the EEs hence request a 12 month no-cost extension up to the end of February 2026, which will be used to: 1) Implement and follow up on the community adaptation investments, which are a core aspect of the project; 2) conduct the project endline and evaluation within WMO and EE rules for conducting such (i.e., before operational closure of the project).

No additional funds are required and there will be no change in the project framework.

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 authorities (DAs) have been notified.	
<i>Name & Signature</i>	
Project/programme contact person: Moyenda Chaponda, Development Partnership Officer, Development Partnership Office, WMO	
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