



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.42-43/17
15 August 2024

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR REVISION OF THE PROJECT
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND POSTPONEMENT OF
PROJECT INCEPTION DATE:
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
(EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during its thirty-ninth meeting, approved a five-year project titled “Strengthening the adaptive capacities of climate-vulnerable communities in the Goascorán watershed of El Salvador and Honduras through integrated community-based adaptation practices and services” in El Salvador and Honduras, submitted by the World Food Programme (WFP) for a requested amount of US\$12,048,300.00 (Decision B.39/35).
2. The objective of the project is to strengthen the climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable households in the degraded transboundary watershed of Goascorán, across El Salvador and Honduras by providing communities with integrated climate risk management tools and services that enhance their resilience to climate variability and change. The project will support the adoption and dissemination of traditional and innovative climate-resilient practices and technologies within a gender-transformative integrated approach.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and WFP on 1 February 2023. The project inception was estimated to take place on 7 August 2023.
4. On 11 August 2023, WFP submitted a first notification of delay of project inception date from 7 August 2023 to 1 February 2024. On 2 February 2024, WFP submitted a second notification of delay of project inception from 1 February 2024 to 1 August 2024. Both these requests for a postponement of project inception date, were approved by the secretariat, in line with Decision B.34/45 and with provisions set forth in the Policy for Project Delays.
5. On 18 July 2024, WFP submitted a third notification of delay of project inception, postponed to 30 September 2024 with an estimated project completion date on 29 September 2029. As per Board Decision B.36/35, an implementing entity whose project or programme experiences, due to exceptional circumstances, a significant delay in inception (exceeding 12 months from the standard inception target of six months from the first cash transfer) is requested to submit to the Board, through the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat, a request for revision of the project implementation schedule, including a revised inception date for intersessional consideration.
6. The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by WFP, are due to an unforeseen delay related to the institutional periods required for the approval and signature process of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with the Executing Entities (EEs) that in the case of El Salvador required internal approval of the signatories. The review and adjustment processes of the SOP and MOUs with the EEs and securing signatures following the approval of changes in implementation arrangements requested by the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA), EE in Honduras, took longer than anticipated. An additional two months are needed to complete the approval process and signature of agreements with both governments.
7. In both countries, WFP reports active collaboration with relevant authorities to expedite preparations for the inception workshop, which is scheduled to take place no later than September 30th. Additionally, WFP is intensifying communication and coordination efforts, establishing regular check-ins with stakeholders to address any emerging challenges promptly.

Secretariat's review of the request

8. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by WFP, the secretariat is of the view that this request for a revision of the project implementation schedule (Annex 2), including a two-months postponement of project inception is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by WFP (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time for the project to finalize the necessary steps to start project implementation.

9. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this delay in project/programme delay request has been agreed with the Executing Entities, and the Designated Authorities were 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 revision of the project implementation schedule, including a postponement of project inception date from 1 August 2024 to 30 September 2024, for the project "Strengthening the adaptive capacities of climate-vulnerable communities in the Goascorán watershed of El Salvador and Honduras through integrated community-based adaptation practices and services" in El Salvador and Honduras, as requested by WFP.

Annex 1: Request for revision of the project implementation schedule, including a revised inception date sent by WFP

NOTIFICATION OF DELAY OF PROJECT OR PROGRAMME INCEPTION

Notification of delay of project/programme start (As per Decision B.18/29, for concrete adaptation projects/programmes, the Board decided to consider the start date to be the first day of the project/ programme's inception workshop)

Implementing Entity Name: World Food Programme			
AF Project/programme ID: AF00000165			
Project/programme Title: Strengthening the adaptive capacities of climate-vulnerable communities in the Goascorán watershed of El Salvador and Honduras through integrated community-based adaptation practices and services			
Country(ies): El Salvador, Honduras			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	October 2022 (Decision B.39/35)		
Expected Project/programme Start (date)	30 September 2024	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	29 September 2029

1. Reasons/ justification for delay in the project's/programme's inception and the number of months of delay from the project approval date

The project inception has encountered an unforeseen delay, mainly because of the necessary institutional periods required for the approval and signature process of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with the Executing Entities that in the case of El Salvador required internal approval of the signatories.

The complex review and adjustment processes of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with the Executing Entities and securing signatures following the approval of changes in implementation arrangements requested by SERNA, has taken longer than anticipated. However, there is steady progress:

- SERNA requested changes in implementation arrangements and WFP submitted this request for AF approval on April 8, 2024.
- AF notified the approval of the requested project implementation amendment on June 27, 2024; allowing to finalize the MOUs and SOP without altering project activities, budget, or implementation plan.
- WFP and executing entities have completed MoUs and SOP; nevertheless, legal procedures require that the final versions of both documents be signed together. Approval from Adaptation Fund was necessary to finalize the SOP and MARN's internal approval process to obtain "full powers of attorney" takes two months.

Therefore, an additional two months are needed to complete the approval process and signature of agreements with both governments. The new proposed start date is September 30, 2024. Please refer to Annex 1 for the detailed milestones and dates for the next two months.

2. *Approaches/ mitigation measures to ensure the start of implementation.*

To ensure that the project starts within the proposed timeframe, the following measures will be considered:

- Having obtained approval from the Adaptation Fund Board of the implementation arrangements requested by SERNA, the binational SOPs and MOUs approval and signature processes in both countries will be finalized. The government of El Salvador needs to ensure that all necessary steps involved in the power of attorney process are completed within a maximum timeframe of two months. This condition is designed to ensure that the project's execution start is devoid of any associated risks or delays.
- In both countries, WFP is actively collaborating with relevant authorities to expedite the preparations for the inception workshop, which will be scheduled to take place on September 30th at the latest.

Additionally, WFP is intensifying communication and coordination efforts, establishing regular check-ins with stakeholders to address any emerging challenges promptly.

3. *Challenges (in addition to those mentioned in section 1) that may extend the project/program completion date)*

Other factors that could affect the timely implementation and achievement of project objectives by the completion date may include unforeseen regulatory changes, shifts in political landscapes, or external factors related to extreme weather events.


WFP is committed to diligently working with both MARN in El Salvador and SERNA in Honduras to ensure effective cooperation and enable the project to meet its objectives according to the approved work plan. This approach will involve comprehensive coordination with key stakeholders in both Governments and in the binational watershed.

Implementing Entity certification

This notification for the delay in project/programme inception has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, and the delay in project/programme start has been agreed by participating executing entities and has been notified to the designated authority(ies) (DA).


Riaz Lodhi, Country Director
WFP El Salvador

17 July 2024


Stephanie Hochstetter, Country Director
WFP Honduras

17 July 2024

Date: (Month, Day, Year)

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Project Pre-Inception Milestones in the next 3 months

1. AF Board Approval of DPS Changes Requested by SERNA (April 9, 2024)	27 June 2024
2. Technical Pre-Inception workshop in the field, with MARN, SERNA and WFP ESV and WFP HON.	09-10 July 2024
3. Potential changes to MOUs and SOP received from AF Board Secretariat incorporated into documents and sent for final review by MARN and SERNA	12 July 2024
4. Official feedback and approval of MOUs and SOP received from MARN and SERNA	19 July 2024
5. Request of full powers of attorney for MOU and SOP signature by MARN	20 July 2024
6. Review and dissemination of tools/methodologies for targeting, monitoring, feedback mechanisms, safeguard action plans, FPIC, and gender with MARN and SERNA	22 July – 16 August 2024
7. Initiation of the coordination process with MARN and SERNA to organize the project inception workshop, including aspects of communication, visibility, logistics, and invitation management.	22 July – 16 August 2024
8. Approval of full powers of attorney for MOU and SOP signature by MARN	20 September 2024
9. Inception Workshop and signing of MOUs and SOP by MARN and SERNA	30 September 2024 <i>(at the latest)</i>

Annex 2:Project Workplan.

Project Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Activities revised	Timeframe																					
				2024	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				
					Yr1		Yr2		Yr3		Yr4		Yr5		Yr6		Yr7		Yr8		Yr9				
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3		
			Inception workshop	sep																					
Monitoring and Evaluation			Inception Report	oct																					
1. Enabling climatevulnerable communities to practice community based adaptation within an integrated watershed management approach	1.1 Vulnerable households and communities have strengthened capacities to adopt community based adaptation measures to manage climate risks within the Goascoran watershed	1.1.1 Goascoran's integrated watershed management approach is linked to community based adaptation processes to support vulnerable communities and households	1.1.1.1 Identify adaptation options that address community vulnerabilities and adaptation gaps	C	E	R																			
			1.1.1.2 Integrate community adaptation needs into local development plans	C		A	P	P	E	E	E	E	E	E/R	E							R			
			1.1.1.3 Development of a Handbook on Adapataion Option for the Goascoran watershed	C		E	E			R				R									R		
			1.1.1.4 Facilitate knowledge sharing between communities and territories and development of a regional platform on knowledge management and dissemination of good practices.	C				D	D	D	D	E	E	E/R	E	E	E	H	H	H	H	H	R		
		1.1.2 Well-proven climate adaptation practices are introduced, applied and scale up for vulnerale smallholder farmer households in the Goascoran watershed	1.1.2.1 Development of community-based adaptation plans (CBAP) in the project areas			D	E	E	E					R											
			1.1.2.2 Development of technical capacities of rural extensionists and advisory agents, and Training of Trainers for community leaders, smallholder farmers and other local actors in the project areas					E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E/R	E	E	E						R	
			1.1.2.3 Introduce, implement, and scale up climate-resilient livelihood practices and technologies trough an integrated package of gender-sensitive, culturally appropriated and transformative adaptation measures according to the watershed agroclimatic areas					E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E/R	E	E	E	H	H	H	H	H	R	
		1.1.3 Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and disaster risk reduction approaches are introduced, applied and scaled up across communities in the Goascoran watershed	1.1.3.1 Undertake a mapping of climate and disaster risks to the ecosystems of the Goascoran watershed	R	E	E																	R		
			1.1.3.2 Integrate climate and disaster risks for the ecosystems of the Goascoran watershed into local DRR plans			A	P	P	E	E	E	E	E	E/R	E									R	
			1.1.3.3 Support capacity strengthening of local government and community actors to promote EbA and Eb-DRR measures	E	E	E	E	E	E/R	E	E	E	E	E	R										
			1.1.3.4 Implement EbA and Eb-DRR practices and within the Goascoran watershed including land restoration and soil, forest, water conservation nature-based measures					E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E/R	E	E	E	H	H	H	H	H	R	

