



ADAPTATION FUND

The background of the slide is a photograph of a lush green garden. In the foreground, there are several clumps of tall, green, blade-like plants, possibly irises, growing in a garden bed. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees, creating a vibrant and natural setting.

GUIDANCE ON UPDATED OPERATIONAL POLICIES AND NEW CAP FOR LEARNING GRANTS

Post-AFB43 Webinar

October 29, 2024

BACKGROUND

At the forty-second meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) in April 2024, with the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Board decided:

- (a)** To approve the increase of learning grants from **US\$ 150,000 to US\$ 500,000** per project to provide support for national implementing entities in capturing and disseminating practical lessons from adaptation interventions, and to request the secretariat:
 - i. To prepare operational policies for the learning grant window, reflecting the change in project scale;***
 - ii. To prepare, through a consultative process, a proposal for a framework approach for bundling small grants;***
 - iii. To present the outputs of the work described under subparagraphs (b) (i) and (b) (ii) above to the Project and Programme Review Committee at its thirty-fourth meeting.***

(Decision B.42/34)

GUIDANCE ON UPDATED OPERATIONAL POLICIES AND NEW CAP FOR LEARNING GRANTS

Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To adopt the revised project proposal template and the updated instructions for preparing a request for learning grant funding and request the secretariat to include them as updates of the operational policy of the Adaptation Fund;
- (b) To request the secretariat to inform the national implementing entities (NIEs) of the updated policy-mentioned in subparagraph (a) and the updated project template and guidance contained in annexes I and II to document AFB/PPRC.34/10;
- (c) To request the secretariat to communicate the proposed indicators contained in table 1 of document AFB/PPRC.34/10 to the NIEs for application during a pilot phase;
- (d) To request the secretariat to consider feedback from the pilot phase of application of learning indicators when revising the strategic results framework, project performance reports and other relevant documents

(Decision B.43/21)

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Activities that could be funded by the learning grants:

- *Lessons learnt, Studies and publications, Technical guidance briefs, Policy briefs, Partnerships, Knowledge platforms, Adaptation financing workshops, Resource centers, Knowledge sharing events, Country exchanges, Learning courses*

Given the increased scope of learning grants, additional activities from the ones stated above may be considered, such as:

- Activities related to the **monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL)** process to better support the implementation of the evaluation policy and support measurability and evaluability of project results;
- Activities related to encouraging **innovation in adaptation**;
- Activities that support catalyzing the **locally-led initiatives** and actors in **research and academia** in taking a more active and action-oriented role in providing solutions for innovative science-based adaptation.



ALIGNMENT WITH THE FUND'S RESULT FRAMEWORK

- Projects or programmes funded through the Fund must align with the Fund's results framework and contribute to the overall objective and outcomes outlined.
- A proposed results framework w. clear outcomes and **indicators have been developed for learning grants** to support annual performance measuring and results evaluation (mid-way, end MTS2 period).
- These **additional indicators would complement current** Strategic Results Framework (SRF) and are expected to be incorporated into the revised SRF.
- Specifically, for learning grants, project outcomes should be aligned with the Fund level Outcome for strengthening awareness and ownership of adaptation climate risk reduction (**Outcome 3**).
- Once the first funds are transferred to the project, the NIE is required to submit a project performance report (PPR) **on an annual basis** using the regular PPR template. Some sections will be partially revised to reflect proposed learning indicators for learning grants
- Given the increase in scale for learning grants, the funding will be disbursed in **annual trenches** upon submission of the PPR

UPDATED GUIDANCE

- The guidance document is relevant for National Implementing Entities (NIEs) submitting learning grant proposals.
- The guidance is applicable for **Section D** of the application template which focuses on Implementation Arrangements, specifically for part D2 and part D3.

D. Implementation Arrangements

D1. Describe the arrangements for project implementation

D2. Include a simple results framework for the project proposal, including milestones, targets and indicators.

D3. Describe how the project/program aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

Project Objective(s)	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)

D4. Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones.





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FRAMEWORK APPROACH FOR BUNDLING SMALL INNOVATION AND LEARNING GRANTS

Post-AFB43 Webinar

October 29, 2024

FRAMEWORK FOR BUNDLING SMALL INNOVATION AND LEARNING GRANTS

Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the proposed bundling framework;
- (b) (b) To request the secretariat:
 - (i) To inform the national implementing entities (NIEs) of the bundled grant modality and the process for accessing grants under it;
 - (ii) To prepare and present the NIEs with additional guidance on filling out the new proposal template;
 - (iii) To report to the Project and Programme Review Committee on status of actions under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) at its thirty-fifth meeting;
 - (iv) To prepare a progress report on the implementation of the bundling framework with lessons learned and further recommendations for improvement, as appropriate, for consideration by the Project and Programme Review Committee at its thirty-eighth meeting.

(Decision B.43/22)

FRAMEWORK APPROACH FOR BUNDLING

Bundling process:

- Once an NIE determines there is a specific need to blend innovation and learning funds, they may decide to combine resources under the different funding windows for learning and innovation and access funding via a single submission.
- NIE may submit a single proposal using the **updated application form for small innovation grants** (includes additional criteria for learning). **Justification (Part II.E)** description of how learning in innovation will be generated, captured and contribute to increased climate resilience in the country.
- **Bundled proposal should not exceed US\$ 750,000** representing the combined max. amount of learning (US\$ 500,000) and small innovation grants (US\$ 250,000).
- NIEs **retain the flexibility to apply for each grant individually** in cases where the complementarity of the two grants is not immediately evident.



REVIEW PROCESS, TIMELINE AND REPORTING

- Small grant proposals will be reviewed while **applying criteria for country, project and implementation arrangements (i.e. the common criteria), and the specific criteria for innovation and learning** as mentioned in the section on criteria presented in AFB/PPRC.34/11.
- The process of review will be similar to that which is routinely conducted during **review cycles for one-step process**, as applicable and as appropriate, and submissions will be accepted **on a rolling basis**.
- National implementing entities are invited to submit their small grant funding proposals for projects following the **same deadlines as regular projects and programmes**.
- Project proposals will be maximum **20 pages long** and will be screened and technically reviewed by the secretariat, and subsequently reviewed by the PPRC, and considered for approval.
- NIEs must submit **project monitoring** every twelve months as well as a project completion and financial reports.



INNOVATION AND LEARNING INDICATORS

- The Adaptation Fund Strategic Results Framework (SRF) includes long-term goal, outcome, outputs, and a small set of indicators for the Fund as a whole.
- Any project or programme financed by the Fund must align with the Fund's results framework and directly contribute to the overall objective and outcomes outlined.
- In proposing activities under the bundled approach, the NIEs must ensure **alignment with outcome 3 for learning** and **outcome 8 for innovation** under the Fund's SRF.
- The proposed activities under the bundled approach should **complement each other** and ensure there are synergies between them
- Proposals should contain **elements of both learning and innovation** that are genuinely complementary and mutually reinforcing and will avoid disproportionate focus on one while giving less consideration to the other



SPECIFIC REVIEW CRITERIA FOR BUNDLING

Specific review Criteria for proposals on innovation and learning:

Innovation:

Encourage or accelerate development of innovative of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies?

Generating evidence base of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products or technologies generated, as a basis for potential scaling up?

Potential for maximizing impact through scaling up of AF funded projects and serve as a knowledge broker that supports early interventions based on lessons learned?

Learning:

Are the proposed activities to support learning adequate? Do they reflect knowledge gaps and learning needs identified by users?

Do they build on established “best practices” for project/programme learning? Are they based on shared resources and knowledge?

Does the project harness lessons learned and knowledge that enable integrating them in scaling up approaches?

