



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.43-44/9  
26 February 2025

---

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR A NO-COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT  
COMPLETION DATE:  
BANQUE OUEST AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT  
(NIGER)**

## Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during the intersessional period between its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth meeting, approved a five-year project titled “Enhancing Resilience of Agriculture to Climate Change to Support Food Security in Niger, through Modern Irrigation Techniques,” submitted by the Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD) for a total amount of US\$ 9,911,000 (Decision B.27-28/16).
2. This project aims to provide a sustainable solution to the issue of low agricultural production and food insecurity. It targets the problem of expenses related to fetching water together with the management of water resources. The main objective is to strengthen the resilience of agriculture to climate change to support food security in Niger, through the promotion of modern irrigation techniques. The project focuses directly on about 200 pilot farmers groups under small-scale irrigation. The objective of the project will be achieved through the implementation of a suite of interventions that focus on: i) enhancing stakeholders’ technical and institutional capacities and dissemination of lessons learned during the project execution; ii) conformation and development of irrigated areas; and iii) supporting the diversification of livelihoods and improvement the of farmers’ incomes.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Adaptation Fund Board and BOAD on 22 November 2016 and the programme started implementation on 17 March 2020.
4. The project Implementing Entity submitted two project performance reports (PPRs) that have been cleared by the secretariat. The third PPR is with the secretariat for review and approval. Up to date, the an amount of US\$ 5,779,000 including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 58.3 percent of the approved grant.
5. The expected project completion date is 17 March 2025. On 28 January 2025, BOAD submitted a request for a regular eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 17 March 2025 to 17 September 2026. 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.
6. Cumulatively, the project has faced delays linked to: i) COVID-19 pandemic which led to delays due to major restrictions. During that time, the main activities focused on a) arrangements for effectiveness of the subsidiary agreement; b) setting project management bodies, including manual procedures; and c) project launching workshop; ii) political crisis because Niger experienced a military coup in July 2023; and iii) procurement delays as many tenders were unsuccessful despite several relaunches.

### **Secretariat's review of the request**

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by BOAD, the secretariat is of the view that this eighteen-month no-cost extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by BOAD (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time for the project to compensate for accumulated delays encountered due to different challenges and constraints faced in the project start and implementation; and ensure the fulfillment of the project outcomes for enhanced sustainability.
8. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity and endorsed by the Designated Authority, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

### **Recommendation**

9. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 17 March 2025 to 17 September 2026, for the project "Enhancing Resilience of Agriculture to Climate Change to Support Food Security in Niger, through Modern Irrigation Techniques," as requested by BOAD.

## Annex 1: Request for an extension of the programme completion date REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PRORAMME

### *Request for extension of project/programme completion date*

<b>Implementing Entity Name</b> : Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)			
<b>AF Project/programme ID</b> : NER/RIE/Food/2012/1/PC			
<b>Project/programme Title</b> : Enhancing Resilience of Agriculture to Climate Change to Support Food Security in Niger, through Modern Irrigation Techniques			
<b>Country</b> : Niger			
<b>Project/Programme Approval (date)</b>	05 July 2016		
<b>Expected Project/programme Completion (date)</b>	17 March 2025	<b>Proposed Revised Completion (date)</b> :	17 September 2026

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

The variability and climate change are major constraints for the development of Niger, since they have a direct impact on food security of the country, especially in rural areas. The food crises in Niger are in fact the result of deficits in grain production because of constant and repeated rainfall deficits combined with environmental factors, and human parasites. The country is characterized by high variability both with regard the spatial and temporal climatic parameters as well as rainfall.

The project involves the development of 1,000 ha of market gardening perimeters in units of 1 to 5 ha equipped with drip irrigation kits (600 ha) and Californian system (400 ha) and solar photovoltaic kits for the energy supply of the irrigation system. It is also planned to provide infrastructures to support the processing and marketing of agricultural products, capacity-building actions for beneficiary populations and environmental protection. The beneficiaries of the project are producers groups (especially women and young people) and individual producers in the intervention area. Of the 1000 ha to be developed, 900 ha are intended for producers groups and 100 ha for individual producers. The main objective is to strengthen the resilience of agriculture to climate change to support food security in Niger, through the promotion of modern irrigation techniques.

Specific objectives :

1. Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders on resilient irrigation systems to climate change and disseminate lessons learned during the project execution ;
  2. Support the development of efficient technologies for sustainable management of water resources, conserve soil of irrigated areas and reduce energy costs associated with pumping of irrigation water;
  3. Support the diversification of livelihoods to improve the incomes of farmers.
- The project is articulated around the following components: (i) Enhancing stakeholders' technical and institutional capacities and dissemination of lessons learned during the project execution; (ii) Confortation and development of irrigated areas; and (iii) Support to the conservation of agricultural products and diversification of livelihoods of target populations.

Notable progresses were made regarding : carrying out the baseline study, the identification of sites to be developed, the updating the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Pest and Pesticide Management Plan (PPMP) and the training sessions on climate change. However, components 2 and 3 suffered significant delays due to COVID-19, national political crisis and problems linked to the procurement processes as described below :

1. **COVID-19 pandemic** : Following its launching, the project first year (March 2020 – March 2021) coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and the major restrictions. During that time, the main activities focused on i) arrangements for effectiveness of the subsidiary agreement, ii) setting project management bodies, including procedures manuals, and iii) project launching workshop.
2. **Political crisis** : The country experienced military coup in July 2023. The coup was followed by a series of sanctions from the ECOWAS and the WAEMU preventing from any kind of activities in the country including project disbursements.
3. **Procurement** : Many tenders turned out to be unsuccessful, despite several relaunches.

In general, significant progress towards all project outcomes have been achieved and still on going. The project is even entering the cruising phase of the works and requires additional time until completion. In this regard, an extension of the project duration is required based on the following factors :

Noting that according to Adaptation Fund policies « *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* », BOAD and the EE consider the above points as reasonable.

The 18 months no-cost extension will be used to undertake:

- i) the development of the complementary studies ;
- ii) the obtaining of environmental permits for the sites;
- iii) the launching of the selection process for the companies that will undertake the the works : market gardeners, micro-dams, etc. ;
- iv) the continuation of the implementation of the project activities, in particular : the pursuit of the capacity building activities, the development of the sites, the implementation of the environmental and social safeguards measures, the communication on the best practices and measures for climate-smart agriculture.

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 authority (DA) has been notified.

Mr. Moubarak MOUKAILA, Director of the Financing Sustainable Development Department  
**Name & Signature**



**Project/programme contact person** : Mr. Eric ABOUSSOU, Head of Climate Finance Portfolio, Financing Sustainable Development Department

Date : 16 December 2024

Tel. and Email : [mmoukaila@boad.org](mailto:mmoukaila@boad.org)  
[eamoussou@boad.org](mailto:eamoussou@boad.org)