



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.43-44/15
24 March 2025

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR REVISION OF THE PROJECT
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE, INCLUDING A REVISED
INCEPTION DATE:
IFAD
(CÔTE D'IVOIRE)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during its intersessional period between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meeting, approved a four-year project titled “Increasing Rural Communities’ Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Bandama Basin in Côte d’Ivoire” in Côte d’Ivoire, submitted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for a requested amount of US\$6,000,000 (Decision B.37-38/9).
2. The objective of the project is to address key climate vulnerabilities in the agriculture and water resources management systems with a focus on rice, cassava and cocoa value chains in Bandama Basin. This region has been identified as a top priority region in the NAPA, agricultural sector plan. The resilience of the cassava, rice and cocoa production can only be achieved by accelerating the transition towards a set of appropriate agricultural practices coupled with an income diversification strategy. To achieve this, integrated farming systems designed to increase yields for cash crops (cocoa), staple crops (cassava and rice), and minimize environmental degradation are required. Such approaches will be coupled with effective water management and maintenance of the ecological functions and surrounding the smallholder production systems in Côte d’Ivoire.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and IFAD on 16 May 2022, and the project inception was estimated to take place on 7 January 2023.
4. On 30 May 2023, IFAD submitted a first notification of delay of project inception date from 7 January 2023 to 7 August 2023. This request for a postponement of project inception date was cleared by the secretariat, in line with Decision B.34/45 and with provisions set forth in the Policy for Project Delays.
5. On 18 March 2025, IFAD submitted a second request of delay of project inception, postponed to 30 May 2025 with an estimated project completion date on 30 May 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 IFAD, are due to: (i) The budget table developed during the project design phase was not aligned with IFAD’s preferred format, which categorizes costs by type rather than by activity. This misalignment caused delays in preparing the financing agreement between IFAD and Côte d’Ivoire, (ii) Significant delays in signing the financing agreement between IFAD and the government, and (iii) Delays in recruiting the Project Management Unit (PMU) by the Ministry.
7. IFAD has implemented the following approaches and mitigation measures to ensure the start of project implementation: The Country Director and team acted swiftly to address the delay by recruiting an expert software consultant to reconstruct the project's cost tables, ensuring proper categorization of expenses. Simultaneously, the country team translated the project design document into French to facilitate the process.

8. Following the translation, negotiations with the Government were successfully conducted in January 2024. However, due to scheduling misalignments, the Financing Agreement was only signed in June 2024 by both the Government and IFAD. After the agreement was signed, the country team held a series of meetings and working sessions with the Government to facilitate the recruitment of the PMU, with key project positions advertised in September 2024.

9. Key staff recruitment is expected to be completed by 31 March 2025, with the official project launch and inception workshop planned for completion by 30 May 2025 under the PMU's leadership.

Secretariat's review of the request

10. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the multiple reasons provided by IFAD for this accumulated project inception delay, the secretariat is of the view that the request for a postponement of project inception is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by IFAD (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time for the project to finalize the necessary steps to start project implementation.

11. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this delay in project/programme delay request has been agreed with the Executing Entities, and the Designated Authority was notified, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

12. 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 7 August 2023 to 30 May 2025, for the project "Increasing Rural Communities' Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Bandama Basin in Côte d'Ivoire" in Côte d'Ivoire, as requested by IFAD.

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

ANNEX D: NOTIFICATION OF DELAY OF PROJECT OR PROGRAMME INCEPTION

Implementing Entity Name: IFAD

AF Project/Programme ID: N/A

Project/Programme Title: Increasing Rural Communities' Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Bandama Basin in Cote d'Ivoire

Country(ies): Cote d'Ivoire Republic

Project/Programme Approval Date: 23/02/2022

Expected Project/Programme Start (date): 30/04/2025

Proposed Revised Completion (date): N/A

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 delay is mainly due to the fact that: (i) The cost table developed at the time of the project design was not adapted to that of IFAD, which favours the distribution of costs by categories and not by the activities. This delayed the preparation of the financing agreement between IFAD (implementing entity) and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, in particular Annex 2 of the financing agreement relating to the table of allocation of funds; (ii) The absence of a French version of the project design report which, according to the Government, would be a limitation to a proper negotiation of the financing agreement and implementation of the project. (iii) challenges in synchronising agenda between IFAD representatives and the recipient's representatives which delayed the signing of the financing agreement ; (iv) a delay in recruitment of the project management unit by the Lead Ministry The project start date is expected to be no longer that 04th November 2024. This translates into a delay of 16 months as compared to the initial program start date of 01st July 2023.

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

The Country Director and team worked quickly to mitigate this delay by recruiting an expert Costab software consultant to reconstruct the project's cost tables, ensuring a breakdown by categories of expenses. In parallel, the country team translated the project design document into French. Following the translation the country team successfully held the negotiations with the Government in January 2024 and due to schedule misalignment between both parties, the Financing Agreement could only be signed in June 2024 by both the Government and IFAD. Following the signature of the Financing Agreement, the country team held series of meetings and working sessions with the Government to prepare the recruitment of the Project Management Unit. The recruitment was delayed due to Government officials' leave in August 2024 but right after, key positions for the project were advertised in September. Key staff recruitment is expected to be completed by 30th March 2025 and the project official launch will be completed on 21st April 2025. Immediately after the project launch, the project inception workshop will be promptly completed by the Project Management Unit On 30th April 2025.

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

Once the project starts, no further challenges are expected apart from the risks already identified in the project document.

Implementing Entity certification

This notification for delay on project/programme inception has been prepared in accordance with AF 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).

Hermann Fumilayo Messan
Country Director

Date: 18/03/2025

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Project milestones in the next three months

Activities	Due Date	Comment (Current status)
Administrative and Financial Manager Recruitment (CV Evaluation and Interview)	31st March 2025	CV analysis is complete; interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, 18th, 2025
Signing of the decree creating the Project	31st March 2025	Currently being revised to align with salary scale
Opening a BCEAO account (Account with Central Bank)	31st March 2025	The operating account is opened, and the designated account is being opened
Validation of the Procedure Manual	31st March 2025	The first version of the manual is available and is undergoing internal validation at the supervisory ministry.
Validation of the PTBA	31st March 2025	Under development
Signing of Project Team Contracts	31st March 2025	The letter of commencement of service will also be sent to the recruited UCP members.
Request for withdrawal of funds	31st March 2025	Transmission of the first DRF to IFAD
Receipt of funds in the project account	30th April 2025	A period of up to 1 month is required for analysis of the request and transfer of funds by IFAD
Preparation of the start-up workshop	18th May 2025	Invitation + Logistics organization
Start-up Workshop	30th May 2025	

TITLE OF PROJECT: INCREASING RURAL COMMUNITIES' ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN BANDAMA BASIN IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

		2025				2026				2027				2028				2029	
Outputs	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	3.2.4. Production of knowledge management products like packages of practices, enewsletters, interviews and success stories		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	3.2.5. Dissemination of Production of knowledge management products via online and offline channels.		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Recruitment of local staff	R	R																

R - Recruitment

C - Contracting

I - Implementation