



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.35/6  
17 March 2025

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Project and Programme Review Committee  
Thirty-fifth Meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 8-9 March 2025

Agenda item 10.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON INITIAL  
SCREENING/TECHNICAL REVIEW  
OF LARGE INNOVATION PROJECT AND PROGRAMME  
PROPOSALS**

## Background

1. This document presents to the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) of the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) an overview of the large innovation project proposals submitted by Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIE) and National Implementing Entities (NIE) to the current meeting, and the process of screening and technical review undertaken by the secretariat.

2. The analysis of the proposals mentioned above is contained in a separate addendum to this document.

3. At its thirtieth meeting, having considered document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

(a) *To adopt the medium-term strategy as amended by the Board, as contained in the Annex 1 of the document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1 (the MTS); and*

(b) *To request the secretariat:*

(i) *To broadly disseminate the MTS and work with key stakeholders to build understanding and support;*

(ii) *To prepare, under the supervision of the MTS task force, a draft implementation plan for operationalizing the MTS, containing a draft budget and addressing key assumptions and risks, including but not limited to funding and political risks, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting; and*

(iii) *To draft, as part of the implementation plan, the updates/modifications to the operational policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund needed to facilitate implementation of the MTS, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting.*

### **(Decision B.30/42)**

4. Pursuant to decision B.30/42, subparagraph (b)(ii), the secretariat prepared a draft implementation plan for the MTS, including an assessment of assumptions and risks. The secretariat shared a version of the draft with the MTS task force for comments.

5. The draft implementation plan also contains suggestions for specific funding windows that might be opened under the MTS in complement of the Fund's existing funding windows for single-country and regional adaptation projects and readiness support projects. Following the approval of the implementation plan, the secretariat would present specific proposed details for each new funding window at subsequent meetings of the Board for its consideration, in accordance with the timeline contained in the implementation plan.

6. At its thirty-third meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board discussed the draft implementation plan for the MTS, and members of the Board proposed amendments to the document. The secretariat then presented a revised draft, in document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1. Having considered that document, the Board decided:

(a) *To approve the implementation plan for the medium-term strategy for the Fund for 2018–2022 contained in the Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1 (the plan);*

(b) *To request the secretariat:*

*[...]*

*(iii) To prepare, for each proposed new type of grant and funding window, a specific document containing objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features and submit it to the Board for its consideration in accordance with the tentative timeline contained in Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1, with input from the Board's committees;*

*(iv) Following consideration of the new types of support mentioned in subparagraph (b)(iii), to propose, as necessary, amendments to the Fund's operational policies and guidelines Fund to better facilitate the implementation of such new types of support; and*

*[...]*

**(Decision B.31/32)**

7. At the second session of its thirty-fifth meeting, the Board considered document AFB/PPRC.26.b/16, Program on Innovation: Large Grants for Innovation, and the Board decided:

*(a) To approve the process for providing funding for innovation through large grants to Implementing Entities (IEs) as described in document AFB/PPRC.26.b/16; including the proposed objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features as described in the document;*

*(b) That the large grants for innovation would fall outside the country cap approved by the Board in decision B.13/23 or, in the case of regional or multi-regional proposals, the regional provision, whereas they would count against the Multilateral Implementing Entity cap as per decision B.12/9;*

*(c) To request the secretariat to prepare the first Request for Proposals to IEs for a total amount of US \$30 million to be launched by the first quarter of calendar year of 2021; and*

*(d) To request the secretariat to consider the need to develop specific objectives and indicators for the innovation aspects of the projects, beyond what is included in the regular project performance reporting process and make relevant recommendations to the Board at its thirty-seventh meeting.*

**(Decision B.35.b/8)**

8. At its thirty-sixth meeting, the Board considered the document AFB/PPRC.27/28, Programme on Innovation: Operationalization of Large Grants for Innovation, and the Board decided:

(a) *To approve the Innovation Large Grant Project Proposal template, the Review Criteria template and the Instructions for Preparing a Proposal for Innovation Large Grants, as described in annexes II, III and IV to document AFB/PPRC.27/28;*

(b) *To launch the request for proposals so that submissions of Innovation Large Grants proposals are invited to be considered as early as the thirty-seventh meeting of the Board.*

**(Decision B.36/24)**

9. Subsequently, the first call for project and programme proposals under the indicative set-aside amount of US\$ 30 million was issued to eligible Parties to submit innovation large grant project and programme proposals to the Fund through accredited NIEs, MIEs, and Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs).

10. In the subsequent years the Board has approved annual provisions of US\$ 30 million each at its thirty-eight, fortieth forty-second, and forty-third Board meetings for large innovation projects.

**Programming To-date**

11. The fully developed proposals approved since the inception of the large innovation project/programme funding window are summarized in Table 1.

12. Active pipeline under the large innovation project/programme funding window are summarized in Table 2.

13. The secretariat received four proposals for consideration at the forty-fourth meeting of the Board. The secretariat was able to conduct one technical review for the proposal for Honduras, one technical review for Belize, two technical review for Kenya and Uganda, two technical reviews for Gambia and Tanzania.

**Table 1: Fully developed proposals approved to-date**

Project name	Country	Implementing Entity	Funding (USD)	Status
Innovative Financial Incentives for Adaptation in Wetland Livelihoods (IFIA)	Vietnam	IFAD	5,000,000	Proposal Approved (AFB40)
Innovative Adaptation Financing to Build the Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of Smallholder Farmers in Bhutan (InAF-Bhutan)	Bhutan	WFP	4,983,736	Proposal Approved (AFB42)
Access to safe drinking water for the climate vulnerable people in coastal areas of Bangladesh	Bangladesh	PKSF	5,000,000	Proposal Approved (AFB43)
<b>Total</b>			<b>14,983,736</b>	

**Table 2: Active pipeline projects under the large innovation project/programme funding window<sup>1</sup>**

Project Name	Country	Implementing Entity	Requested Financing (USD million)	Funding Decision
Securing Water Resources through Solar Energy and Innovative Adaptive Management (SEAM)	Belize	PACT	4,995,706	Fully developed proposal Submitted (AFB44)
Enhancing resilience to flood and drought through a unique combination of innovative climate adaptation tools, technologies, and practices in Burundi	Burundi	UNEP	5,000,000	Concept Endorsed (AFB42)
Resilience and Ancestry: Community Adaptation in the Honduran Trifinio Biosphere	Honduras	CASM	4,000,000	Fully developed proposal submitted (AFB44)
Enhancing Adaptation and Resilience through Nature-based Solutions (EARNSS) in Somalia	Somalia	UNEP	5,000,000	Concept approved (AFB43)
Ecological Universe for Vulnerable People Resilience (ECOVERSE)	Togo	BOAD	5,000,000	Concept proposal submitted (AFB43)
ACCESS (Adaptive and Affordable Clean Cooking Enables Sustainable Solutions)	Uganda	MoWE	5,000,000	Fully developed proposal submitted (AFB43)
Enhancing Hydromet Services through Regional Monitoring Innovation Hubs in Africa	Gambia and Tanzania	WMO	4,998,000	Fully developed proposal submitted (AFB44)
Unlocking investments in gender and youth-inclusive early-growth stage adaptation Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Kenya and Uganda	Kenya and Uganda	UNIDO	5,000,000	Fully developed proposal submitted (AFB44)
<b>Total</b>			<b>38,993,706</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Active pipeline is proposals submitted within the last 18 months.

## **Large Innovation Project Proposals Submitted by National and Multilateral Implementing Entities for Consideration at the Forty Forth Meeting of the Board**

14. Two accredited national and two multilateral implementing entities submitted four large innovation project proposals to the secretariat, with the total requested funding amounting to US\$ 18,993,706. One of the two national implementing entity is currently under reaccreditation. All submissions met the requirements for undergoing a complete technical review. These proposals included US\$ 1,666,534 or average of 9.62% in implementing entities management fees and US\$ 1,704,228 or an average of 9.84% in execution costs.

15. Fully-developed proposals for Honduras submitted by Comisión Acción Social Menonita (CASM), for Gambia and Tanzania submitted by The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and for Kenya and Uganda submitted by The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are not technically recommended.

16. The Secretariat reviewed a fully-developed proposal for Belize, submitted by Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) which is currently in the re-accreditation process, with the note that the review of the funding proposal does not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the ongoing re-accreditation process. The proposal has not been technically cleared.

17. In line with the guidance in Document AFB/PPRC.31/60, proposals that are not yet technically recommended are not presented to the PPRC. Details of the proposals are contained in information documents under the PPRC meeting documents, as follows:

(a) Proposal for Large Innovation Project for Belize: AFB/PPRC.35/Inf.37

(b) Proposal for Large Innovation Project for Honduras: AFB/PPRC.35/Inf.38

(c) Proposal for Large Innovation Project for Gambia and Tanzania :

AFB/PPRC.35/Inf.39

(d) Proposal for Large Innovation Project for Kenya and Uganda: AFB/PPRC.35/Inf.40

### **Review Process**

18. The eligible submissions were posted online for public review, inviting to provide comments within a specified time period. No CSO comments were received.

### **Issues Identified**

19. No issues of note have been identified.

**Table 2: Large innovation projects not technically cleared (reference to information document)**

<b>12. Full Proposals Single Country: Large Innovation Projects</b>	<b>Region/Countries</b>	<b>IE</b>	<b>Technical Reviews conducted</b>	<b>PPRC Document number</b>	<b>Grant Size, USD</b>	<b>IE Fee, USD</b>	<b>IE Fee %</b>	<b>Execution Cost, USD</b>	<b>EC %</b>
<b>NIE</b>									
	Belize	PACT	1	AFB/PPRC.35/Inf.37	4,995,706	444,965	9.78%	505,610	11.11%
	Honduras	CASM	1	AFB/PPRC.35/Inf.38	4,000,000	313,024	8.49%	350,263	9.50%
<b>15. Full Proposals Regional: Large Innovation Projects</b>	<b>Region/Countries</b>	<b>IE</b>	<b>Technical Reviews conducted</b>	<b>PPRC Document number</b>	<b>Grant Size, USD</b>	<b>IE Fee, USD</b>	<b>IE Fee %</b>	<b>Execution Cost, USD</b>	<b>EC %</b>
<b>MIE</b>									
	Gambia, Tanzania	WMO	2	AFB/PPRC.35/Inf.39	4,998,000	454,000	9.99%	454,000	9.99%
	Kenya, Uganda	UNIDO	2	AFB/PPRC.35/Inf.40	5,000,000	454,545	10.00%	394,355	8.68%
<b>Grand Total (USD)</b>					18,993,706	1,666,534	9.62%	1,704,228	9.84%