ADAPTATION FUND

PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Choose an item.

Title of Project/Programme:	Strengthening resilience of vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka and India to increased impacts of climate change
Countries:	Sri Lanka and India
Thematic Focal Area:	Food security
Type of Implementing Entity:	Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE)
Implementing Entity:	World Food Programme (WFP)
Executing Entities:	Sri Lanka: Ministry of Environment
	India: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Amount of Financing Requested:	13,995,524 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project / Programme Background and Context:

The proposed project will target the states in eastern coast of India and the areas of the dry zone of Sri Lanka which includes the north, north-central and eastern provinces. The selected regions of both countries share the same originating climate risks from the Bay of Bengal, similar typographies and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

The projected climate change affects precipitation patterns (timing and amount) which may increase the potential for short-run crop failures and long-run production declines, posing a serious threat to food security. Although there will be gain in some crops for some regions, the overall impacts of climate change on agriculture production is expected to be negative. The climate projections also indicate a decreased rainfall across the drier regions of northern, western and south-eastern coastline of India and the dry zone of Sri Lanka. In addition, this region will also be impacted by a rise in temperatures, 2ºC until 2050 and exceeding 3ºC by 2100 across South Asia[1] with extremes in minimum and maximum temperatures. More frequent and intense El Niño events project more frequent and longer lasting heat waves. This cumulative effect has already resulted in increasing frequency and intensity of droughts that impact agriculture production.

For **Sri Lanka**, although total annual rainfall (past 10 years compared to the 30-year average) remains steady[2], the variability of the monsoon, including seasonal onset and duration, has been increasing. In the Dry Zone a higher percentage of annual rainfall is projected during the monsoon period while the inter-monsoon periods experience less rainfall with droughts expected to increase.[3] In **India**, the inland regions of the eastern coastal States of Odisha, Andhra/Telangana and Tamil Nadu[4] are also facing increased frequency of severe droughts, due to a combination of sustained heatwaves, higher rates of evapotranspiration and higher rainfall variability during monsoons that will require adaptation in the agriculture sector. The patterns of rainfall during monsoons are projected to spatially shift towards the already flood-prone coastal areas and away for the interior regions inducing a major drought every 5-6 years[5] with smaller dry spells every two years. The increased frequency and intensity of droughts and floods in both countries is already being experienced.

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[1] Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). 2014. The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report: What's in it for South Asia?

[2] Punyawardena et al. Spatial Analysis of Climate Change Vulnerability. Natural Resources Management Centre, Department of Agriculture, 2012

3 According to the joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, drought conditions in 2016 and early 2017 led to widespread crop failures almost 40 percent less than the last year's output and 35 percent lower than the average of the previous five years.

[4] In Tamil Nadu the lesser amount of annual rainfall occurs during south west monsoon (32% of annual rainfall). This unique rainfall pattern compared to rest of the country, and the poor water resources, render the state more vulnerable to drought and reduce per capita water availability. This is similar to the north and east of Sri Lanka where droughts often also occur during the SW season.

[5] ENVIS Centre of Odisha State of Environment - http://orienvis.nic.in/index1.aspx?lid=24&mid=1&langid=1&linkid=22

Rural farming communities in the target areas are heavily impacted by these changes in rainfall patterns as their main livelihood is rainfed agriculture, mainly paddy cultivation. Agriculture is often complemented with inland fisheries in nearby irrigation ponds. These ponds are dual purpose; act as water retention during the rainy season and with proper water management, can serve as irrigation during the dry season and also a source for inland fisheries. However, their structural integrity may be more often compromised with increased intensity of rainfall during monsoons damaging their irrigation and retention potential that would lead to inefficient water usage and a lower paddy harvest. Poor water retention capacity also leads to a decline in inland fisheries during the dry season and production of other crops including millets, pulses and oilseeds. This environmental degradation impacts the already limited alternative income generating opportunities in these localities. Barriers to adaptation for these communities include limited knowledge on adequate measures to address short and long terms impacts of climate change and limited financial capacity to invest in adaptation measures. This is compounded by limited capacity of extension services to provide climate and weather information that is easy to understand and actionable for farmers. Gender based barriers are also prevalent in those communities: women often have a triple burden (productive, reproductive and community engagement), and their needs are aften not addressed in adaptation planning. They seldom have access and control over resources and decision-making power.

In order to **build the climate resilience and food security of vulnerable communities across the dry zone of Sri Lanka and the states in eastern coast of India** the project will combine an improved availability of last mile climate and weather data and related advisories with the promotion of climate adaptation practices and the development of climate resilient livelihood options using innovative approaches. The project will enable the use of last mile climate and weather information to develop and adopt specific resilience and livelihood measures best suited for different locations/zones.

Since rural communities in target areas in Sri Lanka and India face common vulnerabilities and shared climatic risks, it will be cost-beneficial for both countries to sustainably build common climate resilient and last mile adaptation approaches to implement like technologies and practices among communities.

Some regional mechanisms exist to share common information, expertise and lessons learned between the countries as part of south-south cooperation, especially to establish long-term governance and strengthening institutional support for comprehensive early warning and HydroMet/ AgroMet systems at an institutional level. However, last mile access to timely and locally accurate climatic information still has not been developed to help rural communities make well-informed ground-level decisions to protect their livelihoods and become more climate resilient. Building on these existing mechanisms, this regional project will **encourage cross-border sharing of institutional knowledge and best practices in delivering and last mile climate advisory services and application of adaptation strategies to promote lasting resilience among communities facing rainfall variability, as well as community level exchange of best practices through use of technology.** The project will enhance bi-national cooperation by strengthening sharing information and expertise through existing regional cooperation mechanisms such as South Asian Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and developing knowledge sharing platform for rapid expansion and scale-up of successes and learnings.

Project Objectives:

The project's main goal is to strengthen the climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in the dry zone of Sri Lanka and the states in eastern coast of India utilizing a regional, integrated approach.

The Project will promote common climate change adaptation strategies by:

1) Strengthen last mile access to reliable, timely climate and weather information and related advisory services. This will enable communities to make informed decision and better plan their livelihood strategies in the short, medium and long term;
2) Improve the adaptive capacity of vulnerable households, through support in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation plans that – informed by the information shared under component one – will include improved practices, diversified and more resilient livelihoods and financial strategies to ensure long-term sustainability beyond the life of the project.

A detailed review and assessments of vulnerable regions through strong participatory approaches and consultations with all stakeholders engaged in climate change adaptation practices will help identify key gaps

and barriers and avoid duplication and overlaps during the development of the concept note and full proposal, to focus scale of need for these last mile solutions.

Project Components and Financing:

Project Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US$)
1. Strengthening last-mile access to climate and weather information to manage climate variability and change	1.1 Strengthened access of community to last mile climate and weather information based on their needs	1.1.1. Strategy for the co-development and dissemination of tailored last mile climate and weather information validated through community engagement (Bottom-up approach) 1.1.2 Dissemination of tailored climate advisory services through identified channels 1.1.3 Strengthened capacities of local government, service providers and local communities to access, understand and use climate information	Sri Lanka and India	$1.40M
	1.2 Strengthened systems and capacities to co-develop accessible climate advisory services tailored to last mile user's needs.	1.2.1 Strengthened national and district level Hydro-meteorological agencies and key stakeholders to co-produce tailored climate services. 1.2.2 Regional knowledge sharing platforms for cross-learning, fertilization, enhanced last mile climate knowledge management systems and tools and potential scale up in other countries, leveraged (ex: South Asian Climate Outlook Forum, SAARC) and developed through use of digital technology	Sri Lanka and India	$1.78M
2. Strengthening adaptive capacities of local communities to climate variability and change	2.1 Strengthened communities capacities to implement last mile climate risk adaptation planning	2.1.1 Community adaptation plans developed through participatory approaches to identify short to long term adaptation strategies 2.1.2 Improved access to financial services for long-term sustainability of community adaptation plans	Sri Lanka and India	$2.20M
	2.2 Communities benefit from climate resilient strategies and adapted livelihoods.	2.2.1 Technical support on climate resilient agricultural, inland fisheries production, ecosystem-based infrastructure creation and sustainable water management for improved food security 2.2.2 Reduced vulnerability to drought and floods by the implementation of diversified and sustainable livelihood options (farm and non-farm).	Sri Lanka and India	$7.4M
Project Execution cost				$1,119,100
Total Project/Programme Cost				$12,899,100
Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity [6]				$1,096,424
Amount of Financing Requested				$13.995,524

Project Duration: *(4 years)*

[6] Includes WFP Indirect Support Cost of 6.5%

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

Working with the most vulnerable communities, this project aims to connect families with technical support that will improve their climate change resilience, agricultural production and introduce them to adaptation practices for improved livelihoods and assets, with a special focus on women's and vulnerable group's needs and barriers.

Under component one, the project will strengthen last mile access to climate and weather information using data on historical and future projections on flood inundation, rainfall forecast, vegetation health and temperature variations. The project will also facilitate access to additional information that is crucial for livelihood decision making, such as the extent of arable land, population exposure to climate hazards, livelihood mapping data, seasonal crop selection and calendar, agriculture market information. In both countries, this information is available with various government actors and not regularly updated. As described above, farmers do not have the resources to take informed decisions on their livelihoods. Therefore, this project will look to streamline and improve information to be timely, succinct and geared towards specific actions to be taken, by coordinating with relevant agencies such as the Departments of Agrarian Development, Agriculture, Irrigation, Meteorology and Environment to consolidate data into advisory products - simplified climate information in the format of key messages. A strategy of co-development and dissemination of information will be developed to receive continuous feedback from end users, ensuring information is tailored to the needs of each community and group. Appropriate dissemination channels will be selected, paying special attention to the development of local institutions and extension workers on how to best advise farmers so that they can make risk informed decisions.

Building on component one, the second component of the project will support communities in the development and implementation of adaptation plans and options, ensuring meaningful participation of women throughout the process. During the development of the concept note and full proposal, a menu of adaptation options will be developed using a participatory approach. Each option will be assessed against a set of criteria that include adaptation impact, cost-effectiveness, appropriateness to the context and relevance for targeted communities. Options could include improvements to water management and harvesting, community-based natural resource management, introduction of agro-forestry, green belts and infrastructure, eco-system restoration, crop diversification and encouraging climate resistant crop and seed varieties including millets, options for fishing, and climate proofing of assets. The project will also explore further options to develop climate resilient livelihoods for farmers communities, including improved storage facilities, introduction of post-harvest technologies, strengthening of market linkages, asset creation and climate proofing of the assets livelihood diversification (including non-farm), skills training for non-farm livelihoods and effective use of digital technology. Communities will be supported in the implementation of the plans and in the development of financial strategies to ensure long term sustainability of the plans. To this end, the project will support access to existing financial services such as microcredit and saving products, existing microinsurance schemes, and will encourage households and communities to build financial reserves through savings groups.

The project will address institutional and socio-cultural barriers such as low technical capacity of extension workers, lower access for farming communities to financial and technical services, particularly for women and the gender-based discriminations.

It will also emphasize institutional capacity strengthening through a **regional approach**. The project will leverage existing regional forums and develop dedicated knowledge and information sharing mechanisms to allow exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned on adaptive sustainable practices and delivery of last mile climate advisory services across both countries and among communities. The regional approach is key to cost effective knowledge transfer and scalability. The two countries will share expertise and technical support to develop common strategies and allow collective learnings to address cross boundaries' climate change challenges, which have been so far addressed separately (ex: improved water management – rehabilitations major and minor irrigation channels, de-siltation, eco-system restoration). The project will facilitate both countries to learn from each other, share strengths and knowledge, optimising resources to generate solutions for communities. By developing mechanisms for cross-border sharing of knowledge and experiences both at institutional and community level, and by nesting these mechanisms in the existing regional forums, the project will set the ground for scale-up at national and possibly more broadly across the SAARC region.

The project will adopt innovative strategies by introducing an evidence-based approach to adaptation at community level. By enabling last mile access to detailed, downscaled and up-to-date climate and weather information, and making it easy to understand and readily actionable, the project will allow the most remote and

vulnerable communities to effectively plan and choose the most appropriate adaptation options for their specific context.

Alignment: The proposed project aligns with key governments' policies and strategies in the area of agriculture (including fisheries), rural development and climate change adaptation. These include: for **Sri Lanka**: Climate Change Policy (2012), the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Impacts (2016-2025), the National Climate Action Plans prepared by the Ministry of Environment, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka 2011-2016-Ministry of Environment, National Disaster Management Policy of Sri Lanka; for **India**: National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NSMA), National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change, the National Water Mission and the National Livelihood Mission.

Gender focus: While developing interventions, specific barriers and needs will be identified and actions will be implemented in order to achieve meaningful participation and to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable people are addressed. A gender assessment be carried out during project preparation to assess different needs and barriers of men, women, youth and their intersecting identities (age, abilities, location, ethnicity, language, gender, social class). Based on the outcomes of the consultations, project activities will be designed to accommodate women and people with different abilities while also considering their availability and care responsibilities. Consultations at all levels will be undertaken in a gender sensitive manner. During project implementation, Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP) processes will be employed with active participation of women, youth, disabled and elderly, allowing their specific needs to be included in the adaptation plans. With women currently being under-represented in decision making at community level, particular attention will be given to ensure their participation in the consultation and design processes to ensure that proposed activities will be focused on identifying key interventions to reduce women dependency and vulnerability, making them active leaders in climate change adaptation.

An Environmental and Social Risk assessment, in compliance with the ESP Policy of the Adaptation Fund will be carried out during project preparation and a risk management plan will be developed, with related indicators, budget, clear roles and responsibilities. Concrete adaptation options and assets will be small-scale and developed at household or community level, therefore the project is expected to be classified as low or moderate risk.

Social and economic benefits for vulnerable groups: The project targets households vulnerable to climate risks and food insecurity, ensuring they have timely relevant last mile climate information tailored to their needs. In addition, by rehabilitating environmentally degraded areas through an ecosystem-based approach, populations will have better access to productive lands and water. Enhancing local adaptive capacities through community participatory planning, this project will improve risk management and livelihood stability in the face of natural hazards and empower communities to cope with climate change.

Effective planning: During the concept note formulation analyses will include i) prioritization of most vulnerable regions; ii) review of available Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessments to determine gaps; iii) community consultations through focus groups to identify needs; iv) relevant preliminary feasibility studies. All studies will incorporate a gender-transformative approach into action plans.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

WFP will serve as the Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the project. It will be responsible and accountable for managing the project, including ensuring effective use of project funds, oversight and reporting and for achieving project objectives. The executing entities of the project will include the key national and state/provincial Ministries within each country under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India. Other partners may include: i) For India, the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer Welfare, Ministry of Earth Sciences/Indian Meteorological Department, Fisheries, State and local governments, non-government entities. ii) For Sri Lanka, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Meteorology, Department of Irrigation, Department of Agrarian Development, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Fisheries. The project will also explore collaboration with international or regional partners, including RIMES, The Energy Research Institute (TERI), UK Met, and other UN agencies. Partnerships with private sector organizations involved in providing technological solutions will be sought. At the local level involvement of Civil society engaged in climate change agricultural adaptation practices will be facilitated through the participation of NGOs, smallholder farmer organizations and community leaders. Detailed execution arrangements will be determined during the next phases of project design.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[7] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as annexes to the project/programme proposal.*

A H S Wijesinghe ***Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Wildlife Resources***	Date*: 10 August 2020*
Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad ***Additional Secretary (Climate Change)*** ***Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change***	Date*: 7 August 2020*

B. Implementing Entity certification: *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (*Climate Change Policy (2012), the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Impacts (2016-2025), the National Climate Action Plans prepared by the Ministry of Environment, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka 2011-2016-Ministry of Environment, National Disaster Management Policy of Sri Lanka*) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.	
Brenda Barton ***WFP Representative*** ***Sri Lanka.***	***Bishow Parajuli*** ***WFP Representative*** ***India.***
Date: *10 August 2020*	Date: *7 August 2020*
Tel. and email: +94 112 555250 (ext.2100) brenda.barton@wfp.org	Tel. and email: +91 11 46554000 (Ext 2100) bishow.parajuli@wfp.org
Project Contact Person: **Andrea Berardo**	Project Contact Person: **Eric Kenefick**
Tel. And Email: +94 112 555250 (ext.2110) andrea.berardo@wfp.org	Tel. And Email: +91 11 46554000 (Ext 2110) eric.kenefick@wfp.org

Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.