

Annex XXIII: Accreditation assessment of Applicant 033 (APL033)

I. Introduction

1. Applicant 033 (APL033), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headquartered in Switzerland, is an international entity focused on weather, climate and water. It provides a unique mechanism for the timely exchange of weather, climate and water data, information and products. Its core activity is to assist countries and national agencies to improve weather and air-quality forecasts, climate predictions, risk assessments, early warnings for extreme weather and climate events, and to provide a growing range of related services for the public and decision makers globally. In the context of climate change, the applicant plays an important role in supporting adaptation to climate variability and change by linking science-based climate predictions and information with the management of climate-related risks and opportunities in major climate-sensitive sectors. The applicant intends to strengthen its assistance to developing countries and small island developing States to enable them to achieve strategic impact in the areas of mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The applicant seeks accreditation to the GCF in order to achieve maximum results in its projects and add value to the GCF portfolio as a whole by leveraging its know-how and expertise and by engaging in dialogue with its partners on GCF funding opportunities and requirements to ensure, through its assistance, that any related capacity gaps are addressed.

2. The applicant submitted its application for accreditation to the Secretariat via the Online Accreditation System on 30 January 2015. Stage I, institutional assessment and completeness check, and Stage II (Step 1), accreditation review, were concluded. It has applied to be accredited for the following parameters under the fit-for-purpose approach of the GCF:

- (a) **Access modality:** international access;
- (b) **Track:** fast-track under the Adaptation Fund;
- (c) **Size of an individual project or activity within a programme:** small;¹
- (d) **Fiduciary functions:**²
 - (i) Basic fiduciary standards; and
 - (ii) Specialized fiduciary standard for project management; and
- (e) **Environmental and social risk category:** minimal to no risk (Category C/Intermediation 3 (I-3)).³

II. Accreditation assessment

3. The applicant is eligible for, and applied under, the fast-track accreditation process as an Adaptation Fund entity. Its application has been assessed against the standards of the GCF by

¹ As per annex I to decision B.08/02 (annex I to document GCF/B.08/45), "small" is defined as "maximum total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by the GCF, of above US\$ 10 million and up to and including US\$ 50 million for an individual project or an activity within a programme".

² Decision B.07/02.

³ As per annex I to decision B.07/02 (annex I to document GCF/B.07/11), category C is defined as "Activities with minimal or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts" and intermediation 3 is defined as "When an intermediary's existing or proposed portfolio includes financial exposure to activities that predominantly have minimal or negligible adverse environmental and/or social impacts".

the Accreditation Panel (AP) in accordance with the requirements and gaps identified in decisions B.08/03 and B.10/06.

4. As part of this assessment, the AP consulted the applicant's website and third-party websites to complement the information provided in the application.

2.1 Fiduciary standards

2.1.1 **Section 4.1: Basic fiduciary standards: key administrative and financial capacities**

5. As per paragraph 3 above, the basic fiduciary standards concerning key administrative and financial capacities are considered to have been met by way of fast-track accreditation.

2.1.2 **Section 4.2: Basic fiduciary standards: transparency and accountability**

6. As per paragraph 3 above, the basic fiduciary standards concerning transparency and accountability, with the exception of item 4.2.4, investigation function, have been met by way of fast-track accreditation.

7. Regarding item 4.2.4, the applicant has established an internal unit with an appropriate authority to investigate all allegations or presumptions of fraud, waste, mismanagement or misconduct, or significant suspected fraudulent activities within the organization and to notify the Secretary-General, appropriate senior management and its Audit Committee on the results of investigations. The corresponding investigations framework policy is publicly available on the applicant's website.

8. To support the work of the internal unit, the applicant has a direct communication line facility for reporting all cases of fraud, supported by the policy for the protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits or investigators.

2.1.3 **Section 5.1: Specialized fiduciary standard for project management**

9. As per paragraph 3 above, the specialized fiduciary standard for project management is considered to have been met by way of fast-track accreditation.

2.1.4 **Section 5.2: Specialized fiduciary standard for grant award and/or funding allocation mechanisms**

10. The applicant did not apply for assessment against this standard at this time.

2.1.5 **Section 5.3: Specialized fiduciary standard for on-lending and/or blending**

11. The applicant did not apply for assessment against this standard at this time.

2.2 Environmental and social safeguards

2.2.1 **Section 6.1: Policy**

12. Commensurate with the fit-for-purpose accreditation approach and with the nature of Category C/I-3 as being of minimal to no environmental and social (E&S) risk, an E&S policy within an institutional environmental and social management system is not required for the Category C/I-3 level of risk. The applicant has applied for Category C/I-3 accreditation, and has indicated that its projects are low risk (Category C). The applicant's website indicates that it plays a leading role in international efforts to monitor and protect the environment through its programmes in collaboration with other international agencies to support the implementation

of a number of environmental conventions and is instrumental in providing advice and assessments to governments on related matters. These activities contribute towards ensuring the sustainable development and well-being of nations.

2.2.2 **Section 6.2: Identification of risks and impacts**

13. The applicant has provided its risk management policy which addresses the management of E&S-related risks and impacts, and includes a process for identifying, managing, monitoring and communicating project-related E&S risks. The applicant has also provided a draft document which describes its new approach to the identification of E&S risks and impacts against the GCF interim environmental and social safeguards (ESS) performance standards 1–8 and how this is implemented throughout the project cycle as part of its E&S risks and impacts management framework. The applicant has indicated that a roll-out session of its new project management framework and related tools (including for E&S risks and impacts management) will be conducted in February 2016. Following this session, new projects will be designed and managed in accordance with this framework with oversight exercised by the applicant's project management board and executive.

2.2.3 **Section 6.3: Management programme**

14. The applicant provided its project management guidelines, which describe key stages of the project life cycle that should be followed by its staff when managing projects. A project management manual complements these guidelines and provides detailed guidance to its staff on how to handle each stage of the process, including tasks and responsibilities, a checklist of programmatic and financial issues to be addressed, and project management tools and templates for key project documents. The applicant provided an internal audit report of its project climate services adaptation programme as evidence of its project management process.

2.2.4 **Section 6.4: Organizational capacity and competency**

15. The applicant has provided the organizational chart of its global-level secretariat, as well as the job descriptions of the members of its project management board, which is responsible for project coordination, and for overseeing project performance through a screening process, management, and monitoring and review process.

2.2.5 **Section 6.5: Monitoring and review**

16. The applicant's monitoring and review process is described in its new approach to E&S risks and impacts management, and is due to be formally approved in early January 2016. The applicant has provided its 2015 internal audit of a project to support climate-related services and adaptation as a recent example of a project monitoring report, which demonstrates the applicant's monitoring and review experience in line with the GCF requirements for Category C/I-3 accreditation.

2.2.6 **Section 6.6: External communications**

17. The applicant has a well-functioning website that allows it to share information on its programmes and projects. It also has internal procedures and competencies to screen, assess and address issues raised by any external parties. The applicant has a website to receive and register external communications. It has not received any public complaints in the past five years.

2.3 Gender

18. The applicant has provided its gender policy, which has been found to be in line with the GCF gender policy, and has demonstrated its competencies in the form of its advocacy in

organizing international conferences on gender. The applicant has also provided sample project documents showing how its climate change projects have addressed non-discriminatory benefits for men and women.

III. Conclusions and recommendation

3.1 Conclusions

19. Following its assessment and noting that the applicant has applied under the fast-track accreditation process, the AP concludes the following in relation to the application:

- (a) The applicant meets the requirements of the GCF basic fiduciary standards and specialized fiduciary standard for project management;
- (b) The applicant partially meets the requirements of the interim ESS of the GCF in relation to the minimal to no E&S risk (Category C/I-3). The new project management framework, which includes the identification, mitigation, management and monitoring of E&S risks and impacts, is in draft form and has not yet been formalized and adopted; and
- (c) The applicant has demonstrated that it has competencies, policies and procedures by which to implement its gender policy, which is found to be consistent with the gender policy of the GCF, and has also demonstrated that it has experience with gender consideration in the context of climate change.

3.2 Recommendation on accreditation

20. The AP recommends, for consideration by the Board, applicant APL033 for accreditation as follows:

- (a) **Accreditation type:**
 - (i) **Size of an individual project or activity within a programme:** small (including micro⁴);
 - (ii) **Fiduciary functions:**
 - 1. Basic fiduciary standards; and
 - 2. Specialized fiduciary standard for project management; and
 - (iii) **Environmental and social risk category:** minimal to no risk (Category C/I-3); and
- (b) **Conditions:** the applicant will be required to submit to the AP, through the Secretariat, information on how it has complied with the condition(s). The AP will thereafter assess whether the condition(s) has/have been met. This assessment will be communicated by the Secretariat, on behalf of the AP, to the Board for information purposes:
 - (i) Condition(s) prior to the first disbursement by the GCF for an approved project/programme to be undertaken by the applicant:

⁴ As per annex I to decision B.08/02, "micro" is defined as "maximum total projected costs at the time of application, irrespective of the portion that is funded by the GCF, of up to and including US\$ 10 million for an individual project or an activity within a programme".



1. Adopt the new project management framework, which includes the identification, mitigation, management and monitoring of E&S risks and impacts.
21. The applicant has been informed of the recommendation for accreditation, including the accreditation type and condition(s), as identified in paragraph 20 above, and agrees to the recommendation.