

May 14, 2012

Comments from Germany on the Approval by Mail: Mozambique - Baixo Limpopo Irrigation and Climate Resilience - Project ID XPCRMZ021A

German Comments on proposed PPCR project:

Mozambique: Baixo Limpopo Irrigation and Climate Resilience Project

Summary

The proposal is well written with clear goals and indicators. We particularly appreciate that the project is taking a market and value chain approach, and as part of this also considers post-harvest operations and other value adding activities, instead of just focussing on production infrastructure. We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. We however would like to see our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) incorporated during project implementation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

The project outline follows recommendations made by feasibility studies done in 2009 and 2010. It operates in Mozambique's important agricultural production area along the Limpopo River, which at the same time is one of the most climate sensitive areas of Mozambique, because of increasing risk of flooding due to climate change. The project covers with 3,000 ha a large area and will benefit more than 8,000 families. The project area lies downstream of one of the biggest irrigated agricultural areas of Mozambique, where however most of the irrigation systems are damaged. Implementing such a big irrigation project downstream could have two effects: (1) small farmers might migrate from upstream to downstream areas in search of better opportunities; (2) the centre for crop production might move from upstream to downstream with negative effects on the livelihoods of the people living upstream. **We therefore recommend that both possible effects should be observed closely during project implementation.**

Overall there are no major objections from our point of view. However, we suggest elaborating a number of points further and monitoring them during the upcoming preparatory work. These include: elaborating a monitoring and evaluation system that is consistent across the different investment projects and which includes indicators that reach beyond the output level; clarifying how exactly capacity building will take place in different projects; addressing gender issues beyond a merely technical level; and linking to bilateral contributions and its efforts supporting disaster risk management as well as integrating the work of the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) better into the SPCR (see more detailed recommendations below in bold).

We are somewhat concerned about the project indicators on capacity building focusing almost exclusively on outputs ("number of ... trained", "guide produced") rather than outcomes – a point we had already raised in commenting on the SPCR. Once again, **we therefore recommend that indicators be included that reach beyond the output level; measuring instead how the target group uses its capacities newly acquired through**

the project's interventions. A point of particular concern is the adaptation guide. As it is currently presented in the proposal, it remains unclear to us (i) what aspects of adaptation the guide will focus on; (ii) how the quality of its contents will be assured; (iii) how the target group will be familiarised with its use and content (the proposal does mention that “the project will provide training”, without, however, presenting any further details); and (iv) how its actual use will be monitored and measured. This is all the more important, since outputs such as the adaptation guide should be at the core of PPCR interventions. **We therefore recommend that additional clarification be provided on the aforementioned points (i) to (iv), and that particular attention be given during project implementation to develop a guide that is truly useful and used widely.**

HIV/AIDS prevalence in Mozambique is very high. Especially construction projects contribute to spreading the disease, as is being highlighted in the section on Environmental and Social Analysis. **We therefore recommend appropriate actions to reduce the spreading of HIV/AIDS should be taken.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting issues

Gender

It is highly commendable that the project aims to assure that women benefit equally or even more than men. The project should however consider that women have also equally access to land and also land titles. This is not always the case, especially when husbands die, widows are not necessarily allowed to keep the land. **During project implementation it should be ensured that especially widows and single mothers benefit from the measures.**

Synergies with German Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

At the regional level, Germany supports the SADC Secretariat and its member states to negotiate the use of transboundary waters and to harmonize their respective policies. The Limpopo river basin is one of the focal watersheds for German regional support. The Limpopo is heavily used and dammed upstream. This affects mostly the downstream users like those in Mozambique. For example, the flooding in Mozambique in the year 2000 was mainly caused by unagreed opening of dams, mainly in South Africa, after heavy rains. Therefore, although the project has no influence on neighbouring countries, **it would be recommendable to communicate activities and results also to those Mozambican bodies that participate in the transboundary negotiations on the use of the Limpopo river**, in order to ensure that climate resilient development in Mozambique is duly considered in these negotiations.