

**Comments by Germany on proposed project and AfDB responses:
 Republic of Niger
 Water Resources Mobilization and Development Project (PROMOVARE)**

| COMMENTS | ANSWERS |
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| <p>This would imply (i) that more explicit use should be made of the modeling of water resources and their availability under climate change; (ii) that the approach should be based on site specific vulnerability analyses; and (iii) that alternative technological options to irrigation such as water-spreading weirs and their economic and ecological advantages should be assessed more thoroughly. We therefore recommend more distinctly addressing climate change aspects. This should involve strengthening the analytical part concerning e.g. water availability scenarios, making explicit use of vulnerability analyses, and identifying innovative measures other than conventional irrigation. We would further like to see at least one indicator tracking such measures.</p> | <p>The key objective of the project is to increase resilience of vulnerable communities in Niger regarding water scarcity. The focus is on finding ways to enable these communities to benefit from collection of runoff water.</p> <p>Therefore, the criteria used for the choice of districts (department in French) presented in section 2 of the summary are: (i) the vulnerability in terms of food security; (ii) the absence of other stakeholders in the field in the project area; and, (iii) the existing potential in mobilization of runoff water and irrigable land. In addition, the criteria used for the selection of the 10 sites of 10 rural municipalities in the nine districts, presented in annex B3, are: i) level of vulnerability of beneficiaries; ii) motivation of the affected communities to participate in the development and maintenance of the facilities; iii) existence of potential for mobilization of water; and iv) synergy or complementarity with other projects.</p> <p>The project will provide a network of piezometers and other gauges to track key water resource parameters at each site (see section 2.1 and annex B3) which will enable modeling of water resources (such as grid-based, distributed-parameter watershed model to estimate net infiltration below the root zone).</p> <p>Irrigation activities at each project site will be planned each year on the basis of the estimate of the availability of water, generated by the water models. An additional indicator on the number of sites with an operational model for water resources management has been included in the log frame.</p> |

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| | <p>Based on existing data the vulnerability of the communities was a key criteria behind the choice of districts and sites. However, it is also stressed in the project document that in order for the project to attain its objectives and reach its development outcomes additional diagnosis and vulnerability assessments will need to be done prior to the development of the management plan of each site. Such a plan will identify activities to be undertaken on each site and the technologies that should be used (see annex B3).</p> <p>The IFC project (Annex B1) will produce a directory of resilient practices and techniques to be promoted within PROMOVARE. Drip system and the California network are among the resilient irrigation technologies adapted to the context of Niger. The dissemination of such practices and resilient land and water management techniques will be promoted as long as the vulnerability assessments validate them. Two indicators are already planned to monitor this transformation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of producers with access to land with a climate resilient irrigation system; - Percentage of producers that have adopted climate resilient practices and techniques <p>Section 2.2.2 has been added to the report to better highlight the main activities planned to address the challenges of climate change.</p> |
| <p>In a similar vein, the proposal remains somewhat vague on how climate information as well as monitoring information from the <i>Climate Information Development and Forecasting Project</i> (PDIPC) under the PPCR would be incorporated into the planning and implementation process. We therefore recommend that the issue of making use of climate information provided under other pillars of the PPCR be discussed at greater depth.</p> | <p>Paragraph 1.1.3 has now been added to the report to better highlight the link between the PDIPC and PROMOVARE projects. The PDIPC project entails the dissemination of climate information to some 150,000 producers throughout the 266 rural municipalities of Niger using the existing extension network. Moreover, the PDIPC will fund agro-meteorological information support to 1,500 producers (including women) at the PROMOVARE irrigation sites. The PDIPC will also train the extension agents at the PROMOVARE irrigation sites. All climate information developed by the PDIPC will be part of the extension packages to be used at the PROMOVARE irrigation sites.</p> |

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| | <p>While the other projects in the SPCR have a core focus on the development of information, technologies and approaches to address climate change, PROMOVARE is the only investment project targeting increased agricultural production through sustainable water resource management, under which the tools and technologies will be tested to promote adapted irrigation activities.</p> |
| <p>The project's range of activities is broad and to some extent community <i>based</i>, but not clearly also community <i>driven</i>. Mechanism of communal decision making appear to be missing, and, more generally, communal action seems to be supported only rather weakly. We therefore recommend addressing these aspects more thoroughly.</p> | <p>Annex B3 paras 1.1 and 2.2 explain the procedure for financing the sub - projects by PROMOVARE. This procedure is summarized in section 4.1.3 of the document. Rural municipalities and communities, supported by Government field technical services, are the initiators and owners of the sub-projects.</p> |
| <p>In the same context, it is also unclear to us how resilience building of communities, or, better even, their improved resilience, would be measured. We recommend that indicators be modified or the log frame be supplemented with additional indicators to reflect measurable criteria for resilience building of target groups and its success.</p> | <p>The indicators proposed in the logical framework to measure the resilience of production systems and populations facing recurrent food crises are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidence of rural poverty in the project zone; • Annual agricultural Production; • Animal herds secured by a resilient facility; • Available resilient land area; • Number of developed resilient pastoral perimeters; and, • Number of producers with access to resilient and secure land. <p>The following indicators have been reformulated in the logframe for more precision :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced poverty incidence in the area covered by the project; • Increased yearly agricultural production in the area covered by the project; • Secured livestock with a resilient pastoral system in the area covered by the project • Increased the areas of land having a resilient irrigation system; • increased the areas of resilient land for livestock; • increased the number of producers with access to resilient land; |
| <p>Also, it is not very clear to us how the project will interface with the government, its sectoral ministries, and their regional structures, and we feel that the proposal would benefit from more clarification on</p> | <p>The role of the technical services is better clarified in paragraph 4.1.2 of the report. The project will be implemented by a Coordination Unit hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture. A Steering Committee will be</p> |

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| <p>these matters.</p> | <p>set up at the national level and in each of the regions covered by the project. Regional and departmental technical services will be responsible for coaching and facilitating activities undertaken by producers, for supporting communities and rural municipalities for the development and monitoring of the sub – projects, and the monitoring/ evaluation of the project on the ground as well.</p> |
| <p>We would appreciate the proposal being more explicit about the identification and selection of best practices, considering that adaptation to climate change is a relatively new field of activity, with few if any proven best practices readily available.</p> | <p>A paragraph 4.2.2 has been added to the report to better explain the M&E system that will enable the identification and the capitalization of the best practices. It should be noted that the whole knowledge management component of the SPCR is incorporated in component 3 of the [CAPCR], the project supervised by World Bank and will be implemented by the strategic coordination unit of the SPCR. It is also planned that the IFC project will establish a national climate information platform, which will provide the framework for identification and exchanges on best practices for extension.</p> |
| <p>The project will work in the same three regions (Agadez, Tahoua, Tillabery) as the German-supported bilateral agriculture programme, and may to some extent even be active in the same communes. It would seem important that approaches should be harmonized by a national strategy for small scale irrigation. Development of such a strategy for small irrigation in Niger (SPIN), including a monitoring system, within the Ministry of Agriculture is presently being supported by said programme, possibly to be adopted by the Government of Niger by the end of 2012. The strategy is expected to provide guidance for the implementation of small scale irrigation measures implemented by some 15 donor organizations throughout the country. These organizations are members of the <i>subsector group of technical and financial partners</i>, also initiated with German support, and meeting on a monthly basis. The PPCR becoming a partner in strategy development and joining the subsector coordination would be very much appreciated.</p> | <p>The Bank has joined the Financial and technical partners (PTF) of the rural development sector Coordination Committee of Niger, following a meeting with these partners during a joint mission in Niger in May 2012.</p> <p>The national strategy of small Irrigation in Niger (SPIN) is currently under development in Niger. This strategy will establish the principles and provide guidance for action in Niger in this sub sector. It will be aligned with the objectives of the broader 3N strategy in small irrigation. PROMOVARE objectives perfectly fit in this context. Notwithstanding the absence of a Bank office in Niger, Bank supervision mission routinely meet with donors and will undertake virtual participation in committee deliberations where feasible.</p> |

Comments by UK on proposed project and AfDB responses:

Republic of Niger

Water Resources Mobilization and Development Project (PROMOVARE)

| COMMENTS | ANSWERS |
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| <p>The inclusion of a project component on support services is welcome including providing advisory support and capacity building to beneficiaries. However it is not clear whether the Government of Niger has an effective agricultural extension system to deliver this support, if not how will this be supported by the AfDB?</p> | <p>The Ministry of Agriculture has officers from the central level to the level of the departments and rural municipalities. The Department has therefore staff in place to help implement and monitor the activities of the project at both the central and community levels. However, the capability of the service is varied. Accordingly, capacity building will be provided by the project to these technical services in order for the agents to better accomplish their duties (section 2.1 and paragraphs 4.1.2).</p> |
| <p>We would welcome more information on the targeting criteria for the selection of beneficiaries for this project (very little currently included except on page 16 of the technical annex on the selection of communities for the water structures component).</p> | <p>Criteria for the choice of the district (department in French) presented in section 2 of the summary are: (i) the vulnerability in terms of food security; (ii) the absence of other stakeholders in the field in the project area; and, (iii) the existing potential in mobilization of runoff water and irrigable land. The criteria used for the selection of the 10 sites of 10 rural municipalities in the nine districts, presented in annex B3, are: i) level of vulnerability of beneficiaries; ii) motivation of the affected communities to participate in the development and maintenance of the facilities; iii) existence of potential for mobilization of water; and iv) synergy or complementarity with other projects.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5.1 has been reformulated to better highlight the criteria.</p> |
| <p>The cash for work for watershed management activities (page 18 of technical annex) should be a good way involving communities but the project should ensure this is done in coordination with other cash for work initiatives going on Niger in case of any overlap or duplication</p> | <p>The cash for work will be used for treatment of the drainage basins planned by the project. The project implementation unit will ensure coordination and consultation with other partners that use the same intervention scheme in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.</p> |
| <p>The project focuses on establishing mini-dams, irrigation systems and watering points for livestock. There is little attention to the important local governance issues that will have a significant impact on whether these new resources are properly utilised and whether the most vulnerable people benefit. This includes issues such as land tenure and who will control access to mini dams and watering points for livestock, location of new watering points, and community-based management of natural resources, and in particular the degree of involvement of women in this management. Can the project team confirm whether these issues have</p> | <p>Project benefits cannot be achieved without an effective management by communities. A significant local capacity building program is planned and developed in section 3.1 of annex 3. It focuses on the implementation and the strengthening of the capacity of infrastructure management committees. The project involves the establishment of 11 management committees and 16 groups of producers including 50% of women membership. In addition, project supervision missions will pay particular attention to these aspects and we will insist on them being part of the annual work plan of the project.</p> |

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| been considered? We would like to see these issues explicitly addressed in programme implementation. | |
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