

May 26, 2015

Approval by Mail: PPCR Tajikistan: Additional Financing ELM and Rural Livelihoods Project
Comments from Germany

Dear Colleagues,

We have **no major** objections to the implementation of the project. However, we have some observations (see **bold** highlights), which we would like to see incorporated during project implementation. Moreover, we recommend considering our earlier comments on the *Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods Project*, submitted on 5th February 2013, on the *Approval by Mail: PPCR Tajikistan: Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods Project (IBRD)*, submitted on 13th February 2013, as well as on the SPCR for Tajikistan, submitted on 21st December 2010.

We appreciate that a considerable share of the additional financing is allocated to scaling up activities under Sub-component 1.1 (Sustainable village-based rural production and land resource management), expanding its geographical scope to an additional “climate vulnerable district” in the middle hills region of the country. Yet, while welcoming the general approach of providing targeted small-scale grants at the village level to enhance their climate resilience, we have some concerns about the relatively low level of minimum beneficiary contributions (25 %). Experience from the Tajik-German *Framework and Finance of Private Sector Development (FFPSD) Programme* has shown that higher beneficiary contributions are more conducive to building ownership and fostering sustainability of the project in the long term. **Therefore, we recommend raising the minimum beneficiary contributions to 50 % of the grant amount for all small-scale investments in productive assets.**

Moreover, given our previously raised concerns about the “proposal’s ambition with regard to mainstreaming climate change in a rural environment”, we highly welcome that it is foreseen that only those investments will be financed that appropriately address specific climate risks identified at the village- and jamoat-level. However, the proposal does not elaborate in detail how these results will actually inform the village-level decision making process regarding the use of small-scale grants. **Thus, we kindly suggest explaining how the project will ensure that the small-scale investments at village level are actually in line with the results of the proposed climate change adaptation and environmental assessments.**

Reiterating our earlier comments on the role of “facilitating organizations”, we feel that these organizations are a critical factor for the project’s success. However, the proposal still does not mention a strategy to ensure the continuation of their support upon the conclusion of the project. **We therefore kindly ask clarifying to which degree the envisaged facilitating organizations are locally embedded and how their support could continue after the project has ended, in order to ensure a positive impact in the long term.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

We acknowledge the progress towards strengthening gender considerations in the results framework and particularly welcome IBRD’s response to one of our related previous comments: “Indicator 2 which is a participatory assessment of well-being and changes in household assets will be disaggregated by gender in order to show degree to which women are able to better

cope with climate risk". However, to date this aspect does not seem to have been incorporated in the project proposal. **We therefore strongly recommend disaggregating the indicator "Proportion of population by household in target villages reporting at least 20% increase in well-being or household/livelihood assets" by gender, as indicated by IBRD's previous response.**

Learning

Under Component 1, it is foreseen to "use a toolkit with best practices to ensure that investments selected are the most appropriate to address climate risks". The German-supported *Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia Programme*, in cooperation with FFPSD, is currently developing a community-based land use planning manual, which includes a catalogue on land use planning options under climate change. **We recommend exchanging views and experiences from the development and (pilot) application of both knowledge products in order to facilitate mutual learning processes.**

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

We very much appreciate the project's proactive engagement with related German-supported projects in Tajikistan, in particular FFPSD and *Adaptation to Climate Change Through Sustainable Forest Management*. Moreover, we welcome that the proposed project foresees joining the German-supported regional K-Link initiative to strengthen dissemination of knowledge and networking among stakeholders. **We would like to encourage continued and close collaboration with German-supported projects and initiatives in the region, in order to minimize overlaps and make use of potential synergies to the highest possible extent.**

Regards

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