

**Cambodia – Pilot Program for Climate Resilience**

Response to Comments by CSO Observers on Capacity Development Technical Assistance for  
**Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning** (Project Number XPCRKH016A) **10 Aug 2012**

<b>COMMENTS BY CSO OBSERVERS</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
<p><b><u>GENERAL FEEDBACK</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given Cambodia’s high vulnerability to climate change, it is encouraging to see the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the ADB to integrating climate resilience into Cambodia’s development planning.</li> <li>Civil society appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft TA document.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank you.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nexus-Carbon for Development (CSO observer, PPCR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Staff turnover in government institutions:</u> A key risk for the long-term capacity building of government institutions is the high staff turnover. No mitigation measures are currently in place in the plan to encourage staff retention. PPCR should consider this issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High staff turnover is a serious problem but an externally funded program of limited duration such as PPCR cannot solve it. A more holistic human resource management strategy at national level, which is beyond the scope of PPCR, is crucial.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>ASIA FOUNDATION</u></b> <b>Civil Society Support Mechanism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Clarification around the desired output of the Civil Society Support Mechanism:</u> The Civil Society Support Mechanism is geared towards strengthening civil society organizations’ ability to “mainstream adaptation and disaster risk reduction into their operations.” With regard to the focus of this grant making facility, we would suggest that there be greater clarification around the desired output (page 4, item 13 in the draft CDTA) and whether it is focused on study and research, as articulated in one section, or implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities, or both. It is unclear whether the ADB intends a two-pronged approach where some grants would be allocated for research/survey work to understand the impacts and adaptations of communities to climate change and another set of grants focused on project implementation based on these findings. If so, there remains the question of sequencing of the grants i.e., would CSOs only be eligible to apply for project implementation grants once research studies are completed?</li> <li><u>Overlap between output 3 and 4:</u> Given the emphasis on research and knowledge generation under the CSO Support Mechanism as currently stated under Output 3, there seems to be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The civil society support mechanism is expected to provide grants to conduct “field-based studies” and/or implement “adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects”. There is no sequencing as both types of proposals will be concurrently supported.</li> <li>Text on page 4, Para13 was edited appropriately to improve clarity.</li> <li>Both outputs 3 and 4 will generate different types of knowledge products. The project will encourage CSOs/NGOs as well as the technical teams working for the</li> </ul>

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<p>significant overlap with Output 4: Climate change adaptation knowledge products developed and disseminated. It would be useful to more clearly differentiate the emphasis between Outputs 3 and 4 and/or, as noted above, further clarify the emphasis of Output 3 with regard to research/ knowledge generation versus implementation of CCA and DRR activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>CSO Support organization included in the technical backstopping unit:</u> To ensure a streamlined process for learning and coordination among civil society, local, national government, the ADB and the broader development community, through web portals such as the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, as well as other means of dissemination, we suggest the inclusion of the organization that manages the CSO Support Mechanism on the PPCR coordinating and technical backstopping unit in MOE (outlined in Output 1).</li> <li>• <u>Avoid spreading the funding:</u> Finally, while we understand the need for consistency in the timeframe with the rest of the outputs under the SPCR, in our experience, in order for the project to achieve measurable impact from grants made under the CSO Support Mechanism, it would be more realistic to expend the allocated \$2 million dollars over 2 years, rather than 5 years, and reduce the number of grants. Spreading the relatively limited funding for the CSO Support Mechanism over 30-50 grants would result in funding small-scale, short-term activities rather than substantive projects and would be less likely to show meaningful results or impact.</li> </ul>	<p>SPCR to develop knowledge products. An indicator on knowledge products (at least 20 publications on community-based adaptation developed by 2017) has been included under output 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed. Necessary changes were made in the text in Para 16 of the technical assistance (TA) report.</li> <li>• The duration of studies and projects to be funded by the civil society support mechanism is expected to be around 2 years. However, delays in grant making or other reasons beyond TA’s control may force some projects to extend beyond 2 years. Also, CSO and NGO representatives requested for two calls for proposals, rather than allocating all grants in one round.</li> <li>• The range of number of grants (30-50) was decided on the basis of extensive consultations with civil society and other key stakeholders. Therefore, no changes are made.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NGO Forum (feedback sent by email to Nexus)</b> <b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Staff turnover in government institutions:</u> There is a risk of a high staff turnover in the government</li> <li>• <u>Limited capacity of civil society:</u> Another risk is the limited capacity of civil society. More training workshops should be organized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern on high staff turnover is well known and is identified as a risk.</li> <li>• Significant sums of money from this TA and other 7 SPCR investment projects will be used for organizing training workshops to strengthen capacity of civil society.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPCR coordination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>A result-based management and monitoring for SPCR investments</u> should be developed with a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two activities (1.3 and 1.10 in the earlier draft and 1.4 and 1.11 in the</li> </ul>

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<p>wider consultation, and once completed, organize the trainings for both the government and NGOs/CSOs (by 2013).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Monitoring and evaluation:</u> The assessment of policy makers and civil society capacity should also cover the area of monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>• <u>Public participation:</u> The reporting and monitoring format and schedule for SPCR investments and other adaptation programs should be developed with public participation, particularly from NGOs/CSOs who would be granted funds at a later stage.</li> <li>• <u>Planning:</u> The data support infrastructure should support the implementation, but also the planning of climate change risk management. Climate Change risk management should be integrated into sector guidelines, but also into plans and programs.</li> </ul>	<p>latest draft of the TA report) are focused on monitoring and evaluation of SPCR investments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed. Text in activities 1.4 and 1.11 modified to include capacity assessment.</li> <li>• Agreed. Text in activity 1.4 modified to include consultations with key stakeholders including NGOs and CSOs.</li> <li>• Agreed. Text modified to include sector plans and programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Civil society support mechanism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Replicating lessons learnt in national policy:</u> Lessons learnt and good practices should also be integrated in national climate change policy and practice.</li> <li>• <u>A high number of project should be supported:</u> A diverse portfolio of at least 50 (and not 30) community-based adaptation and DRR projects in at least 3 sectors (with at least 50% - and not 30 - projects directly improving climate resilience of women) identified, financed and implemented by 2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed. Text in Para 13 and activity 3.4 modified to include integration into national adaptation policy and practice.</li> <li>• A few other CSOs wanted fewer and larger (5-10) projects with high impact. As noted earlier, the range of number of grants (30-50) was decided on the basis of extensive consultations. Therefore, no changes are made.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Trainings / sharing:</u></b> The plan should also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize training events, workshops and other capacity-building activities targeted at NGOs/CSOs members including women and senior practitioners and advocates and provide technical backstopping to various NGOs/CSOs focal points on adaptation (completion by 2017)</li> <li>• Organize the annual meeting(s) between the government and NGOs/CSOs on climate change and DRR with special focus on achievements, lessons learned, and strategic directions (Annually)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text in activity 1.6 modified to include NGOs and CSOs.</li> <li>• Noted. As several stakeholder workshops will be held at regular intervals, no separate annual meetings will be held.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Climate change adaptation knowledge products developed and disseminated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Bilingual:</u> The website should be bilingual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web site will be bilingual and efforts will be made to provide key documents in Khmer language. However, some English publications may not be translated.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Knowledge products</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Gender:</u> 100 key national government staff including 50 women (instead of 30) should be trained in adaptation by 2017</li>   <li>• <u>Number of workshops:</u> At least 20 (instead of 10) awareness building, and multi-stakeholder (gender-inclusive) workshops should be conducted by 2017</li>   <li>• <u>Primary and public education:</u> New curriculum for adaptation and DRR should also be developed for primary education, and be implemented in the public educational system</li>   <li>• <u>Simple articles:</u> 50 (instead of 25) new articles on adaptation and DRR published and posted in Cambodian. These articles should use a simple language.</li>   <li>• <u>Knowledge strategies and mechanisms:</u> Products, but also knowledge strategy/mechanisms should be developed for effective dissemination of project results (completion by Dec 2017)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted. The number is indicative only. Given the fact that technical women staff members in the government agencies are fewer than men, it would be difficult to reach parity, but efforts will be made to train as many technical women staff as possible. Therefore, no changes are made to the number of trained women staff.</li> <li>• Noted. The number is indicative only. Efforts will be made to conduct as many awareness building and multi-stakeholder workshops within resources available. Therefore, no changes to the number of workshops are made.</li> <li>• Noted. Within the resources available for this TA, primary education curriculum cannot be supported. Implementation in public educational system also depends on readiness of schools and universities to adopt the curriculum, and other factors outside the scope of the TA. Because of short time available after completion of the curriculum, it would be difficult to commit effective implementation in the public educational system.</li> <li>• Noted. The number is indicative only. Efforts will be made to publish as many articles as possible in both English and Khmer language. Therefore, no changes to the number of articles are made.</li> <li>• Noted with thanks.</li> </ul>