

Comments from Germany on the SPCRs for Niger, Tajikistan and Bangladesh

Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) – Niger’s Proposal for Phase II

Comments on the project proposal

1. In general, the description of background and rationale for the programme is coherent and logical. Thus, SPCR’s intervention is highly justifiable from our perspective.
2. People in Niger have always been affected by climate variability and have a long-lasting experience with respect to coping strategies, although the problem has not been addressed under the heading of “climate change adaptation”.
3. Climate variability is taken into account in many national, local and sector strategies, but climate change adaptation has not yet been integrated systematically into most of these strategies. Only the NAPA is clearly focussing on climate change adaptation.
4. At present there are a large number of activities addressing the problem of climate variability and change, mainly carried out by international development partners. There seem to be deficits with respect to the coordination of these activities.
5. It has been decided that the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) should focus on food security and resilience at the local level. From our perspective, this is the correct focus.
6. The three intervention pillars proposed for action in the SPCR respond to priority adaptation needs and complement existing activities.
7. The activities proposed for pillar 1 and partly for pillar 2 (insurance and risk pooling) are really innovative. The activities proposed under pillar 2 with respect to Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) and Integrated Water Management (IWM) are certainly important as well. However, it would have been useful to work out more clearly, what their added value is, as compared to many other existing similar adaptation activities in the country.
8. We appreciate that *pillar 2: Investing in approaches for climate resilience (Innovative Climate Practices)* has received 78 per cent budget allocation and therefore more importance in comparison to the drafts. In the implementation of component 2, measures of resource management, which have been tested in Niger for a long time, will be put into action. Experience shows that large Investments, while being technically successful, have failed to be sustainable due to lack of adequate ownership, legal and institutional frameworks.
9. From the SPCR proposal it does not become clear how the strategies for climate change adaptation and rural development are linked. Both topics seem to be treated in parallel. Therefore, the programme's objective to mainstream these issues into the broader rural development strategy is important.
10. Due to the large number of different activities and experiences related to climate change adaptation all over the country, pillar 3 (coordination and knowledge management) is of utmost importance for the up-scaling of best practices and dissemination of lessons learned.

11. Two aspects are mentioned in the background description, but not reflected in the proposal: rapid population growth and continuing woodland degradation due to energy needs. These can thwart any investment into SLWM and should from our point of view be treated in the project concept.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The PPCR proposal presented by the Government of Niger addresses major adaptation needs in the country. It should certainly be supported.
13. It is suggested to work out more clearly the added value of SLWM and IWM activities in the framework of the PPCR proposal.
14. Moreover, it would be helpful to explain how PPCR activities are integrated into the Rural Development Strategy (including its impact on the institutional setting).
15. Rapid population growth and forest degradation due to energy needs are important factors posing serious risks to the long-term achievement of PPCR goals. These two factors should be accounted for in the project proposal.
16. Reviewing and considering factors of success should find its way into the SPCR to ensure sustainability of investments. Adequate measures to strengthen favorable framework conditions must also be integrated into the project concept.
17. The German development cooperation has generated tools for mainstreaming climate adaptation into development planning, e.g. the 'Climate Proofing for Development' instrument. As a PPCR partner and in order to avoid double efforts, Germany could provide this instrument to be used under PPCR Niger.

Please note: At present German Development Cooperation is supporting the Nigerian-German Programme to Fight against Poverty (LUCOP). It is implemented as a cooperation programme with GTZ, DED & KfW and aims at reducing poverty in rural areas. It started operations in January 2004 and is scheduled for a period of 12 years. The components of LUCOP are: (i) Municipal development and decentralization, (ii) building and management of socio-economic infrastructure, (iii) management and development of natural resources and, (iv) support of the food security system. The program has recently undergone a shift and has been separated into two programs focussing on decentralization and agriculture. The green program will fund irrigation, management of natural resources and cross-cutting issues such as climate change. Its expected budget is about 20 million Euros. Unfortunately, in the project proposal only GTZ's contribution is mentioned.

PPCR/SC.7/7, Strategic Program for Climate Resilience: Tajikistan

General comments

In total, \$50 million have been allocated to the PPCR in Tajikistan. The first Joint Mission (12-22 October 2009) has identified and determined six components as TA, i.e. technical assistance, amounting to \$1.5 million:

- A1 Institutional Analysis & Capacity Needs for Climate Resilience (WB)
- A2 Tajikistan Climate Science and Impact Modeling Partnership (ADB)

- A3 Awareness-Raising (WB)
- A4 Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Tajikistan's Energy Sector (EBRD)
- A5 Analysis of Sustainable Land Management Approaches for Changing Climatic Conditions in Tajikistan (WB)
- A6 Analysis of River Basin Approach to Climate Resilience (ADB)

Comments to the Project Proposal

1. The project proposal needs to have a broader view and build on existing institutional arrangement. The "Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land management, CACILM" already includes program and project activities integrating adaptation to climate change. It provides as well a governance structure which should be used under the PPCR.
2. Coordination with local NGO's as well as bilateral donors should be considerably strengthened.
Long-term results and approaches of existing programs and projects should be considered and assessed with regard to relevant best practices and experiences that could be upscaled under the PPCD. As German development cooperation has been active in the province of Gorno-Badakhshan on sustainable use of natural resources for several years now, we are prepared to share our experience with the MDB's involved.
3. We are also concerned about a possible deficit regarding development impacts on the poor and especially vulnerable parts of the population: for example have sufficiently participatory approaches been chosen and will those in future be chosen to assure women's rights (land tenure rights, access to finance, irrigation etc.) are addressed. This also involves choosing the appropriate indicators in the results framework and project design.
4. The prioritization of sectors seems in parts not adequately explained; in particular the rationale for financing climate resilience of hydropower infrastructure under the PPCR does not necessarily fulfill the investment criteria, as we would expect any MDB project to be already climate proof. We do understand that in this instance a pilot character of the PPCR funding component can be construed, but it should be further addressed in a revised document.
5. Furthermore on priority sectors: The meaning of the forestry sector for combating poverty, combating erosion and reducing vulnerability to climate change needs to be addressed more adequately. Agriculture and forestry are the two most important forms of land management in large areas of Tajikistan.
 - a. Ad A4: The component should be revised and should contain compulsive measures of adaptation in the forestry sector. Forests have a protective function and firewood constitutes the most important energy source for the overwhelmingly poor population. (A sector study executed in 2010 by GTZ on behalf of the Government of Tajikistan could provide exact calculations on the required amount per household as well as the country as a whole).
 - b. Ad A5 (sustainable land management) '*Anticipated components and activities*' relates to "*improving the management and use of forest resources*" (p. 69): . Due to the scarcity of forest resources, afforestation and reforestation measures as well as their long-term management should be integrated
 - c. Ad A6 '*River Basin Approach*': The meaning of Riparian (*tugai*) forests for the course of a river and its speed must be considered. From experience, technical measures have a limited effect. The "*Proper operation and maintenance of ...flood resistant forest stands*" (p. 74), listed under '*anticipated components and activities*', must be specified
6. We are concerned about the time horizon which seems very ambitious (begin of hydropower rehabilitation 2011): are there sufficiently exhaustive studies about

effects of climate change in mid- and long term in order to assess long-term availability of water for the dam construction?

PPCR/SC.7/5 Strategic Programme of Climate Resilience: Bangladesh

1. We welcome the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience as a useful contribution to help Bangladesh adapt to climate change, in particular considering that Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change.
2. **Complementarity** of activities on climate change adaptation undertaken under the SCPR and programmes such as the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund is of utmost importance and requires **close cooperation of all partners** and the Government of Bangladesh. Germany therefore welcomes the proposed technical assistance on capacity building and knowledge management and would encourage **dedication of additional resources** to such activities. We would like to inquire to what extent component 2 of investment project 2, focussing on **rural roads and markets, corresponds to the infrastructural priorities** set out in the Climate Change Action Plan under the infrastructure theme. We would like to encourage CIF to reflect in programme design and implementation **how the local population can contribute** not only to rehabilitate infrastructure such as coastal embankments but also to ensure its proper maintenance. For instance, Germany pursues such a co-management approach under a new project in dike areas of the Sundarbans. German development cooperation has gathered expertise in activities related to disaster prevention through reconstruction in coastal regions, reforestation and biodiversity. **Germany stands ready to share its experiences** with interested partners.