

December 10, 2010

**Comments from the United Kingdom on the SPCRs
for Bangladesh, Niger and Tajikistan**

Dear Patricia,

Thank you for sharing the minutes of the recent sub-committee meeting with us.

As per the meeting minutes, we would like to take the opportunity to share a set of more detailed comments (below) on the SPCRs with the aim of furthering the development of the proposals included within the SPCRs.

In advance of the document on options for a quality review of investment plans and strategies under the SCF targeted programs, we commissioned individual independent appraisals of the SPCRs which we would be very happy to share with the country teams if they would be useful.

Kind regards,

Su-Lin

A. Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience for Bangladesh

The UK is broadly happy to endorse Bangladesh's SPCR. Overall it is aligned well with the Government of Bangladesh's priorities and is trying to build on previous planning and institutional arrangements. It offers a helpful and important contribution to address the critical need for strengthened capacity at the national level to tackle climate change risks on the scale needed.

We're pleased that the SPCR articulates expected results, and has a clear focus on gender issues. Indicators and risk management strategies will need further development as projects are developed. Among the key challenges in tackling climate change in Bangladesh is environmental degradation. A more explicit consideration of how the proposed investment projects will be screened for environmental impacts and opportunities should be included in the final version of the SPCR.

The SPCR's strategy for engaging civil society is not clear and should be elaborated in the final version and in project proposals.

Measuring the cost-effectiveness and value for money of interventions, especially new approaches, will be vital in deciding how best to proceed in the future.

Governance is not given much attention in the SPCR. The capacity building component should seek to address this.

Lessons that the PPCR can learn from previous experience in Bangladesh could be brought out more clearly. For example, successes such as its world-renowned community-based early warning system and cyclone shelters, disaster management experience or local capacity to cope with adverse conditions could be more fully exploited and integrated within national policy and planning.

Although the SPCR acknowledges that opportunities for disseminating lessons from Bangladesh's experience with climate mainstreaming to vulnerable countries across the region and beyond should be explored, it does not offer significant insight in to how this might be achieved. Bangladesh can utilise its experience representing the region and is thus well positioned to share lessons learned through the PPCR at the regional and global level.

B. Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience for Niger

We warmly welcome Niger's SPCR and are happy to endorse it.

The SPCR has been developed in a way that seeks to add value to previous work, scale up on programmes in priority areas and develop a holistic, integrated approach to climate resilience in the country that is well aligned with development priorities and the needs of the poor.

The PPCR will catalyse action at a larger scale in critical sectors and strengthen capacity.

Pleased to see an SEA is planned – this should ensure the wider environmental benefits are captured and we look forward to seeing these benefits expressed in the SPCR and project proposals.

Coordination will need to be a major priority as the PPCR develops in order to reach the decentralised rural levels of Niger in a cost-effective, integrated way, e.g. making use of community-based adaptation learning programmes.

It is not clear how gender issues are included and civil society groups focused on gender issues are being engaged. This aspect of the SPCR should be thought through in more detail as projects are worked up, and

we would want to see a clearer expression of civil society engagement in project proposals.

It would be useful to have more detail on private sector engagement. It will be important to capture this better in the final version of the logframe.

In the infrastructure elements (e.g. under PROMOVARE), there is little reference to maintenance aside from identifying the importance of strong public-private partnerships and the fact that maintenance is an important risk. This could undermine cost-effectiveness. There is little evidence presented overall in the SPCR on the cost-effectiveness of the projects and programmes, including reference to previous work. Again, this is something we would need to see improved in the project proposals, and this can be easily done.

It will be important to think about long-term trends and ensure that global knowledge continues to be brought to bear on the programme so that the PPCR can alter its priorities to suit the latest evidence e.g. there is currently no mention of existing climate refugees or migrants.

Â· There is nothing in the SPCR on leverage, only on building on other activities. The SPCR does not estimate the overall costs of adaptation in Niger. We need to see the leverage results the SPCR will achieve.

The Communications Specialist TORs indicate the sharing of Niger lessons at the international level. It is less clear at the programme level how regional and international lessons will be well integrated in a sustained way. It would be good to see more on this in the final version of the SPCR.

C. Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience for Tajikistan

We warmly welcome the proposal from Tajikistan and are happy to endorse it.

The proposal looks very strong on country ownership, integrating climate risk and capacity building to foster an enabling environment for building climate resilience for phase II and beyond. It demonstrates a very clear understanding of the linkages between climate and disaster risk, poverty reduction and sustainable development, has a clear focus on the most vulnerable and gender issues, and very effective engagement and consultation across a wide range of stakeholders.

Pleased to see that the investments incorporate a commitment to sharing lessons (e.g. with other mountainous developing countries and river basin managers in neighbouring countries).

The establishment of an inter-ministerial committee and PPCR secretariat is particularly remarkable and consistent with transformational approach to the way Tajikistan manages climate change and builds resilience.

Although we think the explanation of why there is little private sector engagement in the SPCR is fair, it would be good to know how GoT and other PPCR partners intend to strengthen this engagement.