

October 16, 2013

Comments from United Kingdom on Approval by mail: Mozambique Roads & Bridges Management and Maintenance Project - APL2 (IBRD)

Dear colleagues,

The UK is happy to approve this project and would like to submit the following comments:

The UK welcomes this project and strongly supports the allocation of PPCR funding to this initiative. The roads network in Mozambique is highly vulnerable to climate risk and accounts for around 60% of capital spending - so this is clearly a priority area deserving attention from PPCR. This is also in line with Government priorities and has local stakeholder support.

DFID Mozambique has been consulted on the development and planning of the Additional Financing for the second phase of the Roads and Bridges Management and Maintenance Project (RBMMP 2) and there has been wide consultation amongst the development partners on reconstruction priorities following the January 2013 floods in the Limpopo Valley. These discussions and subsequent comments at the WB board in June 2013 on emergency flood response financing emphasised the importance of a longer-term 'build-back-better' approach to infrastructure. We therefore agree with the deployment of different sources of financing to achieve this - including IDA and Trust Fund resources to address short- and medium term needs as well as longer-term development of climate resilient design standards for classified roads. This integrated approach should leave a longer-term legacy on climate resilience - and one that is consistent with PPCR ambition to achieve transformational impacts.

We note that Mozambique's SPCR envisaged piloting climate resilient roads designs in the Zambezi Valley and understand and agree with the rationale presented for re-focusing these funds to the lower Limpopo Valley - given the need for reconstruction following the recent floods - and the opportunity that the floods have introduced for putting in place a more climate-resilient roads legacy.

We would encourage World Bank to include in the project paper a stronger narrative on how the project would coordinate and realise synergies between the new elements introduced in this Additional Financing operation and the Baixo Limpopo Irrigation and Climate Resilience Project approved by the PPCR sub-committee in 2012 and under implementation with the support of the African Development Bank - especially given the AFDB's project also includes activities on climate resilient roads.

We welcome the co-financing element and are pleased that the project appears well-coordinated with other development partners.

Kind regards,

Anna Bobin | Policy Analyst, Low Carbon Development and Adaptation Teams | Climate and Environment Department | Department for International Development |