

January 10, 2014

**Comments from the United Kingdom— Approval by mail: Haiti: Centre  
Artibonite Regional Development Project (PPCR) IBRD**

Dear Colleagues

The UK welcomes this project and supports the allocation of PPCR funding to this initiative, although there are some concerns we would like to raise, and issues we would like to see addressed in implementation and in the rest of the SPCR:

The case for PPCR funding of this project is not convincing. The project as described doesn't appear to meet the PPCR goal of catalysing a transformational shift to a climate resilient economy. It seems to be limited to making investments already planned (the IBRD/IDA operation) more climate resilient and sustainable, rather than informing strategic decisions on the investments themselves. Building in climate resilience to the building and refurbishment of infrastructure should be standard practice, why is the World Bank not doing this as a matter of course? How is PPCR funding justified for these activities, rather than standard development finance? It would be good to see the design of this and other projects following the principles of the new World Bank climate informed decision analysis method<sup>[1]</sup>.

The analysis of likely climate impacts on the CAL region is very brief and generalised. The need to articulate a climate resilient development plan is mentioned but not how this will be done or what it would look like. There is no mention of how this project will link to the other SPCR projects for Haiti or the Caribbean. The PAD states that the project will mainstream context-specific climate resilience best practice into technical guidelines for infrastructure and government training, but not how this best practice will be defined or identified. There are no measures in the results framework for increasing Government capacity on planning for climate change or use of climate information, or for breaking down the number of beneficiaries into those made more climate resilient.

The long term and transformational impact of this project will relate more to the capacity development and knowledge sharing elements than the hard infrastructure, in terms of building the skills to design, implement and maintain these projects in the future. The plans for this are not that clear at the moment. How will the good practice and lessons learnt from building climate resilience measures into infrastructure work be shared and disseminated? What will be the legacy of this for the Haitian Government in terms of their ability to adapt?

The elements on climate information and Technical knowledge of the territory (so called soft investments) are lacking in detail what will this consist of and how will climate information be used in planning? Is this about generating weather and climate information, or converting this into tools for planning?

How will the project ensure it targets the poorest and most vulnerable? There is a risk they will be sidelined with the focus on producers that already have access to agricultural land. There seems to be a major opportunity to increase climate resilience through climate proofing road access to social and health services for vulnerable communities (para 11 of the PAD) but this is only mentioned as a side benefit and not measured. There could also be opportunities to improve the climate resilience of the major towns through informing urban planning and building regulations in targeted municipalities.

Good that the headline results breakdown the number of people reached into direct and indirect figures. Welcome fact that project includes a significant component on institutional capacity building for M and E

Good that some results targets are broken down by gender, but the gender analysis is quite thin, and women's empowerment (e.g. in decision making on selection of roads to improve) does not appear to be measured

Many thanks

Juliet