

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

October 15, 2015

**Approval by mail: Haiti: Climate Proofing of Agriculture in the Centre-Artibonite Loop (PPCR) (IDB) –
(PPCR) – IDB Response to UK and US Comments**

Approval by mail: Haiti: Climate Proofing of Agriculture in the Centre-Artibonite Loop (IDB) PPCR – IDB Responses to UK and US Comments.

IDB Response to UK Comments:

UK Comments	IDB Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is very positive to see EWS messaging strengthened to include the level of alert and evacuation routes. 	<p>Noted and thank you.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will aim to train farmers on improved farming techniques. How will it ensure that farmers will be able to afford and put into practice improved techniques? What other constraints are there (aside from lack of knowledge) that have so far prevented the use of improved farming techniques? 	<p>The research component of the program, which is geared towards identifying, among others, new farming techniques, will feed into another IDB agriculture incentive program currently in execution by informing the currently supported menu of crops and techniques, incorporating climate resilient crops, varieties and techniques to be promoted through this program.</p> <p>The constraints are mainly lack of resources, lack of knowledge and lack of infrastructure (roads to access water or markets, irrigation systems, protection against floods, etc.).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is indicated that the reconstruction of the FAMV campus will follow national building standards – could IDB please confirm if these standards are sufficiently robust and climate-smart? 	<p>Yes, the national building standards have been updated to ensure greater robustness after the 2010 earthquake and will be applied to the FAMV campus.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the check dams and other soil conservation infrastructure be maintained? It would be useful to understand further what measures have been put in place to ensure sustainability. 	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources together with the farmers that will benefit from these infrastructures will be responsible for maintaining them. Other agriculture programs with similar interventions have been proven to be maintained by the farmers themselves, since they generated economic benefits in the short term.</p> <p>The interventions defined under PPCR have been carefully aligned with other IDB programs both in execution and in pipeline to ensure sustainability of efforts by taking an integrated approach and closely involving local authorities throughout the life of the project, from design to final maintenance.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is interesting to note that an RCT method is being used for the impact evaluation, which as far as we are aware is unprecedented in 	<p>The RCT will focus on measuring the impact of the construction of check dams on agricultural productivity in the upper watershed. In this area,</p>

related work within the region, and we look forward to seeing the results of this IE. But as soil and water conservation work will be undertaken across a watershed, where will the control group be based, in order to ensure sufficient comparability between the results without impacting on the effectiveness of the intervention?

a total of 420 potential construction sites will be identified but only 220 will be randomly selected for the construction of check dams. The other 200 sites will be used as controls. As a result, controls are going to be scattered all across the upstream intervention area. This will ensure comparability between the treatment group and the control group. The impact of check dams on agricultural productivity will materialize within the timeframe of the program (5 years). Moreover since this impact will mainly result from the accumulation of sediments on the upstream part of check dams (on the area directly contiguous to the dam), the contamination of control plots through improvements in soil fertility is unlikely to take place in the short- to medium-run. While there will certainly be positive spillovers with regard to access to water (some of these check dams are going to be built with water retention tanks), it will only benefit to livestock, not to crops as the transport of water will remain an issue. The impact of the program on erosion will take a lot more time to materialize. Several years of pre-project measurements of sediment load at the outlet of a gully would be needed in order to make meaningful comparison with post-construction data. As a result, no rigorous evaluation can be implemented to measure this impact. Instead, two students will be recruited as interns in order to perform day-to-day on-site observations and measurements of key environmental outcome indicators such as the volume of sediment contained by check-dams and the evolution of soil fertility on the upstream part of these dams. They will also be in charge of administering qualitative surveys in order to assess the project's smaller socio-economic impacts and indirect effects mainly with regard to access to water.

IDB Response to US Comments:

US Comments	IDB Responses
<p>1. We could not find a detailed description of the proposed river bank protection infrastructure or its location, and were therefore wondering about how the IDB reached the conclusion that negative impacts are considered to be minor to moderate, and that it is unlikely that the project will require resettlement. Could you please provide us with more information on these points? It would be helpful to have a bit more description of how the IDB decided the risk category for this project.</p>	<p>The optional link 6 of the project document provides information on the type of river-bank protection that the IDB has financed in past operations. It should be noted that this infrastructure is not being financed by PPCR resources but with IDB resources.</p> <p>Nevertheless in previous operations, the Bank has successfully built these types of walls to protect infrastructure from collapse, particularly major irrigation channels supporting 37,000 hectares of land of the Artibonite floodplain. The current operation has been carefully designed following IDB's Environmental and Social Policy (OP-703), which also includes a Safeguard Screening Process (Safeguard Policy Filter (SPF) and Safeguard Screening Form (SSF), both included in Annex IV of the project document) and is classified as category B. Such categorization implies the need for an Environmental Assessment and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), which have been done.</p>
<p>2. With respect to the upper watershed check dams, we have questions about whether these will provide a sustainable solution to the problem. Will the project also need to look at deforestation and agricultural practice issues to be successful?</p>	<p>These small dams have revealed themselves to be one of the most sustainable measures since the rapid accumulation of water and sediments by these structures allow for quick re-creation of fertile and humid areas to be used for intensive and agroforestry cropping. The farmers will benefit from the infrastructure, but also from technical support as well as planting materials to foster the promotion of sustainable practices around the dams. This is to be done through the complementary Agricultural Technology Transfer Program (grant agreement 2562/GR-HA) financed by IDB and GAFSP.</p>