

May 23, 2013

Comments from Australia on Approval by Mail: Nepal: Endorsement of Concept for Additional Resources (ADB)

Dear all,

Australia endorses the proposed allocation of \$5 million in grant resources to the project under Nepal's SPCR, 'Building Climate Resilience of Watersheds in Mountain Eco-Regions'.

- We agree with the comments from the UK, that it would be useful to better understand the Government of Nepal's withdrawal of its request for concessional financing for this project and that the project design document should reflect the implications of the change in scale and type of finance.
- Australia would be interested to better understand the instruments and tools that the ADB proposes to work with in supporting communities to develop the methodology for watershed management plans taking into consideration climate change. Australia is currently supporting the uptake of best-practice water resources management tools and practices in South Asia, through the CSIRO and it would be useful to link up our efforts.
- Australia is also interested in how the proposed water management community engagement will incorporate gender considerations. We suggest that the project design incorporates disaggregated gender data, which will require baseline analysis and monitoring. AusAID's indicators for gender equity in water management, which could be incorporated into the project design are:
 - percentage of water and sanitation management committees which have at least 50% women members; AND
 - percentage of water and sanitation management committee members overall who are women.
- Australia is also interested in who the audience for the knowledge products being developed? Key regional stakeholders that could promote these knowledge products and share the lessons of improved watershed management include the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the South Asia Water Initiative (SAWI). Uptake of these lessons for others in DSCWM is also important (as outlined in the concept note).

Kind regards,

Fiona Lord

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