February 5, 2013

Comments from United Kingdom on the Approval by Mail: PPCR Tajikistan: Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods Project (IBRD)

Dear All

Please find attached comments from the UK, we are pleased to endorse this proposal.

Many thanks

Anna

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UK comments: Tajikistan SPCR project – Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods

Coordination

- Pleased that there are clear plans for coordinating with the DFID/GIZ GREAT project which will provide capacity building support in market development to match the support provided to producers by PPCR.
- The project document mentions IFAD and FAO but no specifics, are they joined up with the new ASAP programme which will work on the same issues?
- The PDO describes how it is aligned with national and World Bank plans but not specific coordination and integration mechanisms.

Gender

- Strong gender dimension with specific plans in place to target women for participatory evaluation, appraisal of needs, building on women's skills and interests and preferred training methods. Could also consider other ways to empower women through the project through for example roles in community group decision making.

Results

- On results, good that breaks down by gender and expects 40% of beneficiaries to be female.
- Good that the results set out the expected numbers to be reached, and are in keeping with the PPCR core indicator. Should the baseline for all of these really be zero however if some are receiving support from other programmes?
- Good that there are additional indicators on carbon sequestration and hectares protected.
- Good that there are institutional arrangements in place for Monitoring and Evaluation.

Sustainability

- Institutional sustainability will be addressed through capacity building of the participating rural population, Jamoat Resource Centres/ Social Unions for Development of Village Organisations, participating NGOs, the CEP and relevant line ministries. However it is not clear what the institutional status of the Implementation Group CEP is, how will it be funded in the longer term at the end of the project or alternatively is there an exit strategy for how it will be integrated into the core Government public administration?

Implementation

- How will the NGOs facilitating the community support be chosen?
- The project document states that the IG in the CEP is not yet fully component on financial management, and that the procurement risk is currently high. Whilst there is an action plan in place to improve this assurance should be provided to the sub-committee when this has been achieved.

Lessons

- Pleased proposal reflects lessons learned from a number of other projects and that it will ensure that results and lessons learned are disseminated to national and regional stakeholders.

Safeguards

- Quite a thorough social and environmental appraisal but some issues missing. Has there been social and political economy analysis of the possible impacts of the setting up of community groups, beyond just the risk of economic disenfranchisement?
- The PDO describes an Environmental Management Framework but doesn't include a date for when this will be released and finalised?

Administration Costs

- Good that it is coordinated with the Global Environment Facility, however is it possible to also provide a breakdown of the admin costs of this element?