



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

COMPILATION OF COMMENTS
SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
ON THE JOINT LDCE/SCCF
WORK PROGRAM
APPROVED BY COUNCIL IN
NOVEMBER 2012

NOTE: This document is a compilation of comments submitted to the Secretariat by Council members concerning the project proposals presented in the LDCE/SCCF Work Program approved by the Council in November 2012.

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SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

1. Georgia - IFAD: Enhancing Resilience of Agricultural Sector in Georgia (ERASIG) – GEF ID = 5147

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany approves this PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project document:

- Germany appreciates how the PIF builds on national policies as well as recommendations from relevant reports on climate change in the region. However, Germany has some recommendations to the proposal. Concerning component 1 of the project (water availability and agricultural infrastructure) that refers to the rehabilitation of irrigation systems Germany want to point out that, in fact, the irrigation systems in place during the Soviet period have contributed to a large extent to salination of agricultural land. Some areas are currently lost for agricultural production due to salination. Experiences from the implementation of a German Technical Cooperation project (Climate tolerant rehabilitation of degraded landscapes in Georgia) show an interest of local Government and population in restoration of irrigation systems even in those areas and for those production systems irrigation is not necessary. A change in soil cultivation (no tillage – low tillage) often allows a significant increase of the harvest without irrigation. The above mentioned project could show that an improvement of the wheat production system resulted into an average harvest of 60 dt/ha in 2012 on 1200 ha test fields. The average in the country in the same year was only 25 dt/ha. It is therefore recommended to identify in detail for which regions and which production systems irrigation should be promoted.
- Component 2 (landscape restoration) is designed to stop and/or reverse soil erosion and soil fertility loss as well as rehabilitation of eroded and degraded land. The related outputs are vague and only referring to flooding. Flooding is definitely an important risk (as known recently from catastrophe of July 19th 2012) but not the most important threat to erosion and soil fertility losses, at least in East Georgia. Overgrazing and land fires as well as a lack of fire wood, which is a main source of energy especially in the rural areas, are causes of land degradation which should be addressed. The rehabilitation of wind breaks (about 1000 km of windbreaks have been destroyed in the early 90s due to lack of fire wood) as well as the establishment of sustainable pasture management are main problems. Germany recommends including those aspects into the project concept as well.

✓ USA's Comments

We note that there is not a great deal of information included on the various adaptation components of the PIF. We would like to request that IFAD, as it prepares the proposal for CEO endorsement, provide much greater clarification and details about the project, including on the following issues:

- IFAD will use SCCF financing to help Georgia rehabilitate after recent disasters (page 8). In the full proposal, we request that IFAD clearly articulate how it will ensure that its rehabilitation efforts are adaptive to new climate conditions, rather than just to past conditions.
- There is an index-based insurance component included in the project concept (expected outcome 3.4). We request that IFAD in the full proposal clearly articulate how such insurance how it will be operationalized, e.g., will premiums be paid for directly by farmers, how will the insurance program incentivize risk reduction and prevent mal-adaptation?
- We request that IFAD provide more information about how women will be included in the benefits of this project. In expected output 3.1.4 of the project framework, it is noted that “full, gender-balanced adaptation capacity-building programme designed through participatory process led by” (page 3). The sentence ends without describing how the participatory process will be managed.
- The additional program appears to focus on technical assistance (pp. 11-12), such as training, management plan development, awareness programs, and MOU development, while the outputs/outcomes include concrete activities such as irrigation rehabilitation, reduced soil erosion, and a climate-indexed insurance. These outputs/outcomes could be better linked and their methodology better described. The baseline project is focused on irrigation and drainage rehabilitation, while the additional program is seeks to increase adaptive capacity. If, as Section B.3 describes, the project is "mainly investment-oriented", we would strongly suggest a better description of component activities and methods and their linkages to the education and public awareness raising components.
- Key stakeholders are missing (Pg. 12). We strongly recommend that IFAD consider including the Ministry of Environment Protection, regional and local governments, CSOs, private sector, and other donors, including USAID, which is currently operating an integrated watershed program in Kakheti. The only specified stakeholders are the Ministry of Agriculture and its associated organizations, "Governors", and target groups.
- The PIF states that "Currently, IFAD is the only institution involved in irrigation rehabilitation activities"(pg. 13). Please note that USAID Georgia is also involved in this area.
- We recognize the importance of government support and buy-in for the success of a program. Given that the main anticipated risk that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved is political uncertainty (page 11) and the measure proposed to

address this risk is the belief that agricultural development and rural poverty reduction would remain high on the political agenda, we request that IFAD provide more detail on plans to develop and strengthen sustainable institutional structures that can address the climate change-related policy issues throughout transitioning administrations.

2. Kyrgyz Republic - EBRD: Promoting Climate Resiliency of Water Supplies in Kyrgyzstan – GEF ID = 5115

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany requests that the following points be taken into account during the drafting of the final project document:

- Germany welcomes EBRD's proposal on promoting urban water supplies in Kyrgyzstan. However, it shall be considered that around 70% of Kyrgyzstan's water resources go into agriculture, the rest being private and industrial water consumption. Although wasting water resources is enormous in urban areas, the biggest problem resides outside urban areas. This should be reflected in the project design.
- In addition, the PIF says "A decrease in the water level of Issyk-kul, the largest lake in Kyrgyzstan, which is important to the country's economy and ecosystems, is already being observed". There are other studies that observe a rising water level of Issyk-kul lake at present, because of an increased glacier melting. A closer look into the change of water levels or level pattern over the year seems to be necessary as well as considerations regarding appropriate adaptation measures that can handle increasing and decreasing water levels.
- Finally, community involvement in water management in urban areas is challenging if there are no precedents in this area in Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, Germany recommends consulting community water management projects in other countries and considering community management experiences from other sectors in Kyrgyzstan.

✓ USA's Comments

- This project concept is also strong. EBRD makes a strong case for how it will integrate adaptation into its infrastructure investment program in the water sector. We look forward to the lessons that this project could provide on adaptation at the municipal level and on public-private partnerships. With a view toward further strengthening this proposal, we would like to request that EBRD, as it prepares the proposal for CEO endorsement, provide clarification on how the project will ensure that the production of information is driven by the needs of the users, such as water companies, water infrastructure designers, wastewater treatment centers, municipal governments, public

health officials, and local communities. We also request clarification on how the project will deliver this information through appropriate user-friendly channels.

3. Lebanon - IBRD: Sustainable Agricultural Livelihoods in Marginal Areas (SALMA) – GEF ID = 5125

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany requests that for this project that the Secretariat sends the draft final project document for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

Germany requests that the following points will be taken into account during the drafting of the final project document:

- Germany appreciates that the proposal targets the vulnerability of small farmers and ecologically sensitive areas. However, Germany underpins the comments provided by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) which show that due to the lack of details, it is difficult to assess the PIF. Germany requests to further describe the intended interventions and to provide more details to the project components and respective expected outcomes.
- In addition to the comments from the STAP, Germany asks for further explanations on how the sites for the hill lakes are chosen and how this will be done in a socially acceptable way (expected output i of component 1), to illustrate how beneficiaries will be trained in the modern irrigation networks and whether locally accepted and known technology is taken into account (expected output ii of component 1), to better describe the agroforestry systems considered for application in and elaborate on the benefits that these agroforestry systems will bring for the adaptation process (component 2).

✓ USA's Comments

- We note that there is very little information included on the adaptation components of the PIF, and that the description of additional cost reasoning is weak – the PIF states that SCCF financing will be used to extend the baseline project to additional geographic areas and to build the capacity for measuring and monitoring carbon sequestration. We also want to underscore our concern about the management of financial flows. We expect that the World Bank, per discussions we have already had with the Bank, to address these concerns as it develops the full proposal. We would like to review the proposal before CEO endorsement.

4. Tunisia - UNDP: Addressing Climate Change Vulnerabilities and Risks in Vulnerable Coastal Areas of Tunisia – GEF ID = 5105

✓ Germany's Comments

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project document:

- Germany appreciates how the PIF builds on findings and key recommendations from the National Communications of Tunisia as well as already undertaken vulnerability assessments of coastal areas. Also the choice of Djerba Island, among other sites, is very interesting because there is a conscience of local authorities and civil society to start action immediately in order to preserve the island particularly vulnerable. However, concerning expected outcome 1, Germany recommends considering and supporting databases that already exist in APAL, particularly those that will be able to deliver climate services and facilitate access to these data by other institutions to support adaptation decision-making.
- The PIF makes a reference to the Early Warning System (EWS) being implemented with the support of GIZ in collaboration with KfW. There are two other important undertakings supported by GIZ in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism that are directly linked to the project and that shall be taken into account when addressing the vulnerability of coastal areas: The national climate change adaptation strategy of the tourism sector that addresses issues related to sea level rise; and the national climate change strategy (NCCS) which compiles and harmonizes all efforts that have been undertaken in Tunisia related to climate change adaptation as well as climate change mitigation.
- Germany appreciates the planned coordination of the project with the German development cooperation (CCC/GIZ Project: Supporting implementation of UNFCCC in Tunisia). GIZ is supporting a process on vulnerability assessment of Djerba Island. Thus a close cooperation between the two projects is crucial to optimize resources.
- The APAL is well structured with a good technical staff level and has a good experience with cooperation projects. However, APAL is not the only actor in the coastal management field. Germany therefore recommends coordinating with all other institutions involved in the coastal management areas to ensure ownership.

✓ USA's Comments

- The project concept is strong, and we appreciate that UNDP and the government of Tunisia will be strengthening the resilience of coastlines by addressing both the risk of sea level rise as well as the risk of increasing storms. With a view toward further strengthening this proposal, we would like to request that UNDP, as it prepares the proposal for CEO endorsement, provide clarification on how the project will ensure that the production of information is driven by the needs of the users, such as communities living along the coastline as well as coastal zone managers. We also request clarification

on how the project will deliver this information through appropriate user-friendly channels.

MULTI -TRUST FUND

5. Regional - FAO: Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Benguela Current Fisheries System – GEF ID = 5113

✓ Germany's Comments

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project document:

- Germany welcomes the FAO's proposal on the Benguela Current Fisheries System that addresses the vulnerability of people depended on fisheries in the three countries. Yet, Germany recommends that the programmatic approach of funding by LDCF and SCCF and the contribution to the three countries are described in more detail.
- In addition, the proposed project could benefit from the GIZ project "Transboundary Water Management in SADC" where important lessons on consultation with stakeholders in different countries have been made. Experiences gained within this project should be taken into account.
- With regard to output 3.2.1 Germany suggests to increase the number of stakeholders trained in understanding climate change risks and adaptation practices, e.g. through a mediator or training of trainers approach.

✓ USA's Comments

- We appreciate the ecosystem-based and transboundary approach to this proposal. Given the interactions between the Benguela Current and the Agulhas Current, as well as related work being carried out by the Agulhas-Somali Current LME, we recommend that FAO consider consultations with the UNDP/GEF Agulhas-Somali Current LME project.
- The proposal acknowledges that there are similarities but also differences in the fishing approaches of the three countries, as well as within the individual countries. It also highlights the traditionally different roles that men and women tend to play. We request the FAO to explain how the project activities will be tailored to meet the needs of different groups (e.g., commercial vs. artisanal and subsistence fishers, fishers vs. fish processors, men vs. women).

- This proposal highlights the importance of participatory processes and section B5 identifies an impressive and diverse list of stakeholders. However, it is unclear to us how subsistence fishers will be engaged. We also notice that environmental groups are not explicitly identified in the stakeholder list. We strongly encourage FAO to engage subsistence and artisanal fishers and environmental groups throughout the planning and implementation of this project.
- Given the importance of climatic and oceanographic data and forecasts to understanding climate risk, we request that FAO engage the appropriate national and regional hydrometeorological organizations, including those of Angola, Namibia and South Africa and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).