



US comments on Joint Work Program for the LDCF and SCCF

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Dear GEF Secretariat Program Coordination Registry:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Joint Work Program for the LDCF and SCCF, submitted for Council Approval at its meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. As we stated at this November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we approve the work program.

We would, however, like to provide the following written comments to the Secretariat for further clarification, and with a view toward strengthening the proposals as they are developed for CEO endorsement.

Greater Mekong Subregion Forests and Biodiversity Program (Greater Mekong Subregion)

The United States requests clearer explanation of how much buy-in this project has from China, specifically the Chinese State Forestry Administration, and how the project will leverage Chinese equities and capabilities, given that China is the largest player of forestry and biodiversity in the region, with two thirds of forest land cover in the region belonging to China. While the goal of regional cooperation and leveraging of resources is laudable, China's active participation in such a project is unclear in the PIF.

In addition, with respect to Outcome 1.4, the United States requests further detail on whether the project will help make alternative sources of income available to local communities that have relied on poaching and illegal forest trade.

Shire Natural Ecosystem Management Project (Malawi)

The United States encourages the World Bank to consider "soft" measures to complement the "hard" measures outlined under Component C (flood management). There is a growing body of evidence that hard measures can be made much more effective at reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience when coupled with soft measures

such as strengthening understanding of local communities about climate change impacts, risks, vulnerability and adaptation options and building their capacity to reduce risks and adapt to climate variability and change. Such soft measures can include community- and school-based flood management training/education, early warning systems, flood evacuation simulation drills, dissemination of information through community radio, mobile phones, etc., and the development of flood risk reduction materials for school curricula.

#### Climate Resilience Through Conservation Agriculture (Moldova)

The United States recommends that the project facilitate learning and adoption of both manual, hoe-based conservation agriculture, which is suitable for small-holders with small plot sizes, as well as traction-based conservation agriculture (either animal-drawn or tractor-drawn), which is a suitable technique for those farmers who have larger fields. Traction-based conservation agriculture will require making specialized equipment (rippers, seeders, etc.) available to farmers. Some sort of credit facility may be needed to encourage farmers to purchase this equipment to enable mechanized-conservation agriculture adoption.

In addition, the United States recommends that IFAD build in climate risk, impact and vulnerability assessments into the project. These assessments should be the foundation upon which adaptation measures, using conservation agriculture, are identified and implemented, together with targeted beneficiaries.

#### Climate Change Adaptation to Reduce Land Degradation in Fragile Micro-Watersheds Located in the Municipalities of Texistepque and Candelaria de la Frontera (El Salvador)

The United States requests clarification on how the various target groups relate to one another. For example, who are the 750 people (1.2.4) who will be trained in climate change impacts and vulnerability identification, and how will they differ, if at all, from the 1,500 households with climate resilient production systems (1.3.1), the 375 households trained in shared decision making, construction, management and maintenance of rainwater catchment systems (3.1.2), the 50% of rural households and small-scale rural producers involved in DRR (4.1.1), and the local communities integrated into municipal and departmental structures (4.3.2)?

#### Adaptation to Climate Impacts in Water Regulation and Supply for the Area of Chingaza-Sumapaz-Guerrero (Colombia)

We assume that the PIF has not identified specific adaptation measures because IADB intends to identify specific measures together with relevant stakeholders. Please confirm that this assumption is correct.

In addition, the United States requests that IADB give careful consideration to how it will help translate the climate data and information generated under Component 1, Knowledge Management, so that this information can be understood and actionable by users. How will relevant ministries, counties and communities receive information about weather and climate for better decision-making? How will the project ensure that the information is driven by the needs of the users and delivered through appropriate channels? Who are the potential knowledge providers and users in Colombia and region?

#### Competitiveness and Sustainable Rural Development Project in the Northern Zone (Honduras)

We are pleased to see that Component 2 includes activities to ensure that rural infrastructure is climate proofed and maintained. We would like to better understand how timely and adequate maintenance will be sustained, e.g., what will be the incentives for users?

We look forward to your responses to the above as well as to seeing the feedback incorporated in the project proposals at the CEO endorsement stage of this process.

Thank you and kind regards,  
Christina

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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.