

September 5, 2012

Comments from Germany on the Approval by Mail: Bangladesh: Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (ADB)

Dear colleagues,
thank you very much for submitting the proposal for the upcoming phase of the Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project, which we welcome in principle. The project proposal has been well prepared. However, there are a number of observations especially on cross-cutting issues that we would suggest to be addressed in the project design, as outlined in our recommendations. Some of them we have already made last year and we would like to reiterate them here.

Thank you very much,
kind regards
Ina von Frantzius

Comments on proposed project: Bangladesh Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project

We would like to commend all parties for submitting the proposal for the upcoming phase of the *Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project*, which will be implemented in 12 rural coastal districts of Bangladesh. The geographical character of these districts is mainly that of a low deltaic floodplain, thus they are also most vulnerable to climate change. Over the years, Bangladesh has improved its ability to deal with climate hazards, however further improving climate resilient infrastructure is imperative, particularly in coastal districts.

The project proposal has been well prepared. However, there are a number of observations especially on cross-cutting issues that we would suggest to be addressed in the project design, as outlined in our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below). Some of them we have already made last year and we would like to reiterate them here.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

We acknowledge and appreciate the upcoming project being aligned to *Sixth Five-Year Plan* of the Government of Bangladesh and addressing the national priorities. From our point of view, the coordination and cooperation are of highest priority and essential in this upcoming phase of the PPCR. Given Bangladesh's high vulnerability to climate change, **we recommend close cooperation of all partners and the Government of Bangladesh** in order to counteract this threat.

We welcome in particular that the projects looks into a plausible range of outcomes and outputs from improved road connectivity to upgraded market services as well as enhanced climate change adaptation capacity. From our perspective the road connectivity and capacity development are well covered, however **more emphasis should also be given to the improvement of market services by looking into market development opportunities**. With better access to supply chains and growth

opportunities, the population of the area covered will be better able to supply their goods to bigger markets, thus will contribute to Indicator 1.

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Participation

As mentioned in the recommendations provided last year, the proposal does not mention the consultation with the private sector, which is nevertheless a key partner in identifying adaptation solutions to climate change. The private sector remains the key partner for economic growth in the area and therefore **we recommend an engagement with the private sector, in particular for an exchange of information and experiences on an expert level.**

We also recommend directly involving the target group (especially women, the local population, and market committees) in the planning and implementation of the measures and not only the local government.

As the planned measures on capacity building are only focusing on the *Local Government Engineering Department* (LGED) and the local government, the other target groups such as market or school committees are being neglected. We would suggest **involving them, which will increase the sustainability of the project, since these committees are often responsible for maintenance.**

Gender

The proposal highlights the importance of increasing women's involvement in the project. The intended involvement of women at the different output levels from road connectivity to upgraded market services is highly commendable. However, in our view the project document does not yet elaborate sufficiently *how* LGED and beneficiaries, including women, will develop their capacity with regards to climate resilient rural infrastructure planning and design. This was also one of the comments made last year.

We therefore recommend that greater attention be paid (a) to identifying opportunities for women by involving them in climate resilient rural infrastructure planning and design and (b) integrating those findings into the gender action plan that will be developed.

We would also recommend clarifying in greater detail, in the project proposal itself, how implementing the gender action plan would be incorporated in and contribute to overall programme implementation.

Allocating 15% of space to women in market places has not been deemed very fruitful so far in Bangladesh. Thus the approach of how the project plans to make female shopkeepers successful should be explained or investigated further.

Learning

As this is a follow-up project of the *Bangladesh Climate Resilient Infrastructure Improvement in Coastal Zone Project*, **we would appreciate the proposal being more explicit about the identification and selection of best practices.**

Synergies with German Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

In Bangladesh, Germany is an active member of the existing *Local Consultative Group (LCG) on Climate Change and the Environment*. Germany is already engaged in the coastal belt of Bangladesh with several bilateral projects, namely:

- *Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation in Coastal Protection Forests*, where Germany is supporting the coastal rehabilitation in the Sundarbans region, focusing on participation of local stakeholders in managing and protecting the coastal impact zone.
- *Adaption to the Climate Change in South Western Bangladesh (CLAP)*, dealing with rehabilitation of livelihood and coastal infrastructure in Barisal, Patuakhali and Barguna. This is providing the technical assistance to the project activities that KfW will be providing in the upcoming *Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project*. Accompanying CLAP measures are planned at the approximately 25 sites where KfW funded projects (mainly cyclone shelters) are implemented. These measures include capacity building in the area of disaster control, first aid, emergency medical services, mobilization of the population, of the community, and the shelter committee, the drafting of disaster control schedules, cooperation with the disaster management committees, with the cyclone preparedness programme, and with the schools, which are located in the cyclone shelters, etc.
- Projects in the south and south-west dealing with rehabilitation of coastal infrastructure including rehabilitation of livelihood and drinking water supply in combination with renewable energy (funded by *Fast Star Finance* and the German special *Energy and Climate Fund*). Pilot activities) – especially in the field of the much needed drinking water supply such as solar powered water pumping systems – have been successfully tested and could be taken further under infrastructure development.

We see great potential for exploring opportunities of cooperation between the proposed project and bilateral engagement it has in this area and great potential for synergies that can be exploited to the best extent possible.