

July 8, 2013

Comments from Australia on Approval by Mail: Bolivia: Climate Resilience - Integrated Basin Management Project (IBRD)

Dear Patricia,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed *Climate Resilience - Integrated Basin Management Project*, under Bolivia's SPCR. Australia endorses the project and provides the following comments for consideration:

- Australia supports the application of Integrated Water Resource Management to manage the environmental, social and economic aspects of this project. We strongly support the proposed participation by the poor, indigenous groups and women in this project. We would be interested in receiving further information on how these groups will be involved in consultation processes more specifically. Given the high proportion of indigenous groups in Bolivia, the inclusion of these groups at all stages of project implementation should be articulated.
- Australia agrees that, as identified in the project appraisal document (PAD), weak institutional capacity within Bolivia poses a substantial implementation risk. We note that institutional capacity building is a key component of the project and suggest that the ability of relevant agencies to implement and coordinate the project be monitored to ensure the project is effectively implemented and funds are managed and disbursed efficiently and effectively.
- Australia would be interested to know to what extent the Bolivian Ministry of Development Planning (MPD) is involved with the Project, and if the project proposal has received the endorsement of MPD. From our understanding, as this Ministry has significant growing influence, its support may prove useful in project implementation.

Regards,

Kate Sangster
AusAID