

July 8, 2013

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

Dear Bolivia team,

thank you very much the opportunity to comment on the project proposal. Before we are ready to approve it, ESP and GER would appreciate to receive some answers to our questions.

Pls find details attached.

Kind regards

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ESP/Ger Comments on proposed project: Plurinational State of Bolivia Climate Resilience – Integrated Basin Management Project

Summary

The project approach is appropriate and technically sound, addressing climate resilience and climate vulnerability by enhancing human development, capacity building for climate resilience, and managing climate risks in an integrated, multi-sectoral, participatory basin-scale approach. We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. We are rather concerned, however, about a lack of focus and a moderate to low level of ambition of those *Project Indicators* that reflect *PPCR Core Indicators*, which seems all the more urgent to us given the financial volume of the proposed project. We would like to see our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) - as far as indicators are concerned - incorporated prior to our consent, and would like to receive reassurance about changes to the project proposal before we give our final consent. We would be grateful for reassurance that our remaining recommendations will be incorporated during project implementation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

The *Project Development Objective* (PDO) is to “*support the implementation of Bolivia's strategy for climate resilience by strengthening institutional capacity to define the new integrated river basin management approach to climate change adaptation, and supporting its implementation in three pilot sub-basins in the Rio Grande river basin*”. **We recommend clarifying if “the new integrated river basin management approach to climate change adaptation” refers to the National Plan for River Basins mentioned below, or to another specific national strategy, and if this is the case, naming the strategy document.**

In the project context, we would like to emphasize the national policy for *Integrated River basin management* (IRBM), the so-called ‘*National Plan for River Basins*’, established by the Government of Bolivia. The plan is currently in its second phase (2013-2017) and includes strategic lines of intervention regarding the ‘*Master Plan for the Rio Grande Basin*’. We recommend making explicit reference to this policy, and ensuring that the PPCR project is integrated into the strategic lines of this policy. We would also like to highlight the importance of taking into account the already existing capacities of the sub-national institutions (*Departmental River Basin Service* (SDC), *Water Channelling and Regularization Service of the Piraí River* (SEARPI), that are also national executing agencies of the PPCR project), especially regarding the implementation of the *National Plan for River Basins*. **We recommend considering the linkages with the National Plan for River Basins and building on the experience gained by the above mentioned institutions in this context.**

In terms of project implementation, the proposal refers to the institutional challenges related to role of the *Ministry of Environment and Water* (MMAyA) in putting in place the necessary arrangements. We share this concern and would like to underline that this may cause delays in project implementation. **We therefore recommend designing a coordination mechanism to avoid delays and to ensure efficient coordination with the institutions responsible for the technical implementation of the project.**

The table in Annex 1 B of the project proposal displays the way in which the project indicators relate to the PPCR core indicators. While this overview is useful, we are concerned about some *Project Indicators* not sufficiently reflecting the *PPCR Core Indicators*. In particular, the *Project Indicator* “Adoption by the Government of an Integrated River Basin Planning Methodology...” does not indicate the “Degree of integration of climate change in national, including sector planning”. It merely indicates that a new methodology has been adopted, but neither provides any sufficient indication of (a) this new methodology actually influencing national or sector planning nor of (b) climate change being integrated into national or sector planning. Furthermore, *Project Indicators* like a website being operational, the frequency of website hits, and the satisfaction of target users (with neither absolute numbers nor percentages yet defined!) do not allow any conclusion as to whether vulnerable households, communities, businesses and public sector actually **use** improved PPCR-supported tools, instruments, etc. And finally, the *Project Indicator* “Number of capacity-building action plans completed” does not constitute evidence of whether government capacity has actually been strengthened – it merely indicates that an attempt has been made to do so. **We therefore strongly recommend sharpening the focus and increasing the level of ambition of the *Project Indicators* to better reflect the key *PPCR Core Indicators*, which seems all the more urgent to us given the financial volume of the proposed project.**

The project results framework (Annex 1 A) itself, however, appears to be somewhat incomplete. For instance, the *End Targets* for the “direct project beneficiaries” as well as “female beneficiaries” (p. 25) seem to be missing. Also, it remains unclear if the indicators and their *End Targets* have been fully updated to include the third pilot sub-basin and the expected results from the use of the additional resources. E.g. regarding the indicators “Number of capacity-building action plans completed” (p. 27) and “Number of pilot sub-basins where an Integrated River basin management system focused on improving climate resilience is operational” (p. 25), the end target number states “two” instead of “three”. **We recommend completing the missing *End Targets* in the results framework, as mentioned above, as well as ensuring that the results framework is fully updated and includes the expected results from the use of the new resources.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

We appreciate that the results of the project indicators will be broken down into categories of beneficiaries, in particular indigenous people and women, to the extent possible. **We consider it particularly important and strongly support that the results for the project indicator “direct project beneficiaries” are disaggregated by gender, as foreseen in the results framework. To this end, we recommend that the *End Targets* for this indicator be completed, as mentioned in our comments above. We furthermore recommend disaggregating by gender those *Project Indicators* that reflect *PPCR Core Indicators* for which the *PPCR Core Indicator Guidance* calls for such disaggregation.**

Synergies with other donors – in particular German – Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

In terms of the institutional setting, the area of PPCR intervention is currently including various stakeholders, organized through the basket fund that the German Cooperation contributes to

through financial support from KfW and technical assistance from the *Sustainable Agricultural Development Program* (PROAGRO), the implementation of which is assisted by GIZ on behalf of the *Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development* (BMZ). The PROAGRO technical assistance will include:

- a) Strengthening the management mechanisms of the *Master Plan for the Rio Grande Basin* (PDCRG, acronym in Spanish)
- b) Knowledge management for the basin system in order to guide concerted and concurrent activities at the basin level
- c) Capacity building for IRBM of different stakeholders (public institutions at national and sub-national level, civil society, water users, and others)
- d) The development of technical and political instruments for IRBM

These aspects were discussed with the PPCR mission in Bolivia (February 2013) but for some reason the GIZ support appears not to be listed (see dashes in para 39 on p. 16). **We recommend that the project document be completed so as to include the support by German development cooperation.**

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, we would like to highlight some additional relevant German-supported activities in this context. Regarding Sub-component A.2. *Integration of Climate Change Resilience considerations into selected National Planning and Investment Tools*, it is important to consider that activities very similar to the three planned activities have already been carried out by the Vice Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (VMRHyR), assisted by PROAGRO support. As a result of these activities, a nationally applicable methodological guide for climate resilient IRBM now exists, including a climate change adaptation approach. It is currently under a validation process with the VMRHyR, to be concluded in the next couple of months. Also, the national guidelines for irrigation projects include a *Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction* approach; these guidelines are expected to be approved later this month. As part of the support provided during the elaboration of these methodological guidelines, PROAGRO has also conducted training for the VMRHyR personnel on the use of these new tools. **We recommend taking into account the above mentioned efforts to integrate climate resilience into both irrigation and river basin project strategies.**