

August 27, 2013

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

We would like to thank the team for their responses to our questions and discussing this project with us. We do however have a number of remaining concerns that we would like to see addressed in the project documentation before we are able to endorse this project.

We are still concerned about the institutional status of the PPCR in central Government, and that the arrangement of a Project Implementation Unit (UNCP) that reports to a Ministry that is currently being restructured may not have the mandate to ensure an impact on planning at the national level. Under the new LMMC law the institutions responsible for climate change and the regulatory framework are still to be defined, and currently the PPCR is managed in the Ministry under a transitional arrangement (Mother Earth Unit and the Vice-Ministry for Environment, Biodiversity and Forest Management and Development).

We understand that the choice to manage the project through a temporary unit (UNCP) is to protect the project implementation from the impact of further political changes as a result of this law, but are concerned that this approach may not ensure Government ownership in the longer term. We would like to see the project build in plans to re-assess the situation once this structure is defined, as it is a certainty that the institutional structure will change further as a result of this law. This should be included in the project documentation, perhaps as a clearly defined trigger point in the project implementation timeline and risk framework

We understand from the project team that the Ministry of Planning are involved to a significant degree and would like to see the Ministry's role explained fully in the project documentation. This should include the plans to help the MoP include climate change in a more structural way into the Government of Bolivia's planning process and the involvement of the Minister of Planning and the MoP role in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and sustainability of the programme, as well as the buy in from VIPFE (Vice-Ministry for Public Investment).

We also note that at \$50.2 million this project is particularly large by PPCR project standards and that the risks to delivery should be mitigated in proportion to this.