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Comments Spain and Germany on Approval by mail: Zambia: Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Kafue Sub-Basin (AfDB)

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Joint Comments from Spain and Germany on proposed project: Zambia Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Kafue Sub-basin

Summary

Zambia, still belonging to the group of least developed countries, is considered one of the countries likely to be most severely affected by climate change in the years ahead. We appreciate that the proposed project is well thought-out, ambitious for most of its parts, and addresses the issues of climate resilience and climate vulnerability in Zambia in an effective manner. The project aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity of some 800,000 people, mainly farmers, in rural communities of the Kafue sub-basin by combining (1) small-scale infrastructure projects and capacity-building activities at the community level with (2) larger scale road construction/rehabilitation measures.

We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. However, we have a concern, particularly regarding the lack of sufficient involvement of the *Ministry of Mines Energy and Water Development* (MMEWD) in matters related to water resources management and development and of the *Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit* (DMMU) in the *Office of the Vice President* (OVP) in matters related to disaster and risk reduction and management. We furthermore would like to suggest sharpening the project's results based logical framework regarding its linkages with the PPCR core indicators, and its incorporation of gender issues.

In summary, there are **no** objections to the project from our point of view. Our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) should be incorporated **during project implementation**, without the need for changing the project document itself.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

Component 1.1 aims to address, among others, issues linked to water resources management and water resources emergencies. Therefore there are obvious linkages to the area of responsibility of the *Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development* (MMEWD). However, the project document establishes only indirect linkages to the MMEWD, namely through membership of the *National Climate Change Secretariat*, under the *Ministry of Finance* (MoF). As this engagement mainly consists of consultations and coordination, these linkages do not appear to be strong and effective enough. **We therefore recommend a stronger involvement of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development (MMEWD) and the Water**

Resources Management Authority including its subsidiary structures such as Catchment Council and Water Users Associations, which are being formed, to coordinate activities related to water resources management and development. To this end, during implementation of the project, the specific engagement and responsibilities of the MMEWD should be clarified and its involvement ensured. Similarly, the *Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU)* including its subsidiary structures such as the *Satellite Disaster Management Committees* could be involved as well as the local governments with increasing mandates in climate relevant sectors.

Regarding the linkages between the project's goals and indicators and the PPCR core indicators, we feel that some more efforts could be undertaken. The matrix *Alignment with Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Objectives* explains how the proposed project relates to the PPCR objectives, which we very much appreciate. However, reference to the PPCR core indicators is made only in the two *Summary* documents (*Project Approval Request* and *Project/Program Concept Note for the Use of Additional PPCR Resources*). Furthermore, these references are rather indirect, particularly in the former case, and do not appear to be mirrored in the project's results based logical framework. **We therefore recommend clarifying in more detail how the hierarchy of objectives of the proposed project relates to the PPCR core indicators, ideally establishing direct links between the results and indicators of the project's results based logical framework and the PPCR core indicators.** This could be addressed in conjunction with sharpening the logical framework's gender focus (see recommendation below).

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender and Learning

We are happy to see that the project appraisal report makes an effort to highlight the importance of gender issues, particularly in section 3.2.4. The appraisal report also emphasizes, in section 4.6, the importance of learning and of partnering with qualified NGOs with regard to gender issues. However, these good intentions do not appear to be reflected in the project's results based logical framework. In fact, the document *Technical Annexes Vol. II (B, Item 104.)* states that "the project will put in place a monitoring and results tracking system to track the impact of the project on women", mentioning the following five "key indicators to track the gender impact of the project": "Availability of food for female headed households"; "Change in income for female headed households"; "Number of women accessing livestock infrastructure and information"; "Number of women in group and community based decision making bodies"; "Changes in household and community perception of women and their capabilities". While we welcome this, we would prefer these indicators to be included in the project's results based logical framework, instead of putting in place a separate monitoring and tracking system for gender issues. **We therefore strongly recommend incorporating gender differentiation into the project's logical framework.** The above-mentioned indicators could be transferred directly. Furthermore, gender considerations should be incorporated into the impact level indicator "Reduction in damage/losses ...", where damage/losses in female-headed households should be tracked; into the outcome level indicator "Percent of the Integrated Development Plans ...", where it could be tracked whether gender

differentiation is part of climate resilience considerations; and into the output level indicator “Number of CC training sessions ...”, where one could observe whether women empowerment in relation to climate adaptation and development is being addressed prominently as part of the training sessions.

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

We appreciate that the German support to Zambia is mentioned in a couple of places in the proposal. We would, however, like to provide some further details regarding areas where synergies could be strengthened.

The proposed project has direct synergies with the German-supported project *Integrating Climate Change in Water Resources Monitoring and Planning*, the implementation of which is assisted by KfW and GIZ. Availability of data and information products, which should be taken into account while community based adaptation measures are planned, depends on developing the MMEWD’s *Integrated Water Resources Management Information System (IWRMIS)*, which in turn will depend on renovating Zambia’s hydro-met stations, both of which are lines of activity addressed by the German support.

Strengthening of the institutional framework – including the MMEWD, the *Department of Water Affairs (DWA)*, and the new *Water Resource Management Authority (WRMA)* – is also being supported by Germany through the *Water Sector Reform Programme*, the implementation of which is assisted by GIZ. The WRMA is mandated for water resources management according the *Water Resources Management Act* of 2011, thus it should be involved in planning and coordination of community based adaptation measures related to water resources management and development.