

May 29, 2013

Comments from Germany and Spain on Approval by mail: Building Climate Resilience in the Pyanj River Basin Project -Tajikistan

Dear Andrea and PPCR Tajikistan team,

thank you very much for the project proposal which Spain and Germany very much welcome.

Pls find enclosed our comments with some recommendations which we would encourage you to include in the project design and implementation.

Kind regards
Annette

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Joint Spanish-German Comments on proposed project:

Republic of Tajikistan Building Climate Resilience in the Pyanj River Basin

Summary

Central Asia suffers greatly from the consequences of climate change. The continued expansion of deserts and arid areas are expected, along with above-average increases in temperature and water shortages. Therefore we welcome the proposed aims of the project to improve livelihoods of the Pyanj River Basin communities and reduce the adverse effects of climate variability and climate change in 59 villages.

We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. However, we would like to see our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) incorporated during project implementation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

The project design has a strong focus on adaptation measures like flood protection and risk management, drinking water supply systems and micro financing. These measures are planned to be implemented in pilot communities vulnerable to climate variability and change. However, sustainable forest management schemes and afforestation are only mentioned as possible interventions under the Eligible Sub-projects of the Climate Resilient Agriculture Credit Line (*“Increase proportion of land growing trees, use crops growing on trees or shrubs that prevent soil erosion, and combine agricultural and forestry technology (agroforestry), page 36”*).

Deforestation significantly increases disaster risks and might be considered indirectly through the extension of established credit lines for energy efficient technologies. For instance, the complementary GIZ projects *“Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Gorno-Badakhshan”* and *“Support of Microfinance Services in Rural Regions of Tajikistan”* on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) assisted in implementing the microloan product *“Warm Comfort: Microloans for Thermal Insulation”*. The product is distributed by the microfinance organization MADINA in Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) and is a useful means to incentivise households to invest into



thermal insulation and other innovative technologies. From an economic perspective, “Warm Comfort“ helps people to save money on fuel for heating, reduces time spent on fuel wood collection (mostly done by children and woman) and creates local employment opportunities. Thermal insulation reduces pressure on the environment and in the long run decreases desertification and erosion processes and disasters connected to climate change. **We therefore recommend considering the establishment of an additional credit line for thermal insulation of local houses (Thermal Insulation Credit Line).**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Participation

We welcome the establishment of water user groups, disaster risk management committees and water consumer groups, which is fully in line with the increased involvement of local communities in management of natural resources as well as provision of local services. The project design also considers sufficiently the cooperation with Non-governmental Organizations in project implementation.

Gender

We commend the gender considerations within the project proposal, especially the inclusion of gender sensitive indicators measuring both outputs and impact.

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

For several years, Germany has supported the development of new, regionally adapted approaches for the participatory and sustainable management of natural resources in Tajikistan, such as regional water resources management. The implementation of these projects has been assisted by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Foreign Office (AA). The projects range from direct support for communities, to the promotion of cross-border cooperation and regional partnerships, e.g. *Transboundary water management in Central Asia*, (commissioned by AA, overall term: 2009 to 2011); *Programme for the sustainable use of natural resources in Central Asia* (commissioned by BMZ, overall term: 2002 to 2015);



Sustainable pasture management in Central Asia (commissioned by BMZ, overall term: 2002 to 2015). Furthermore, we would like to note that a new project on adaptation to climate change through sustainable forest management will start later this year, financed by the German Special Energy and Climate Fund. Some of the preliminary chosen areas of this project belong to the Pyanj River Basin (GBAO, Vanj, Fakhor). We recommend cooperation and exchange of experiences with GIZ's country office in Dushanbe in order to explore possible interaction between the proposed project and the German bilateral support mentioned above.