

**Meeting of PPCR Pilot Countries and Regions
October 30, 2012 - Istanbul, Turkey**

Progress Updates from PPCR Pilots

Country/regional pilot: Bangladesh

Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR):

- X Endorsed
- Endorsement date: November 10, 2010

Briefly outline three major advances, challenges and lessons learned arising from your SPCR programming or implementation process since the last meeting of PPCR pilots.

Advances:

1. The Government counterparts for all SPCR three operations and two technical assistance activities have established project teams that are currently active and in the process of completing preparation of project documents for PPCR-SC approval. Effective working relation between the MDBs and respective government project teams is fostering stronger country ownership and transparency
2. Project preparation funds for all interventions have expeditiously been made available by the CIF AU
3. The Bangladesh PPCR program routinely circulates updates on SPCR with Development Partners engaged in climate resilience related operations in Bangladesh and interested parties thereby increasing opportunities for learning knowledge sharing and learning

Challenges:

1. The executing agencies have limited capacity and experience in dealing with climate resilience issues. Exposure to regional and international best practices and external training opportunities are limited
2. Despite fledgling success, there is more room to improve coordinated planning on climate change adaptation related activities
3. Need to strengthen the MoEF capacity to effectively manage and oversee PPCR activities in the country

Lessons learned:

1. Effective coordination with stakeholders promotes ownership, inclusive planning and decision making but with implications for budget and time for project preparation
2. Need to improve the coordinating mechanism between GoB ministries and line agencies involved in climate change operations
3. Currently, there is little evidence of private sector business opportunities emerging from climate change impacts. This could be potentially due to no or limited R&D capacity to develop

climate resilient products/services in the agribusiness space thus requiring innovative approaches to incentivize the private sector to pro-actively engage in PPCR project initiatives.

What is the most striking value added or benefit from the PPCR process in your country?

The various project proposals under the Bangladesh PPCR package strongly build on priorities identified by the Government of Bangladesh's executing agencies and are in line with the recommendations in the *Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*. By building on GoB initiated BCCSAP, the PPCR continues to demonstrate avenues for reducing duplication of efforts and to optimize development impacts from investments

The PPCR process has highlighted core factors for enhancing results: inclusive planning involving Government, bilateral and multilateral donors, private sector and civil society; and with keen focus on community involvement, gender inclusion, knowledge sharing, and leveraging of additional climate resilience sources of funding.

Briefly outline the institutional arrangements for the coordination and oversight of the implementation of the SPCR as a program. What works and what needs improvement?

The office of the Joint Secretary, Development, MoEF maintains overall responsibility for overseeing implementation of the SPCR program. Respective MDBs have responsibility for providing technical and operation support to the GoB implementing agencies. And to facilitate cross-learning between implementing agencies, MDBs and beyond, the World Bank leads the task of collating in a quarterly report updates as well as emerging lessons which it circulates broadly. Where necessary, the Bank jointly with the MDBs would organize project implementation debriefing sessions with government and donor counterparts.

It is envisaged that the web based portal to be created under the Institutional Knowledge Management TA (under ADB) would help strengthen country level coordination.

The main challenge is with the generally limited funds allocated by the PPCR program specifically for this task. Judging from the immense importance of this issue, the CIF AU may have to reassess the budget earmarked for coordination to help optimize PPCR's added value of cross-learning, knowledge sharing not only within Bangladesh but across other PPCR pilot countries.

If you have an endorsed SPCR, which of your projects have progressed the most in terms of preparation/implementation and what are the 3 main factors that have contributed to this progress?

All proposed SPCR interventions have advanced in preparation

IFC

Project 1: Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security

Request for EOI for scoping study was floated in March 2012. Consultants have since been recruited with estimated timeline for completing task in September/October 2012

Technical Assistance: Feasibility Studies for a Program of Individual Climate Resilient Family Housing in the Coastal Zone has been commissioned with plans to submit program proposal to the PPCR-SC in October 2012

The World Bank

Project 2: Coastal Embankment Improvement and Afforestation concept note review was held in April 2012 with plans to submit proposal for approval to the PPCR-SC in April 2013

ADB

Project 3a: PPCR SC approved *Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project* in September 2012 for US\$30m in PPCR funding (USD 10m in grants and USD 20m in credits)

Project 3b: Coastal Towns Infrastructure Improvement Project concept paper was approved by the ADB in March 2012 with plans to recruit detailed design consultants by May 2013

Technical Assistance 1: Climate Change Capacity Building and Knowledge Management
The MoEF and ERD, MoF cleared the proposal in Feb and March 2012 respectively. Process to recruit consulting firm targeted to be completed in September 2012

What are the 3 major tasks ahead for your SPCR during the next 6-12 months?

1. Completing project preparations, submitting proposal for PPCR-SC endorsement and likewise to respective MDB internal processing to approve for cofinancing portion of project funds
2. Completing feasibility studies and other field assessments for the Technical assistance activities
3. Strengthening the capacity of MoEF and Implementing Agencies to deliver during implementation of operations