

June 8, 2012

**Comments from the United Kingdom on Approval by Mail: Niger: Water Resources Mobilization and Development Project (PROMOVARE) (AfDB)**

- The inclusion of a project component on support services is welcome including providing advisory support and capacity building to beneficiaries. However it is not clear whether the Government of Niger has an effective agricultural extension system to deliver this support, if not how will this be supported by the AfDB?
- We would welcome more information on the targeting criteria for the selection of beneficiaries for this project (very little currently included except on page 16 of the technical annex on the selection of communities for the water structures component).
- The cash for work for watershed management activities (page 18 of technical annex) should be a good way involving communities but the project should ensure this is done in coordination with other cash for work initiatives going on Niger in case of any overlap or duplication
- The project focuses on establishing mini-dams, irrigation systems and watering points for livestock. There is little attention to the important local governance issues that will have a significant impact on whether these new resources are properly utilised and whether the most vulnerable people benefit. This includes issues such as land tenure and who will control access to mini dams and watering points for livestock, location of new watering points, and community-based management of natural resources, and in particular the degree of involvement of women in this management. Can the project team confirm whether these issues have been considered? We would like to see these issues explicitly addressed in programme implementation.