

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

Progress Updates from PPCR Pilots

Country/regional pilot: NIGER

Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR):

- X Endorsed
- Endorsement date: November 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. Major advances at the level of preparation of the Niger Strategic Program for Climate Resilience SPCR):
 - 1.1. The Community Action Project for Climate Resilience (CAP – CR) (US\$ 63 million), implemented with the World Bank’s support, became effective in May 2012, and has been officially launched in a national workshop attended by all stakeholders and potential beneficiaries.
 - 1.2. The 2 African Development Bank supported projects, the *Climate Information Development and Forecasting Project (PDICP)* (US\$ 13 million) and the *Project for the Mobilization and Development of Water Resources (PROMOVARE)* (US\$ 22 million) are expected to become effective by December 2012.
 - 1.3. The IFC-supported project to improve the private sector resilience to climate change (\$US 12 million) is finalizing the necessary background studies on the basis of consultative workshops held in Niger in October 2012 with stakeholders and concerned parties from Government, private sector and communities.
2. All of the institutional set-up envisage during preparation, for both the SPCR and CAP-CR, which will also largely serve the other 3 investment projects have been established and operational. The Program Steering Committee, which will also serve as the PSC for all 4 investment projects, has been formalized through a ministerial decree, and first meeting to approve priority activities for the remaining months of 2012 will be held by the first week of November 2012.
3. Priority activities identified following the recent floods to meet the urgent needs of the population, which meet at the same time the CAP-RC objectives and are eligible for financing, will be initiated shortly as a practical immediate response and demonstration of

Program's response to the severe impacts of climate variability the country is facing.

Challenges:

1. The need to translate the Government's commitment toward the Program into concrete leadership for the operationalization and effective implementation of the Program and investment projects.
2. How to reach a compromise between existing centralized administrative management and the participative/consultative approach of the Program.
3. How to satisfy the division of responsibilities and different functions between various entities in the decision making process; especially for those decisions where multi-sectorial or multi-level collaboration between entities is needed.

Lessons learned:

1. Obvious need to reach consensus during preparation on a minimum set of harmonized procedures between implementing agencies. This would facilitate collaboration and whenever needed implementation of joint activities.
2. Given the relatively new concepts introduced through the Program and projects, a higher level of effort is needed from participating staff of the executing agencies. This requires a more thorough thinking and prevision of innovative incentives and means of motivating the staff.

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

Though still at a rather early stage of preparation and preparation (different stages for different projects), the participation and engagement of both the private sector and the civil society has been remarkable. They made very constructive comments, suggestions and recommendations during consultation sessions organized by the Program/Projects teams.

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?

An *Inter-ministerial Steering Committee (ISC)* for the SPCR as a whole has been established through a ministerial decree. This SC would be the same for all investment projects of the Program, which would provide overall guidance to the Program at the national level, including guidance on policy orientations.

A *SPRC Strategic coordination unit* has also been established to ensure that overall strategic coordination is met. This Unit is anchored within the Ministry of Planning, Territorial Management and Community Development and is staffed with 4 specialized team members in

charge of: Overall coordination, monitoring & evaluation, communication and climate change specialist. This Unit is also actively present and engaged with the technical coordination committee of CAP-RC, which is currently the only project under implementation.

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?

Project:

As indicated above, the Niger endorsed SPCR is composed of 4 investment projects, one already under implementation since May 2012 (Approved by the Board of the World Bank), and the remaining 3 at relatively advanced stages:

- The Community Action Project for Climate Resilience (CAP – CR) (US\$ 63 million), implemented with the World Bank’s support, became effective in May 2012, and has been officially launched in a national workshop attended by all stakeholders and potential beneficiaries.
- The 2 African Development Bank supported projects, the *Climate Information Development and Forecasting Project (PDICP)* (US\$ 13 million) and the *Project for the Mobilization and Development of Water Resources (PROMOVARE)* (US\$ 22 million) are expected to become effective by December 2012.
- The IFC-supported project to improve the private sector resilience to climate change (\$US 12 million) is finalizing the necessary background studies on the basis of consultative workshops held in Niger in October 2012 with stakeholders and concerned parties from Government, private sector and communities.

The main factors that have contributed to this progress are:

1. Strong collaboration and team work between the supporting agencies (World Bank, ADB, IFC) and the Government’s team.
2. Frequent missions and open channels of communication between the different parties.
3. Availability of necessary project preparation funds.

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

1. The biggest challenge is to start implementation on the ground, especially at the communes level, where the most vulnerable population and most urgent needs are.
2. Programming of activities identified under each component and preparation of multi-year workplans, to be followed by a detailed year 1 workplan. This involves confirming priority activities, allocation of resources and initiation of activities.

3. Initiate an awareness, information and communication campaign at both national and regional levels in support of SPCR. This is needed to reach out for stakeholders and concerned parties in all areas of interventions, to promote the Program's objectives, and to engage the largest number of stakeholders and beneficiaries, on the basis of sound information and knowledge about the problematic of climate variability and climate change.