

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

Progress Updates from PPCR Pilots

Country: Tajikistan

Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR):

- 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. Overall PPCR

- All the PPCR Phase 1 activities have been completed and a Phase 1 conference was held in October 2011. A significant body of evidence on the adverse effects of climate change has been generated and is available at www.ppcr.tj.

- A Country Coordination Mechanism was finalized with stakeholders and endorsed by government in August 2012. The Country Coordination Mechanism comprises the PPCR Focal Point, the PPCR Secretariat, an inter-ministerial committee, a Steering Group and a Technical Expert Group. The first two meetings of the Steering Group were held in April and October 2012. The Country Coordination Mechanism has overall responsibility of monitoring the PPCR implementation.

2. Building Capacity for Climate Resilience. This capacity development technical assistance (CDTA) is planned to start in December 2012. Recruitment of qualified national and international consultants is underway. The CDTA will establish a climate change modeling facility in the State Hydrometeorological Services, develop climate change scenarios and impact assessments on key sectors, formulate national and local adaptation plans, establish a monitoring and evaluation system for the PPCR activities, and lay the ground for the establishment of a national implementing entity. The CDTA will be completed by December 2016.

3. Building Climate Resilience in the Pyanj River Basins. A project preparation technical assistance (PPTA) started in April 2012. An inception workshop was held in June 2012, followed by a mid-term workshop in July 2012. Project approval by government and ADB board is expected by March 2013. The PPTA will design the project, which aims to improve access to water of communities in the Pyanj river basin by climate proofing water infrastructure for flood management, water supply and irrigation, develop capacity on adaptation, and provide financial resources and risk transfer mechanisms to vulnerable communities. The PPTA will also develop the detailed design of 4 pilot subprojects. Completion of preparation work is planned for December 2012.

4. Improving resilience to climate change and environmental land management in rural areas. Preparation of the PPCR and GEF-supported Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods Project was initiated during a May 21 – 30, 2012 World Bank mission. During the course of the mission, the project’s objectives, components, implementation arrangements, and expected outcomes were further defined. The development objective of the proposed Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods Project is to enable rural people to increase their productive assets in ways that improve natural resource management and resilience to climate change in selected climate vulnerable sites. The proposed project is expected to comprise three components implemented over five years: (1) Rural Production and Land Resource Management Investments; (2) Knowledge Management; and (3) Project Management. The project’s design incorporates lessons based on experiences under previous and on-going Bank projects in the sector, as well as successful approaches supported by other donors in the field. Project sites would comprise districts in three different agro-ecological zones – uplands, hill lands and lowlands – as recommended by the PPCR Component A5 Phase 1 Agriculture and Sustainable Land Management Report. Project preparation is expected to be concluded by December 2012, with project implementation beginning by June 2013.

5. Enhancing the climate resilience of Tajikistan’s energy sector.

The energy sector (dominated by hydropower in Tajikistan) is a priority for the PPCR, as it is critically important for Tajikistan’s economic development and yet is highly sensitive to climatic variability and to long-term climate change. The appointed national counterpart and lead beneficiary of this component of the PPCR is Open Joint Stock Company “Barki Tojik”. Through Phase I of the PPCR, innovative analysis of the sensitivity of Tajikistan’s hydropower was carried out, leading to the identification of priorities for investment that will promote the climate resilience of the energy sector as part of Phase 2. In consultation with the GoT and PPCR partners, the specific focus of this assignment was on two hydropower systems: The Kairakkum HPP (on the Syr Darya river) and the existing HPPs on the Vakhsh cascade. Based on data availability for the hydropower plants, a detailed analysis has been conducted for Kairakkum HPP in readiness for a pilot investment through which climate resilience features will be integrated into the rehabilitation of Kiarakkum HPP. Currently EBRD in cooperation with “Barki Tojik” are at the planning stage of Phase 2. A tender is also announcement in this component to conduct a Feasibility Study, which should run about 6 months. They are planning to launch Feasibility Study in October 2012.

6. Improvement of Weather, Climate and Hydrological Service Delivery

Improved meteorological, water and climatic services in the whole Central Asia is of prime importance for sustainable social and economic development of the region.

The Program on improvement of meteorological and hydrological services in the Republic of Tajikistan is based on Program activities on modernization of the hydrometeorology service, developed by the World Bank within the framework of the study on improving the meteorological and hydrological services in the Republic of Tajikistan (2008), taking into account the proposals on priority activities under the Regional Program on Strengthening of the Hydrometeorology Service in the Central Asia.

In March 29, 2012 an inception workshop of “Improvement of Weather, Climate and Hydrology

Service Delivery” for Phase 2 was held. The workshop was organized by Hydromet Project Implementation Unit that is implementing the given component.

A Project Implementation Unit is established for this component, consultants and permanent staff to run the project. The team implementing this component has already provided first and second interim reports on the progress of project implementation for 2012.

Challenges:

1. Unexplored region, or poorly explored. Most of the remote areas of Central Asia still remain untapped. For international consultants and consulting agencies starting to work in those areas is sometimes a challenge. The challenge is deteriorated due to language barriers as well.
2. Identifying national counterparts for project implementation. Sustainable Land Management component under Phase I was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture Tajikistan. But activities of Phase II are mostly addressing climate adaptation which will be additionally supported by GEF and named: Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods Project. After continuous consultations with the Government of Tajikistan Committee of Environment Protection was appointed as a national counterpart for this component which is more consistent with the requirements of the program.

Lessons learned:

1. Keeping the stakeholders abreast of latest events on PPCR is essential. Continued communication and coordination are key to keep stakeholders aware of the program, ensure that the PPCR activities address the needs of vulnerable groups and harmonize activities towards common goals.
2. Cooperation with Government institutions and synchronizing activities with National development Plans. As long as this is a Government led program it is either fortifying the already on-going actions or stands as a model for other minor projects to join the initiative. The PPCR findings also contribute immensely for ministries in developing their plans.
3. Identifying and cooperating with relevant national agencies is crucial. Several national institutions may exist in the country that will show willingness for cooperation but choosing and defining national counterparts in concert with Government and non government stakeholders is important to in order to build capacity of local institutions and ensure the long term sustainability of PPCR benefits.

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

The PPCR has placed climate change firmly on Tajikistan’s development agenda. The process of PPCR design and implementation has engaged most ministries and government institutions, as well as non- governmental organizations, civil society and communities. This has increased awareness of the threats posed by climate change among a wide spectrum of stakeholders, making climate change a key issue for grass-root development as well as national planning.

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 Coordination Mechanism is the result of extensive consultations amongst all stakeholders and was finalized at a workshop held in August 2011 in Dushanbe.

Indicative operational modalities, including functions/roles, reporting lines, and funding lines/mechanisms, have been defined. The Coordination Mechanism comprises the following: The PPCR Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) in Tajikistan aims to facilitate coordination, communications and implementation of climate change adaptation initiatives, including PPCR projects. The CCM comprises the PPCR Focal Point, an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC), a Steering Group (SG), a Technical Experts Group (TEG) and the PPCR Secretariat. The IMC consists of Sector Ministries, Committees and State Agencies involved in PPCR.

PPCR Focal Point (FP): The FP is responsible for:

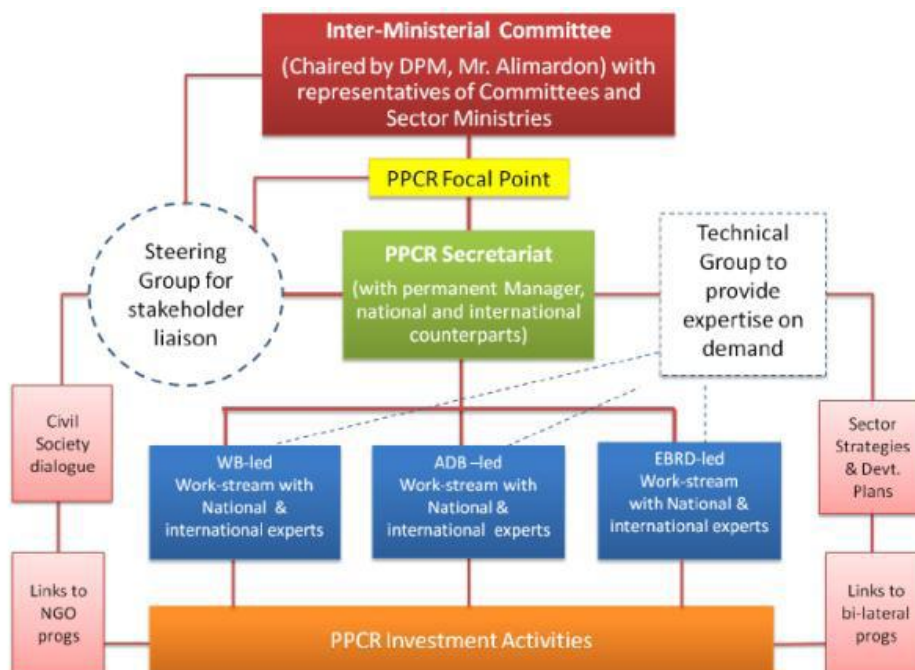
- facilitating communication between stakeholders and government;
- assisting government agencies, MDBs and project teams in implementing the PPCR;
- facilitating the government's review and approval of PPCR documentation;
- chairing the Steering Group and approving its membership;
- overseeing the PPCR Secretariat.

PPCR Secretariat: The Secretariat is responsible for:

- overall coordination of PPCR activities and communications to stakeholders
- dialogue between government, MDBs, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, community organizations and the media
- knowledge management
- dissemination of the PPCR at national and international events
- capacity building of government and non government agencies
- monitoring and evaluating PPCR outputs .

IMC: The IMC provides overall guidance and direction over PPCR in Tajikistan. IMC has the authority to approve programs, work-streams, project plans and TORs for implementing agencies and consultants. IMC is also responsible for identifying needs that can be addressed under PPCR and ensuring that PPCR findings and learning are absorbed in policy making.

SG: The SG provides a forum for exchange of views, and ensures that needs of different stakeholders are taken into account in the PPCR activities.



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: Tajikistan’s SPCR was endorsed in November 2010. Two out of five components are already well underway. The most advanced component is “Improvement of Weather, Climate and Hydrological Service Delivery”

1. The foremost factor is Government’s and its institutions’ willingness for cooperation in every sector to improve its capacity on adaptation to climate change, This has been the result of advanced planning by government and the World Bank partners to fast start this component.

The availability of national experts who are familiar with the program and their readiness to take up the assignments and start cooperation with World Bank has also been an important contributing factor.

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

1. Complete recruitment of qualified national and international experts to carry out the technical assistance on Building Capacity for Climate Resilience.

2. Finalization of project preparatory technical assistance (PPTA) on “Building Resilience in the Pyanj River Basins Component” and submission of the project documents to PPCR Sub Committee and ADB board for approval.

3. Preparation of Project Appraisal Document (PAD) for GEF supported Environmental Land

Management and Rural Livelihoods Project. This is Phase 2 of Sustainable Land Management component.

4. Promoting Climate Resilience of the Energy Sector. Under Phase II, the EBRD intends to use the analysis prepared in Phase I in the rehabilitation of Kairakkum Hydro Power Plant, which will serve as a pilot project to demonstrate climate resilience can be built into the reconstruction and management of hydropower facilities.

5. Preparations to host the next PPCR pilot country meeting in Tajikistan.