

September 17, 2015

Approval by mail: Cambodia: Climate Resilient Rural Infrastructure in Kampong Cham Province (as part of the Cambodia: Rural Roads Improvement Project II) (PPCR) (ADB) – Comments from Germany

Summary

We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. However, we have a few comments (see bold highlights), which we would like to see incorporated during project implementation. Moreover, we recommend considering our earlier comments on the revised SPCR for Cambodia, submitted on 22nd January 2014.

Individual Comments

The project proposal states that it seeks to enhance the resilience of rural infrastructure by, among other activities, improving about 240 km of rural roads “to climate resilient paved condition”. The intended impact is an “improved access to markets, jobs, and social services in ten project provinces”. While generally acknowledging the benefits of paving rural roads, it remains unclear what distinguishes this core activity of the proposed intervention from a regular development project. We therefore recommend explaining how exactly climate change is taken into consideration when improving “rural roads to climate resilient paved condition” and how the “climate resilient paved roads” will be different from regular paved roads.

In addition, the results framework indicates that “at least 100,000 people (30,000 households) [will be] supported by PPCR to cope with impacts of climate change and with all-year access to markets”. As this formulation is rather vague and leaves too much room for interpretation, we strongly suggest stating how this number of people will be able to cope with the impacts of climate change.

We appreciate that the project is consistent with “the country operations business plan (2014-2016), and government priorities, including Cambodia’s National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018”. However, the project proposal does neither mention the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2014-2023, which captures the main strategic objectives and directions for a climate-resilient development of Cambodia in the next ten years, nor the Sectoral Climate Change Strategic Plans (SCCSPs), which focus on sector-specific responses to climate change. Thus, we recommend outlining if and how the proposed project is aligned to the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2014-2023 and to one or more of the Sectoral Climate Change Strategic Plans (SCCSPs).

The proposed project intends to mainstream climate change adaptation in rural infrastructure planning. We highly appreciate this approach and welcome the respective activities that are foreseen to achieve this objective. Yet, despite its importance for mainstreaming climate change, the project proposal does not make any reference to the evolving national adaptation plan (NAP) process in Cambodia. Thus, in line with our earlier comments on the revised SPCR, we recommend describing briefly how the proposed project fits into the context of the NAP process in Cambodia and how potential synergies between the foreseen interventions and the NAP process can be exploited.

Synergies with German Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country

In order to make use of possible synergies and complementarities – particularly regarding the mainstreaming activities of the proposed project – we recommend coordinating with the Cambodian-

German “Support on the NAP process in Cambodia Project”, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and USAID, and implemented by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in close cooperation with the Cambodian Climate Change Alliance (CCCA).

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