

November 2011

Comments from United Kingdom on SPCRs

(received on April 18, 2012)

Yemen

- The UK recognises the work which has gone into preparing Yemen's SPCR in difficult circumstances, and we certainly see the need for a comprehensive climate change strategy for Yemen for the future. However, we have identified the following technical concerns with Yemen's SPCR, and we support the decision to postpone endorsement until the country situation has stabilised and technical concerns have been addressed:
- We are concerned that the SPCR has been developed with only limited stakeholder consultation and would like to see wider consultation take place when the situation in the country has stabilised.
- The SPCR does not highlight or seek to address the issue of khat and water resources in Yemen, despite the significant resulting environmental impacts associated with the drug's production cycle.
- The SPCR needs to consider the potential impacts of interventions on the wellbeing of vulnerable groups.
- The SPCR needs to address gender issues more prominently by expanding the range of outcome indicators that reflect women's empowerment and their participation in decision making, including gender specific criteria during the review of investments.
- Security risks threaten project success, particularly in coastal areas. The SPCR needs to give detail on arrangements to manage these risks. Currently this section only states that implementing activities are to 'minimise reliance on central government'.
- The SPCR could take a more integrated approach regarding adaptation and mitigation initiatives, particularly in the agricultural sector.
- Overall, the SPCR would benefit from harnessing co-benefits in on-going initiatives in low carbon development and climate smart agriculture.
- In terms of transformational qualities, the SPCR could focus more upon local level transformation, as the current baselines for physical and human capacity at local level are quite weak.