

## **Comments from ADB on the Approval by mail: Tajikistan Building Capacity for Climate Resilience**

1. The Asian Development Bank expresses its gratitude to the Government of Germany for providing comments on the capacity building technical assistance (CDTA) TAJ: Building Capacity for Climate Resilience. As advised, the issues raised will be addressed to the extent possible during implementation of the TA. We offer the following clarifications to some of the key issues raised in the review.

### **A. Impact indicators**

2. **Comments:** The *impact and outcome* have been set out clearly and unambiguously in the document. However, the indicators, especially of expected impact, would appear somewhat ambitious. A reduction of “*economic losses resulting from drought, floods and landslides ... by 20% from the 2011 baseline*”, even if such reduction could be achieved, can probably not be attributed to a capacity building programme alone. Furthermore, measuring such reduction of losses with any degree of confidence will be a challenge in itself. **We therefore recommend that the indicators, especially of expected impact, be revisited and reformulated at a more realistic level of ambition and attribution.**

3. **Clarification:** The indicator ‘economic losses resulting from droughts, floods and landslides’ was chosen as an indicator of the long-term impact of the TA at the country level as advised in the Implementation of the CIF Results Frameworks<sup>1</sup>. The project team recognises that the attribution of the reduction of economic losses to the TA may not be unique but it is also believed that the combined improvement of the country’s ability to anticipate climate variability and change (through the climate modelling component of the TA) and of the ability to use this information in development policy and measures (through the capacity building component of the TA) would result in a reduction of economic losses due to extreme events in the long term. The project team, in consultation with the Executing Agency and the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan, will consider also the use of the Global Adaptation Index, in particular the readiness index, and other macro indicators. In addition, the indicators for this TA

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<sup>1</sup> CTF-SCF/TFC.7/Inf.2 October 20, 2011

will be revisited as part of the process leading to the formulation of a detailed Monitoring & Evaluation system in the first year of the TA's implementation.

## B. Implementation Arrangements

4. **Comment:** The *implementation arrangements* specify two executing agencies: the *Committee of Environmental Protection (COEP)* and the *State Hydrometeorological Services (Hydromet)*. Implementation will further be supported by the PPCR Secretariat. These organisations, and among them in particular the PPCR Secretariat, currently have comparatively low capacities for project implementation. The ADB acknowledges this by allocating 70 person-months (international) and 541 person-months (national) of consulting services over a period of 4 years, 144 of the latter being consulting services in direct support of the PPCR Secretariat's core functions. Our on-site experience leads us to doubt that resourcing this amount of qualified national expertise from the Tajik consulting market will be possible. As this could potentially put the project success at risk, **we recommend that provisions be included in the project concept anticipating the potential non-availability of required qualified national expertise.**

5. **Clarification:** The strengthening of the PPCR Secretariat's technical and human capacity is at the core of the TA. The ultimate purpose is to create an institution that can be absorbed the Committee of Environment or other government body responsible for environmental sustainability and climate change. Initial institutional assessments<sup>2</sup> and consultations with government and non government bodies indicate limited technical skill pool but also potential for building additional expertise required to strengthen the capacity of the PPCR Secretariat, the Hydromet and the Committee for Environmental Protection. Provision is made in the TA for formal training and on the job training to increase national capacity and transfer know how from international to national experts on the disciplines associated with climate forecasting and modelling as well as on climate risk management. This is also one of the reasons of the high input of international consultants.

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<sup>2</sup> UNDP 2012. Capacity for Climate Resilience in Tajikistan: Stocktaking and Institutional Assessment

<http://www.ppcr.tj/?Item=5>

## C. Financial arrangements

6. **Comments:** Regarding *financial arrangements*, approximately 4.5 million US\$ (or 75%) will be used to cover the costs of consultants, while only 0.3 million US\$ (or 5%) have been allocated for training, seminars, and conferences. Furthermore, the bulk of the consultant's input is of a technical nature, with comparatively few resources available for dissemination and outreach. This would seem disproportionate in a capacity building project, raise questions concerning the ownership of results, and might lead to a situation where the doubtlessly numerous outputs of the consultant's activities will not adequately be transmitted to Tajik government institutions and other stakeholders, whose capacity is to be built. Also, the proposal remains somewhat vague as to how the knowledge generated and the capacity built will be applied in achieving the intended outcome of modifying "*national development programs and policies [to] incorporate safeguards to address the effects of climate change*". **We therefore recommend that the cost estimates and financing plan be revised, and that proportionately more funds be allocated to actual training and capacity building measures with the aim of putting the knowledge generated to actual use by Tajik government institutions and other stakeholders.**

7. **Clarification:** the cost of international and national consultants is estimated at \$3,848,000 - approximately 64% of the total TA budget. This includes international and national experts' time to design and implement training and capacity building activities, as well as the experts' input to support government agencies in applying risk management approaches (through the development of national and local adaptation action plans). The budget may be revised during project implementation as required.