

April 2, 2012

**Comments from Germany on Approval by mail: - Tajikistan: Building Capacity for Climate**

**Resilience**

Dear colleagues,

please find enclosed the German comments on the Tajikistan PPCR proposal for your consideration.

Thank you very much,

kind regards

Ina von Frantzius

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**Ina von Frantzius**

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## German Comments on proposed project:

### Republic of Tajikistan

#### Building Capacity for Climate Resilience

We would like to commend all involved parties for submitting a well-prepared proposal.

There are, however, a number of substantial concerns from our point of view. We would therefore like to make some **recommendations** (see **bold** highlights below), to be incorporated to the maximum extent possible during project implementation.

The project document clearly outlines the issues, i.e.: (i) Tajikistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change in Central Asia; (ii) Data and information on climate change and its impacts on communities, infrastructure and ecosystems are inadequate to inform decision making. (iii) There are gaps in the understanding of climate data and risks, and there is very limited adaptive capacity of individuals and institutions, which, combined, prevent Tajikistan from effectively anticipating and managing climate change. The project document rightly concludes that capacity building for climate change is a high priority issue in Tajikistan.

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.**

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.**

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.**