

May 22, 2012

Comments from United Kingdom on Approval by Mail: Niger: Climate Information Development and Forecasting Project (PDIPC) - Project ID XPCRNE030A

Dear colleagues,

As announced before, here are some additional (belated) comments with regards to the Niger: Climate Information Development and Forecasting Project (PDIPC). I am very sorry for the slightly delayed submission. I hope our comments can still be taken into account in the project preparation.

We have however no formal objections to the project proposal.

Thank you very much,

kind regards

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Summary

The proposed project is well justified and addresses a major bottleneck for targeted adaptation measures. We have only some minor objections, mainly with regard to the sustainability of the project and its impacts, for details see recommendations (**bold highlights**) below.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

On section *4.4 Sustainability*: The project economic rate of return is estimated over an 18 years period (2012 to 3030) at a high 24.8%. The physical infrastructure provided by the project (in Component 1), the software and hardware needed, and the capacity building will all need regular investments and upgrades over an equally long period in order to maintain services and assure quality control of the information provided. The project documents underline this need for empowerment of territorial authorities in management and maintenance, without however providing for it in the logical framework beyond mentioning it as a risk mitigation measure. **We therefore recommend that more substantial information be provided on options for empowerment in management and maintenance, based on lessons learnt and best practices from similar projects. We further recommend taking up empowerment in management and maintenance as regular elements of the logical framework (i.e. not only as risk mitigation measure), and incorporating them in the results chain and performance indicators.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting issues

Learning

Sustainability and effectiveness of the project will depend on the maintenance and update of the project's outputs, but as well on the degree to which the projects outputs meet the demands of the users. **We therefore recommend that performance indicators of output 1 (capacity building for the generation of climate data) should capture this dimension and provide information on whether information delivered by the project meets the demands and needs of the different targets groups.** This would be a necessary precondition for achieving the higher level indicators ("effects") for climate information being used by district councils and producers.

Synergies with German Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

Research, modelling and early warning systems related to climate change are the subject of new initiatives in West Africa. WASCAL (West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use; www.wascal.org and <http://www.zef.de/1768.html>) is a large-scale research-focused program designed to develop effective adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change, and is financed by the German Government. Its overall objective is to enhance the resilience of human and environmental systems to climate change and increased climate variability. WASCAL addresses its objectives by strengthening the research infrastructure and capacity in West Africa related to climate change, and by pooling the expertise of ten West African countries and Germany. It covers Niger as well. **We recommend building strategic and operational partnerships with WASCAL in order to enhance the technical sustainability of the project and to assure a link to state of the art scientific backing in the region.**