

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

September 6, 2016

**[Approval by mail]: Ghana Dedicated Grant Mechanism (FIP, DGM) (World Bank) (XFIPDG204A) –
Response from the World Bank to Comments from the United Kingdom**

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1. Links to other initiatives:

- It is very positive to see the strong alignment of the DGM proposal with existing FIP and FCPF activities. This is entirely consistent with the objectives of the DGM to support communities to engage with and benefit from REDD+ related activities. However, given the growing importance of the FLEGT VPA process on domestic as well as export timber in Ghana, we were surprised at the lack of connection made with FLEGT. Under the Ghana VPA government has undertaken to put in place measures that address the legality (and sustainability) of all timber, including that destined for the domestic market. The implications of these measures (domestic market policy, forthcoming procurement policy) for informal forest dependent enterprises is significant. We would like to flag the opportunity that this presents to ensure that the grant funding component makes a difference to forest dependent livelihoods affected by these policy reforms. There is already mixed experience in Ghana of assisting “illegal” enterprises to formalise, from which lessons can be learnt.

Response: Thank you for the comment. We had included a reference to FLEGT which we later removed to shorten the document (except for the brief notation in Figure 1) but we can add it back in and ensure that it is in the project operational manual. As you indicate, it is important that communities that are affected by related policies are able to access the grant.

2. Gender:

- We appreciate the efforts made throughout the proposal to ensure that gender is reflected in gender responsive activities, and that vulnerable groups such as ethnic minority migrants in a community are also considered. We also note the low level of female participation on the NSC and would like to know how, over the lifetime of the DGM, this will be addressed. For example, capacity development funds under component 1 could be used to build leadership capacity amongst women community representatives to be able to engage with the DGM, and FIP, potentially joining the NSC at a later date, but also joining other processes that may be active in the region, extending the overall impact of the programme
- More indicators could be sex disaggregated rather than tracking a single % of people, for example we suggest that the indicator tracking perceptions should be disaggregated by sex, and by vulnerable group. This would help to demonstrate the perceived experience of these specifically targeted groups under the programme.

Response: Many thanks for the comment. This under-representation of women in the NSC has been of concern and in the selection to the NSC we were wary of influencing who the communities chose. However, the project will take the great suggestion presented and look at how we can build female leadership under component 1. Given that the NSC positions are not permanent, this may raise up a

core of female leaders who can be nominated to the NSC position in the next round when new members are nominated.

3. Component 1:

- \$1 million is a significant amount to spend on somewhat generic awareness raising. Unless training has a specific focus, with likelihood of tangible application, it is unlikely to have significant impact. We would like to suggest that further thought is put into how to link the awareness raising/training to the ground activities, understanding policy reforms etc.
- We note that Fante and Krobo are the main languages spoken in the selected areas. There is however reference to the awareness raising materials being prepared in Twi. Could you clarify this? In a largely oral tradition, we assume that written materials will be kept to a minimum. Could you confirm that Ghana's extensive community radio network will be made full use of? Our experience shows that this is a very effective and relatively low cost means of raising general awareness, particularly in oral traditions.
- Chiefs and traditional authorities will be targeted with training to understand the consequences of illegal mining and chainsaw operations. It would be more helpful if these authorities could also be made aware that the grant funding available under the DGM could be drawn upon to do something about these challenges. Simply raising awareness about the consequences (likely already well understood) will have little impact. Presenting local authorities with ideas and access to potential resources to find alternatives is more likely to have impact yet under the more comprehensive list of examples of likely candidate themes for funding, these two areas are not specifically mentioned (pg 38-39)

Response: Thank you for the comment. The US\$ 1 million is quite a lot but it is not meant just for general awareness raising. A curriculum will be developed that is tailored to a smaller subset of the population. That training content will be developed by the knowledge management specialist in conjunction with the NRM/Climate change specialist and shared with the Bank prior to implementation. Here, we can be more expansive in getting communities to understand FIP, Climate Change, links to on the ground activities, etc. The radio is a good idea and we will be sure to include this in the design and explicitly mention this in the PAD.

In terms of languages, Twi is a universal language spoken and understood by most people in Ghana even though it is the language of one particular ethnic group. So to cut across the ethnic divides, we have used this language. For the field visits and workshops thus far, this is the language we have used because the trainers, NEA and others speak it and the communities understand it.

We have specifically targeted the charcoal producers but not illegal mining and chainsaw operators- in terms of understanding of the impact of these activities and looking at alternative livelihoods with the help of local authorities. This is something that we will include in the updated PAD and discuss further with the NEA and NSC. The NEA, Solidaridad, may be particularly well placed to bring further understanding since they, in their normal line of work, focus on the sustainability aspect of mining, among other livelihoods.

4. Component 2:

- we would strongly encourage the inclusion of supporting alternative forest enterprises as part of the “alternative climate-smart livelihoods”, see comments above about the potential inclusion of grants that help to address critical drivers such as illegal chainsaw operations
- To support this, we would like to suggest that under component 2B – business advisory support is also explicitly considered as part of technical training.
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Response: Thank you for the comment- this is a good idea and we will include this, after discussion with the NSC.

5. Component 3:

- \$1 million is estimated for this component, which is a significant proportion for management and M&E. How does this compare with other DGM projects approved?

Response: We are in line with other DGM projects. In addition, Ghana is very expensive in terms of operational costs as most people use Government rates for per diems and costs of moving from Accra to the regions which are high, including hotels etc. For this reason, we specifically requested a field based presence to reduce the associated travel and hotel costs. Solidaridad already has one field based office in one of the regions and will establish a second under another project. However, we will need to assist with minimal equipment for the two offices. Staff and operational costs are also quite high and will be funded from this component. The \$1 million does include the maintenance of the Grievance Mechanism platform.

Many thanks and best wishes

Gaia