

TELEFAX

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To: Monique Barbut
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson
Global Environment Facility
Telefax No.: 001-202-522-3240 (-3245)
(advanced copy also sent by Email to: gcoordination@thegef.org)

Subject: Comments by Germany on GEF Projects:
Kyrgyz Republic: Southern Agricultural Area Development Project (GEF SEC
Projekt ID: 31196)
and:
Tajikistan: Rural Development Project (GEF SEC Project ID: 3234)

Dear Ms. Barbut,

Please allow us to comment both project proposals together as our suggestions for amendments are in both cases the same.

Both project ideas are highly relevant for preserving natural resources productivity in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Germany therefore supports the project proposals. However, there are some changes outlined below which should be made during further planning steps:

- Institutional framework: National Working Group and National CACILM Secretariat play a key role in the institutional concept of the project with tasks in term of coordination and M+E. Nevertheless the documents take the operationality and sustainability of these bodies for granted. Up to now neither operational competence nor sustainability in terms of finance and legal status are assured. Therefore we recommend to either including this aspect into the risk assessment or to integrate the strengthening of these bodies into the project concept.
- M+E of the projects are considered to be a shared task:

The SLMIS project which shall support a CACILM-wide sustainable land management information system (SLMIS) is not necessarily coherent with the projects in terms of geographical focus and phasing (SLMIS might have come to an end in 2 years). Could you describe the exact contribution, please?

- The distribution of M+E services between the NSEC is not clear. The NSEC, financed through GEF, bi- and multilateral donors has the task to monitor the impact of projects against the objectives of the National Programming Framework. Core monitoring tasks should not be discharged at the expense of external financial resources or the NSEC should be strengthened accordingly.
- It needs to be taken into account, that NSEC currently has still very weak M+E capacities. What are the plans to deal with this?
- The incremental reasoning is weak: In the case of Kyrgyzstan, there is global interest in sustaining agricultural productivity, but there is no evident relation between the use of GEF funds and global benefits. In the case of Tajikistan there is global interest in preserving the natural resources as well. Nevertheless, expanding the technical scope of advisory services, building local capacities etc. are indispensable strategic elements of rural development intervention in terms of sustainability.

Best regards

Marita Steinke