

Swiss Review of the SCCF/LDCF Intersessional Work Program (IWP) of March 2011

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1.1.2 N°01 - ID 4340: Indonesia: Strategic Planning and Action to strengthen climate resilience of rural communities in Nusa Tenggara Timor, (SPARC); GEF cost: 5'000.000 million USD; total project cost: 59'800.000 million USD

Overall Commentaries

The objective of the project is to enable the NTT province to strengthen climate resilience of rural communities in Nusa Tenggara Timor.

The proposal includes three major outcomes; 1) capacity developed to integrate climate resilience in sustainable development planning at the provincial level; 2) local government and rural communities have integrated climate resilience activities in their development plans and 3) livelihood and sources of income are diversified and strengthened for vulnerable rural communities.

A very interesting element in this proposal is that it has been linked to the Second National Communication of Indonesia to the UNFCCC (submitted in January, 2011), which reconfirms the priority areas addressed in the proposal.

In general the project seems to be consistent and to some extent innovative. Furthermore the proposal pays attention to integrating in a coherent manner key levels for adaptation i.e. practices at a livelihood level, financing options/budget allocations for adaptation measures and clarification of vulnerability.

Questions, Concerns and Challenges for further Project Preparation

- It would be important to clarify the relation of the project with the activities regarding the Cancun Adaptation Framework in Indonesia.
- At the level of capacity development (component 1) the proposal should look beyond vulnerability towards clarification of level of resilience and adaptation capacity under current circumstances and different scenarios.
- In terms of planning and policy (component 2) it is important that the project ensures the creation/use of a cross-sectoral dialogue mechanism for adaptation that ensures long-term sustainability of the adaptation measures.
- With regard to socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project it would be useful if the executive agency were to go beyond consideration of gender issues and be explicitly sensitive to differentiated vulnerabilities according to age composition and ethnical groups.
- In order to simplify future reporting, the project partners should try to harmonize C&I according to the guidelines provided by the OECD and the CAF (as far as/whenever available).
- The proposal should present at least an approach on M&E adaptation to climate change (e.g. criteria, indicators, methods for monitoring effects on adaptation capacity over time).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The proposal is interesting and appropriate.

Switzerland expects that the above-mentioned commentaries be considered for the further project refinement. Overall, Switzerland supports the approval by GEF of this project.

1.1.3 N°02 - ID 4422: Tajikistan: Increasing Climate Resilience through Drinking Water Rehabilitation in North Tajikistan, (EBRD); GEF cost: 2.727 million USD; total project cost: 25.738 million USD

Overall Commentaries

Access to and availability of (clean) drinking water is a serious problem in (Northern) Tajikistan. A major part of the related infrastructure is dilapidated and insufficiently maintained. Large quantities of drinking water are also lost on their way from the source to the end-user, and thus there is a great potential to make water use more efficient. Impacts from climatic changes are expected to worsen the situation.

The project aims at improving climate resilience of drinking water in seven cities in Northern Tajikistan through four components: 1. Water conservation and rational use of drinking water; 2. Rehabilitation of drinking water supply; 3. Corporate development and governance of water companies and city authorities; 4. Diligence and M&E. The present proposal demands partial funding for components 2 and 4.

In general, the proposal is well-structured but does not always provide the needed clarity. Several critical issues are treated in a marginal or somewhat confused manner. This is particularly true for baseline and risk information, and particularly for component 2, which probably is the component which bears the highest risks and (potentially negative) impacts (see below).

Questions, Concerns and Challenges for further Project Preparation

The main questions and major concerns may be summarized as follows:

Baseline:

- It is mentioned in the document that glacier melt and run-off and surface water in general are important water sources, which might be negatively affected by climate change impacts. However, it is not clear from the document how dependent the 7 cities are from glacier melt run-off and other surface water sources.
- A description of the regional baseline climatology, observed trends (including e.g. a description of glacier retreat) and projected future climate scenarios is mostly lacking. However, these aspects are important when aiming at improving climate resilience and must be addressed adequately.
- There are tables and numbers provided for current (p. 9) and expected (p.13/14) water use and loss for the seven cities. In order to provide more confidence into these figures, the basis/source of the data and the applied calculations and/or estimations should be made transparent.

Feasibility and risks:

Intake of deep ground water is proposed as a main measure to improve climate resilience of drinking water supply. Several critical issues related to ground water intake are only marginally mentioned in the proposal and need enhanced clarity, attention and transparency. These are:

- Groundwater situation: What is the geological and hydrological situation of the aquifer in the area? What are the potential (social, environmental) impacts when increasing groundwater intake?
- Have technical, ecological risks been evaluated?
- Potential transboundary water conflicts: Which measures have been taken so far to avoid any transboundary conflicts? Are these measures sufficient?

- Finally, is the use of groundwater the optimal and a sustainable measure for improving availability of, and access to drinking water? Have alternative measures been evaluated?

Most of these questions and concerns are mentioned in the document, however, only marginally. These questions must be sufficiently clarified before any implementation starts.

1.1.3.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

There is a clear need to improve access to, and availability of, drinking water in Northern Tajikistan. Such improvements will most probably also increase resilience in view of potential climate impacts and extremes. However, for a SCCF project a stronger basis should be provided between current and projected climate change impacts for the project area, and the intended increase of climate resilience.

It is recommended to provide clearer and more transparent baseline information and risk assessments in order to avoid the potential risk of maladaptation measures with unintentional effects (ground water / aquifer exploitation).

It is furthermore recommended to first perform a feasibility study regarding technical, environmental, political (transboundary conflicts) issues and including the evaluation of alternative measures for increasing the resilience of drinking water. It must be clearly shown that groundwater intake is the appropriate and optimal choice and related risks must be carefully evaluated in advance.

Overall, Switzerland supports fully the project objectives and recommends its approval by the GEF.