

June 1, 2011

Comments from Germany on the Approval by Mail: Bangladesh - Climate Change Capacity Building and Knowledge Management

Dear Patricia,

Germany is happy to support the project. Pls find attached some comments. We would be grateful if our suggestions could be taken into consideration during implementation.

All the best
Annette

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Climate Policy and Climate Financing
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Comments on proposed project:

**People's Republic of Bangladesh:
Climate Change Capacity Building and Knowledge Management**

Summary

We welcome the proposed project, and would like to commend all involved parties for submitting a well prepared proposal. There are no major objections from our point of view. We would like to suggest, however, that our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) be incorporated during project implementation.

Individual Comments

Considering that Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, and that counteracting this threat will require close cooperation of all partners and the Government of Bangladesh, a well designed and fully institutionalised information and knowledge management system for climate change adaptation is among the highest priority for the country.

We welcome in particular that great care is being taken to establish an appropriate institutional *architecture* for the information and knowledge management system. However, in our view the proposal does not yet elaborate sufficiently on assessing the information and knowledge *requirements* of both the partners within and outside the Government of Bangladesh. The proposal's narrative does mention the intended utilisation of a needs assessment previously undertaken as part of TA 7273. However, it is not clear whether this needs assessment is sufficiently detailed in order to allow proper identification of information and knowledge requirements. Also, there are no provisions being made for the case that the needs assessment does not provide a sufficiently clear picture of information and knowledge requirements. The *Design and Monitoring Framework* neither contains activities nor milestones related to an information and knowledge needs assessment. The experience from numerous information and knowledge management projects suggests that without a proper needs assessment, such projects

consistently fall short of reaching their objectives because they are supply oriented and do not cater to the real needs of users. **We therefore recommend that greater attention be paid (a) to carefully identifying and stratifying the users of information and knowledge, (b) to thoroughly assessing their information and knowledge needs, and (c) to designing information and knowledge products accordingly. This should be reflected explicitly in the project's *Design and Monitoring Framework*.**

The project document mentions an intention to consult with the private sector. This is highly commendable, since the private sector will be a key partner in successful adaptation to climate change. It also declares the intent to gather and disseminate information and knowledge on differential impacts of climate change across genders. However, the activities and milestones of the *Design and Monitoring Framework* contain rather little detail on how this is to be achieved. There is actually no reference to gender differentiation in information and knowledge products generation, and only one brief reference to the private sector. **We therefore recommend that the *Activities with Milestones* section of the *Design and Monitoring Framework* be more explicit as to how engagement with the private sector and consideration of gender issues will be ensured.**