

August 29, 2011

Comments from Germany on Approval by Mail: Bangladesh - Climate Resilient Infrastructure Improvement in Coastal Zone Project

Dear Bangladesh Team

Please find attached our comments on the project proposal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Improvement in Coastal Zone.

We very much welcome the proposal and congratulate the team on an excellent piece of work. Our suggestions are intended to pass on our experience in working in this field and we are looking forward to a close coordination and cooperation.

All the best
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Summary

We 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, not least due to its location in a low deltaic floodplain, an improvement in climate resilient infrastructure is imperative, particularly in coastal districts. A close cooperation of all partners and the Government of Bangladesh is needed to achieve the objectives of the proposed actions.

We welcome in particular that great care has been taken to develop a proposal covering a plausible range of outcomes and outputs from improved road connectivity to upgraded market facilities, capacity development and a knowledge management system. Furthermore, we appreciate that national consultants, who are very familiar with the context and realities of Bangladesh, make up a significant portion of the group of consultants who will be carried out the project preparation activities.

The proposal highlights the importance of increasing women's involvement in the project. Highly commendable are the listed labour opportunities for women. However, in our view the project document does not yet elaborate sufficiently how LGED and beneficiaries, including women, will develop their capacity with regards to climate resilient rural infrastructure planning and design, as stated in the performance target in Appendix 3.

We therefore recommend that greater attention be paid (a) to identifying opportunities for women by involving them in climate resilient rural infrastructure planning and design and (b) integrating those findings into the realistic gender action plan that will be developed as part of the PPTA.

In the light of limited skilled personnel who can design and implement new infrastructure measures, we highly support the project's intention of developing a knowledge management system. However, the mentioned activities on development and dissemination of knowledge products contain rather little detail on how exactly this will be achieved.

We therefore recommend (a) that the knowledge management activities be more explicit and (b) that activities are implemented based on a proper needs assessment completed a priori.

In addition, the proposal does not explicitly mention the intent to consult with the private sector, which is nevertheless a key partner in identifying adaptation solutions to climate change.

We therefore recommend an engagement with the private sector, in particular for an exchange of information and experiences on an expert level. This will be helpful, inter alia, for suggested technical activities, the development of a knowledge management system, and scaling-up.

Incorporating German Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

From our point of view coordination and cooperation are of highest priority and essential in this upcoming phase of the PPCR programme. Given Bangladesh's high vulnerability to climate change, we recommend **close cooperation of all partners and the Government of Bangladesh** in order to counteract this threat.

The German Government is already a member of the existing Local Consultative Group (LCG) on Climate Change and the Environment. Germany Bilateral Cooperation's focal point at the ministerial level is Dr. Mohammed Nasiruddin, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), who is also the focal point for the PPCR. Information exchange at that level should therefore be easy.

Germany would be happy to be involved further in the upcoming planning phase in order to avoid overlap with existing and upcoming bilateral projects and to be able to identify potential

synergies with the PPCR. In particular German Bilateral Cooperation is supporting coastal rehabilitation in the Sundarbans region (Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation in Coastal Protection Forests). Coordination should be established:

- (1) in the Barisal coastal region namely with the CARP (Preventive Coastal Area Rehabilitation Project) dealing with the field of rehabilitation of livelihood and coastal infrastructure and
- (2) with a climate fast-track funded project in the southern and south-western that is dealing with rehabilitation of coastal infrastructure including rehabilitation of livelihood and drinking water supply in combination with renewable energy (CC Fast start and EKF) .

These TA interventions might be accompanied by interventions of the KfW (financial cooperation) in the field of coastal infrastructure rehabilitation in the southern part of Bangladesh (in pipeline). It is worth mentioning that the main implementing partners of the existing joint GIZ/KfW Programme on Good Urban Governance is the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), which is also the main partner of the PPCR.