

May 7, 2012

Comments from Germany on Yemen's Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience

General Comments

We would like to congratulate the Yemeni government for having succeeded in presenting a well-structured and elaborate SPCR. Considering the challenges Yemen already faces, we commend the effort made to develop no-regret climate adaptation projects that are designed to provide short-term development gains in addition to increasing climate resilience. The selection of the sectors most vulnerable to climate change risks (water, agriculture, coastal zone management) appears well justified, as does the aim of building a climate information system with strong links to the other investment projects.

However, consistent with the PPCR decision of November 2011 not to provide loans to countries in high debt distress, Germany cannot support the loan element in the Yemen PPCR proposal, as was decided by the PPCR sub-committee meeting on 30.4.2012.

Regarding the technical specifics of the SPCR, we suggest elaborating on a number of points during the upcoming preparatory work, including how exactly the progress made in the investment projects will be **monitored** and how the projects are expected to be **financed and maintained** after the end of PPCR funding. More detailed recommendations are provided below in **bold**.

We appreciate the coherence between the proposed investment projects and the recommendations on adaptation activities put forth by Yemen's NAPA. Similarly, we commend the intent to use the established institutional structure where possible and the links already identified on how the investment projects fit in with existing national policies. **However, we would welcome further identification of, and coordination with, existing donor projects (apart from the World Bank funded RALP project).** Regarding the technical specifics of the SPCR, we suggest elaborating on a number of points during the upcoming preparatory work, including how exactly the progress made in the investment projects will be **monitored** and how the projects are expected to be **financed and maintained** after the end of PPCR funding. More detailed recommendations are provided below in **bold**.

Comments on Individual Components / Projects / Measures

Investment Project 1: Climate Information System and PPCR Program Coordination

Considering the scarcity of long-term meteorological data in Yemen and the difficulty this poses for benchmarking future climate variability and change, the investment project appears well justified. The focus on capacity building of agencies in collecting data, and of end-users in interpreting climate data and weather forecasts, seems appropriate, given the present limited capacity. In addition to this, however, **we recommend including a step of monitoring and evaluation to determine whether the information provided to end-users is actually being correctly interpreted and used after the capacity building measures, and whether any information is perceived to still be needed and missing.**

In terms of long-term planning, we **recommend clarifying by whom the climate information system will be hosted and how it will be maintained after funding ends.**

Given that this investment project aims to coordinate the whole PPCR Programme across various ministries and stakeholders, and that such coordination often requires building a relationship with key counterparts, the solution proposed to counter the risk of frequent changes in government personnel (“sustained engagement of government contacts and decision makers”) seems insufficient. **We would welcome some more concrete thoughts on how to realistically counter this risk.**

Investment Project 3: Improving Rural Livelihood through Adaptation in Rain-fed Agriculture (IRLARA)

We appreciate the rationale of using the existing RALP project as a base for scaling up and mainstreaming climate resilience in local development planning and implementation. In order to ensure IRLARA is also implemented in line with national strategies, **we recommend considering the newly adopted *National Food Security Strategy*, which the SPCR does not mention.**

While the development of lucrative value chains can be seen as a significant adaptation strategy (income diversification in a vulnerable environment), it must be analysed critically in a context where the production of *qat* largely dominates. **We recommend analysing the role (in terms of income generation and job provision) that value chains such as coffee or honey can realistically play and to consider how to tackle the cultural barriers that may arise when convincing farmers to shift production away from *qat*.**

Livestock management is proposed as another adaptation strategy, which also has a high poverty reduction potential. Here **we recommend considering the existing problem of overgrazing in many parts of Yemen, including the biodiverse island of Socotra, and designing livestock management in such a way as to ensure its long-term sustainability.**

The labour intensive work program appears to be a promising way to inject money into the resource poor rural areas, make use of women’s potential in the workforce, and help to maintain ecosystem services. **We would appreciate concrete ideas of how this program is designed to last and how it will be funded and maintained after the end of PPCR funding.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Participation

We highly appreciate the substantial efforts made during the preparation of the SPCR to ensure broad-based stakeholder participation in identifying key vulnerabilities. We also commend Investment Project 1’s ambition of continuing this participatory approach in the implementation phase, by aiming to “improve coordination between all agencies involved in climate services through sharing of data, knowledge and know-how.” **Given the large number of actors that need to be involved in this and the weak institutional structures, we recommend developing a strategy on how their smooth and active participation and contribution can be ensured.**

Gender

Women have been identified as particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change in Yemen. Gender aspects have been widely taken into account in the analytical parts of the SPCR and are included in an indicator of Investment Project 1. **We recommend developing gender-sensitive impact indicators in the preparation phase for the**

remaining Investment Projects, as women will be both key target groups and crucial stakeholders for a successful implementation.

Learning

We appreciate the explicit sections on knowledge management and capacity development, and their inclusion in the SPCR Results and Performance Framework. We welcome the re-introduction of traditional knowledge and skills, as those can often be effective and relatively cheap adaptation measures. Considering the SPCR's aim to develop and disseminate a range of knowledge products, **we strongly recommend that the SPCR conducts an analysis of the learning needs of stakeholders and end-users so as to tailor the knowledge products to the actual needs (both in terms of content and presentation).**

Incorporating German Climate Change Related Engagement in Yemen

Due to the unstable security situation in Yemen, German development cooperation had temporarily halted its ongoing development projects in the country. **Once regular development cooperation work has been fully resumed in Yemen, the following ongoing projects should be considered in the SPCR implementation phase.**

While German development cooperation has no explicit climate change programme in Yemen, it closely supports the Yemeni partner institutions in implementing *Integrated Water Resources Management*. This work seems relevant for Investment Project 2 (*Improving Climate Resilience of the Water Sector*).

In addition, the *Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources* (BGR) supported the development of a database (NWRIS – *National Water Resources Information System*), which includes water-relevant data from different stakeholders (*National Water Resources Authority, Geological Board, Ministry of Agriculture*). This work can be useful both for developing the *Climate Information System* and for improving climate resilience in the water sector.