



USG comments on November Joint Work Program

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Dear GEF Secretariat:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the November Joint Work Program. The United States welcomes the work program. We provide the following technical feedback on the five PIFs, with the expectation that the Implementing Agencies will address these issues in developing the full proposals for CEO endorsement.

1. Addressing climate change vulnerabilities and risks in vulnerable coastal areas of Tunisia

The project concept is strong, and we appreciate that UNDP and the government of Tunisia will be strengthening the resilience of coastlines by addressing both the risk of sea level rise as well as the risk of increasing storms. With a view toward further strengthening this proposal, we would like to request that UNDP, as it prepares the proposal for CEO endorsement, provide clarification on how the project will ensure that the production of information is driven by the needs of the users, such as communities living along the coastline as well as coastal zone managers. We also request clarification on how the project will deliver this information through appropriate user-friendly channels.

2. Promoting Climate Resiliency of Water Supplies in Kyrgyzstan

This project concept is also strong. EBRD makes a strong case for how it will integrate adaptation into its infrastructure investment program in the water sector. We look forward to the lessons that this project could provide on adaptation at the municipal level and on public-private partnerships. With a view toward further strengthening this proposal, we would like to request that EBRD, as it prepares the proposal for CEO endorsement, provide clarification on how the project will ensure that the production of information is driven by the needs of the users, such as water companies, water infrastructure designers, wastewater treatment centers, municipal governments, public health officials, and local communities. We also request clarification on how the project will deliver this information through appropriate user-friendly channels.

3. Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Benguela Current Fisheries System

- We appreciate the ecosystem-based and transboundary approach to this proposal. Given the interactions between the Benguela Current and the Agulhas Current, as well as related work being carried out by the Agulhas-Somali Current LME, we recommend that FAO consider consultations with the UNDP/GEF Agulhas-Somali Current LME project.
- The proposal acknowledges that there are similarities but also differences in the fishing approaches of the three countries, as well as within the individual countries. It also highlights the traditionally different roles that men and women tend to play. We request the FAO to explain how the project activities will be tailored to meet the needs of different groups (e.g., commercial vs. artisanal and subsistence fishers, fishers vs. fish processors, men vs. women).
- This proposal highlights the importance of participatory processes and section B5 identifies an impressive and diverse list of stakeholders. However, it is unclear to us how subsistence fishers will be engaged. We also notice that environmental groups are not explicitly identified in the stakeholder list. We strongly encourage FAO to engage subsistence and artisanal fishers and environmental groups throughout the planning and implementation of this project.
- Given the importance of climatic and oceanographic data and forecasts to understanding climate risk, we request that FAO engage the appropriate national and regional hydrometeorological organizations, including those of Angola, Namibia and South Africa and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).

4. Sustainable Agricultural Livelihoods in Marginal Lands in Lebanon

We note that there is very little information included on the adaptation components of the PIF, and that the description of additional cost reasoning is weak – the PIF states that SCCF financing will be used to extend the baseline project to additional geographic areas and to build the capacity for measuring and monitoring carbon sequestration. We also want to underscore our concern about the management of financial flows. We expect that the World Bank, per discussions we have already had with the Bank, to address these concerns as it develops the full proposal. We would like to review the proposal before CEO endorsement.

5. Enhancing Resilience of Agricultural Sector in Georgia (ERASIG)

We note that there is not a great deal of information included on the various adaptation components of the PIF. We would like to request that IFAD, as it prepares the proposal for CEO endorsement, provide

much greater clarification and details about the project, including on the following issues:

- IFAD will use SCCF financing to help Georgia rehabilitate after recent disasters (page 8). In the full proposal, we request that IFAD clearly articulate how it will ensure that its rehabilitation efforts are adaptive to new climate conditions, rather than just to past conditions.
- There is an index-based insurance component included in the project concept (expected outcome 3.4). We request that IFAD in the full proposal clearly articulate how such insurance will be operationalized, e.g., will premiums be paid for directly by farmers, how will the insurance program incentivize risk reduction and prevent mal-adaptation?
- We request that IFAD provide more information about how women will be included in the benefits of this project. In expected output 3.1.4 of the project framework, it is noted that “full, gender-balanced adaptation capacity-building programme designed through participatory process led by” (page 3). The sentence ends without describing how the participatory process will be managed.
- The additional program appears to focus on technical assistance (pp. 11-12), such as training, management plan development, awareness programs, and MOU development, while the outputs/outcomes include concrete activities such as irrigation rehabilitation, reduced soil erosion, and a climate-indexed insurance. These outputs/outcomes could be better linked and their methodology better described. The baseline project is focused on irrigation and drainage rehabilitation, while the additional program seeks to increase adaptive capacity. If, as Section B.3 describes, the project is “mainly investment-oriented”, we would strongly suggest a better description of component activities and methods and their linkages to the education and public awareness raising components.
- Key stakeholders are missing (Pg. 12). We strongly recommend that IFAD consider including the Ministry of Environment Protection, regional and local governments, CSOs, private sector, and other donors, including USAID, which is currently operating an integrated watershed program in Kakheti. The only specified stakeholders are the Ministry of Agriculture and its associated organizations, “Governors”, and target groups.
- The PIF states that “Currently, IFAD is the only institution involved in irrigation rehabilitation activities”(pg. 13). Please note that USAID Georgia is also involved in this area.
- We recognize the importance of government support and buy-in for the success of a program. Given that the main anticipated risk that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved is political uncertainty (page 11) and the measure proposed to address this risk is the belief that agricultural development and rural poverty reduction would remain high on the political agenda, we request that IFAD provide more detail on plans to develop and strengthen sustainable institutional structures that can address the climate change-related policy issues throughout transitioning administrations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this work program. We look forward with anticipation to seeing our feedback incorporated in the project proposals.

Sincerely,
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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.