

Cover Page for Project/Program Approval Request

1. Country/Region:	Tajikistan	2. CIF Project ID#:	(Trustee will assign ID)
3. Source of Funding:	<input type="checkbox"/> FIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PPCR	<input type="checkbox"/> SREP
4. Project/Program Title:	Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods - AF		
5. Type of CIF Investment:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed
6. Funding Request in million USD equivalent:	<i>Grant:</i> US\$2.00 million		<i>Non-Grant:</i>
7. Implementing MDB(s):	World Bank		
8. National Implementing Agency:	Committee for Environmental Protection Mr. Khairullo Ibodzoda, Chairman		
9. MDB Focal Point and Project/Program Task Team Leader (TTL):	<i>Headquarters- Focal Point:</i> Kanta K. Rigvad, kkumari@worldbank.org		<i>TTL:</i> Angela Armstrong aarmstrong@worldbank.org
10. Project/Program Description (including objectives and expected outcomes):			

The overall Project Development Objective (PDO) of the Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods Project is to enable rural people to increase their productive assets in ways that improve natural resource management and resilience to climate change in selected climate vulnerable sites.

The US\$3.8 million Additional Financing (AF) grant resources (from additional PPCR (\$2.0 million) and IDA (\$1.8 million) resources) will support strengthening and expanding the following components of the existing project: Component 1 (Rural Production and Land Resource Management Investments) in order to scale up support to vulnerable communities in implementing these investments, and Component 2 (Knowledge Management and Institutional Support) since rural households' adoption of sustainable land management and climate resilient practices has been limited by inadequate access to the best or most appropriate knowledge. PPCR resources will be used to implement the knowledge management activities under Sub-Component 2.2. Activities will be coordinated closely with related initiatives within the country's PPCR portfolio and with other similar initiatives to avoid duplication and to provide synergies where possible. Proposed activities include:

Component 1. Rural Production and Land Resource Management. *Sub-component 1.1. Sustainable village-based rural production and land resource management (US\$1.312 million: US\$ 1.05 million from IDA, and US\$0.262 million from beneficiary contributions).* Activities associated with the AF under this component, require no change to its design. This activity aims to expand support currently provided under the project in promoting the adoption of innovative rural production and land management measures, and related small-scale infrastructure investments, by providing small-scale grants at the village level to help rural livelihoods become more resilient to climate change in an additional climate vulnerable district in the middle hills region of the country. Areas covered under the AF will use the ELMARL approach of appraisals at jamoat and village level, from which villages will prioritize investments based on a fixed budget

for each type of rural investment determined by the number of households. Within a plan of action, villagers will decide on the allocation of investments to groups of households (Common Interest Groups, CIGs) using rules that limit the funding for any one household as is the case in ELMARL. At least 50% of the village households should participate in either farm production or land resource management investments. Villages will use a toolkit with best practices to ensure that those investments selected are the most appropriate to address climate risks identified in village and jamoat-level environmental and climate assessments. Only those investments that have clear linkages to the findings to these adaptation and environmental appraisals will be financed. Where possible and appropriate, villagers will be encouraged to look at sustainable landscape management and include joint activities with other villages in activities such as tree-planting, joint forest management, infrastructure rehabilitation, etc.

The project will finance investments in three categories that are expected to contribute to household assets and sustainable land management, and increase climate resilience, examples of which are listed below:

- (i) *Farm Production*: field and horticultural crop productivity and diversification, livestock production efficiency, agro-processing and market access;
- (ii) *Land Resource Management*: pasture management, water management, soil fertility, integrated pest management, and sustainable sloping lands cultivation (including orchards, woodlots, shelter-belts), joint forest management, agroforestry; and
- (iii) *Small-scale rural production infrastructure*: irrigation/drainage system rehabilitation, minor transport infrastructure, renewable energy, and energy efficiency measures.

Project-financed grants to CIGs for each subproject under categories (i), (ii), and (iii) will not exceed US\$7,000 and will require a match of 25% in beneficiary contributions which may be in cash or in-kind. It is anticipated that at least an additional 3,350 households will participate in village level rural production investments.

Component 2. Knowledge Management and Institutional Support. Sub-component 2.1. Facilitation support and technical advice. (US\$ 0.75 million from IDA). This activity includes financing for community mobilization, participatory planning and implementation support of village-level, rural production investment plans. A locally-based international agency or NGO, or national NGO with a track record in similar activities, will be contracted to facilitate participatory planning and resource assessments, community mobilization, and assist groups in the preparation and implementation of rural investments in the selected district in the middle hills (funded under sub-component 1.1.). Resource assessments include jamoat-level environmental analyses to better understand environmental threats and impacts as well as jamoat-level assessments of community-based adaptation to climate change to enable participants to factor in the potential impact of climate change on livelihoods and vulnerability to disasters. These will be followed by detailed participatory appraisals at village-level covering environmental, social and economic issues related to livelihoods, environmental management and climate change. Based on the village level findings

and integration of jamaot level analyses, villagers will prepare action plans outlining possible investments from which priorities that meet project financing and participating rules will be chosen and proposals prepared for funding. The contracted organization will also help build the technical and organizational capacity of this beneficiary group to implement and manage its investments and plans.

Sub-component 2.2. Training, Analysis, Dissemination and Networking.

Establishment of an innovative farmer/land user focused knowledge management/information and delivery system in the CEP. (US\$1.20 million from PPCR). This activity aims to expand existing methods of knowledge management and extension (brochures, personal interaction, manuals, demonstration plots and farms, compilations, etc.) through combining ICT tools, particularly short videos, with improved capacities for organizational support. Drawing on the successful experience of efforts such as digitalGREEN (India)¹, the project will finance selected locally-based organizations to produce and facilitate the use of short videos (5-10 minutes), and supporting materials. In keeping with the project's community driven approach, local farmers/land users will be critical partners acting as both content providers and consumers. Topics and examples will be selected not only from rural investments supported by ELMARL, but also from other sources such as WOCAT,² farmer competitions, and previous compilations in the country. Topics and practices of relevance to women will be included in the content, especially topics that relate to their roles in SLM including choice of crops, soil and water management, harvesting and processing. The equipment used for video production and dissemination will be low cost, durable and easy to use, and adaptive to diverse environments. The project will establish the necessary communications infrastructure to house the videos and other materials, under the responsibility of the CEP. Suitable equipment may include a portable, battery powered projector, which can store a number of films allowing screenings at the community level facilitated by a trained local person. Web-based materials will be referenced or tagged by geographic location and a number of keywords/phrases to facilitate browsing. As a result, users will be able to look at usefulness both as practices to be adopted and/or to examples in use in a particular location/region. It is anticipated that about 50-100 videos with supporting tutorials will be produced.

Capacity building to facilitate use of knowledge management products by farmers/land users and interested parties. (US\$0.50 million from PPCR). Additional financing will support a number of capacity building activities within the CEP and for key partners to produce, share and monitor the use of knowledge products. After an initial assessment, training will be provided to key partner organizations to produce, share (using a facilitated process) and monitor feedback and use of knowledge management products. Videotaped demonstrations per se are not seen as a complete extension solution since they lack the interactivity expected of good extension. Therefore, a facilitated approach with trained local persons to engage audiences with discussion and capture feedback will be used. While locally-based NGOs will take the lead in video production, facilitation training will be offered to others including village based advisors, farmers associations,

¹ World Bank, Digital Libraries for the Poor: Facilitating Bottom-up innovation through Video-based Learning Platform, South Asia Livelihood Innovations in ICT Series, Volume 1, No. 1

² World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies – under the preparation phase of PPCR in Tajikistan (2011), successful sustainable land management practices were documented. Largely in a written format, the material is more accessible and useful for academics, experienced practitioners, and less so to farmers/land users.

and jamoat and raion specialists. Training activities will pay careful attention to ways that women and vulnerable groups are active participants in generating content, featuring in videos and support material, and in delivering and receiving information on SLM. The project will look for opportunities to collaborate and learn from World Bank partnerships in ICT, e.g., in South Asia where video-based learning is already underway, and with other platforms such as the TerrAfrica Partnership.

CEP staff, especially those in two recently established information centers, and Implementation Group consultants will be given assistance to oversee field-based production and extension activities, and to build facilitation skills in the use of videos. Assistance will also be provided to the CEP centers to monitor and maintain the results of extension activities, e.g., development of protocols to assess feedback at dissemination sessions, adoption of practices, etc. CEP centers will also be supported to provide back-up extension advice in sustainable land management in partnership with local organizations. If initial assessments indicate adequate communications infrastructure, the project will experiment with GIS mapping and crowd sourcing for data collection and beneficiary feedback.

Networking and dissemination to increase adoption of SLM practices among the rural population. (US\$0.20 million from PPCR). Additional financing will support a larger than planned effort under the current project to expand and strengthen dissemination and networking among stakeholders to increase awareness of SLM knowledge and practices, and provide platforms for sharing and exchange. Examples include joining the K-LINK initiative supported by GIZ³. K-LINK is promoting access through an application on computers and hand-held devices to a range of digital resources on SLM in Central Asia housed by participating organizations (e.g., government agencies, universities, NGOs). Other activities will include expanding farmer competitions to identify innovation and good practice for conversion into videos and tutorials, and promotion of project activities in SLM knowledge management.

Analysis and planning for knowledge management. (US\$0.10 million from PPCR). Additional financing will support activities to help ensure that the knowledge management initiatives proposed can be sustained both technically and organizationally. An initial assessment of the ICT environment and infrastructure in Tajikistan will identify technical challenges and opportunities, and how these might be addressed given the activities proposed. A training needs assessment will also be conducted to ensure that capacity building interventions are designed and targeted appropriately for the range of participants. The project will support the preparation of a plan to support financial, technical and organizational sustainability of the proposed interventions. This plan may include strategies to maintain activities supported by the project, as well as ways to expand the knowledge management system in the country and networking to access similar efforts in the region and elsewhere.

11. Consistency with Investment Criteria⁴:

³ K-LINK is a software system for connecting different institutions through the orchestration of their pre-existing software platforms that manage digital resources - <http://klink.azurewebsites.net/>

⁴ Please provide the information in the cover page or indicate page numbers in the accompanying project/program document where such information can be found.

The project is consistent investment criteria, as highlighted below:

Value-added of the PPCR: See paragraphs 32 – 36 in the attached Project Paper.

Co-financing: As reflected in the Project Paper, the additional US\$2 million in PPCR grant resources for the project are also leveraging an additional US\$1.8 million in IDA resources that will enable the project to expand its geographic coverage and support to different climate vulnerable districts, by scaling up support for innovative rural production and sustainable land management (SLM) measures at the village level to help rural livelihoods become more resilient to climate change.

Please also refer to paragraphs 10 – 12 in the attached Project Paper, highlighting the project’s close linkages with WB and Government programming.

Results Framework and Indicators: The project Results Framework is included in the country’s SPCR, and project indicators contribute to PPCR core indicators, as highlighted in the Results Framework (see Annex 1).

Linkages and complementarity with the SPCR: Please refer to paragraphs 32 – 25.

PPCR Programmatic Management (Coordination/Reporting/KM at SPCR level): The project implementation team regularly participates in the country’s programmatic/SPCR process, by reporting on project results, participating in knowledge management and program implementation reviews. The team’s participation in this process is budgeted under Component 3.

Economic and Financial Analysis. Please refer to paragraphs 47 – 49.

12. Stakeholder engagement⁵:

Please refer to paragraphs 41 – 42, as well as paragraph 4 in the Project Paper.

13. Gender considerations⁶:

Please refer to paragraph 41.

14. Indicators and Targets (consistent with results framework):

Core Indicator	Target
(a) Number of hectares in project area covered by effective agricultural, land and water management practices suited to local agro-ecological conditions and climate change resilience ⁷	31,500 hectares in project area covered by effective agricultural, land and water management practices suited to local agro-ecological conditions and climate change resilience
(b) Land users adopting sustainable land mgt. practices as a result of the project ⁸	15,000 land users adopting sustainable land mgt. practices as a result of the project

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Contributes to PPCR Core Indicator 3 (Extent to which climate responsive instruments/investment models are developed and tested)

⁸ Contributes to PPCR Core Indicator 4 (Extent to which vulnerable households, communities, businesses and public sector services use improved PPCR supported tools, instruments, strategies, activities to respond to Climate Variability and Climate Change)

<p>(c) Contribute to Core Indicator 5:⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of households supported [in project area] that have adopted climate change and sustainable land management practices - Proportion of population by household in target villages reporting at least 20% increase in well-being or household/livelihood assets - Direct project beneficiaries and female beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24,350 households supported [in project area] that have adopted climate change and sustainable land management practices - 50% of population by household in target villages reporting at least 20% increase in well-being or household/livelihood assets - 147,000 project beneficiaries, of which at least 40% are women. 																					
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	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%;"><i>Amount (in USD million):</i></th> <th style="width: 20%;"><i>Type of contribution:</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Government</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• MDB (IDA)</td> <td>1.80</td> <td>Grant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Private Sector (please specify)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Bilateral (please specify)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Others (Beneficiary contributions)</td> <td>0.262</td> <td>In-kind/cash</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Co-Financing Total:</td> <td>2.062</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<i>Amount (in USD million):</i>	<i>Type of contribution:</i>	• Government			• MDB (IDA)	1.80	Grant	• Private Sector (please specify)			• Bilateral (please specify)			• Others (Beneficiary contributions)	0.262	In-kind/cash	Co-Financing Total:	2.062	
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16. Expected Board/MDB Management¹⁰ approval date:																						
The expected Board date is June 22, 2015.																						

FINAL Version
February 26, 2013

⁹ PPCR Core Indicator 5 (Number of people supported by the PPCR to cope with the effects of climate change)

¹⁰ In some cases activities will not require MDB Board approval.