ERUS Universal Energy Access Program (PAUE)

Country / Region: **Honduras** | Project Id: **XSREHN010A** | Fund Name: **SREP** |

MDB : **Inter-American Development Bank,International Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

Comment Type	Commenter Name	Commenter Profile	Comment	Date
Comment 1	Daniel Morris	United States	CIF AU, Thanks for the opportunity to review. Two short questions on this project: (1) The Guanaja micro-grid will be built on private land and the project document notes the ownership of that land was verified. Has the implementer or Bank Staff also confirmed the owners' consent to host the micro-grid on his/her private land? (2) The project document notes that public consultation was scheduled to take place in Brus Laguna, and Concepcion de Mara and Tomason Island in the "next few weeks." Did those public consultations occur? Thanks. danny	Jun 30, 2017
Response 1	Claudio Alatorre	IDB	A1: This has already been confirmed by the public utility (ENEE), and the bank has reviewed the property ownership documents. The landowner is willing to sell the land for the project and once the project will be approved by IDB, ENEE will start the formal process to buy it. A2: The public consultations will take place once IDB receives news from the approval of the project proposal. Since the communities where the project will be implemented do not have electricity, the public utility prefers to avoid raising further their expectations, and has decided not to make the public consultation until the proposal is approved by the SREP Subcommittee. During the preparation of feasibility studies, the community and local authorities have been supportive with the project.	Aug 08, 2017
Comment 2	Daniel Menebhi	Switzerland	Thank you for circulating this proposal. We have the following questions and comments, both concerning project budget and financing: a. (Q) In the SREP cover page, the total co-financing is stated at $4.6 million, but the details only add up to $1.6 million ($0.6 million grant from IDB and $1 million from beneficiaries).Please indicate where the difference will come from and what form of contribution is coming from the beneficiaries (households).In the Results Framework the leverage factor for co-financing is not stated. Please state it. b. (C) We understand that the project has been re-dimensioned (curtailing $0.93 million SREP contribution) because of the lack of grant resources remaining in SREP. Please note that we reject the concept of re-appropriating such reduced SREP contribution by the MDBs without a specific decision therefore to be made by the SREP Subcommittee.	Jul 03, 2017
Response 1	Claudio Alatorre	IDB	A(a): Thank you for pointing this out. This is an error in the cover page, and we apologize for this. Total co-financing is USD 1.6 million. Beneficiaries are expected to make in-kind contributions, e.g., by purchasing and building support structures and providing some electrical supplies. We will include in the results matrix an indicator to measure these contributions from beneficiaries. A(b): Any decision about the use of resources will need to be approved by the SREP Subcommittee.	Aug 09, 2017
Comment 3	Simon Ratcliffe	United Kingdom	The UK has a number of questions (Q) and comments (C) related to this proposal. These are: (C1) Our 1st Concern relates to the rationale for SREP funding. There is little to no rationale as to why the private sector could not invest nor why it needs to be a grant and not have concessional funding. (Q1) Can the private sector not provide this funding if the IRR is high at 19.29% and	Jul 04, 2017

			18.44% in the Isle Guanaja and in Brus Laguna (which represent 92% of the investment programme). If not, why? Why does SREP funding need to be grant and not a concessional loan? (Q2) 2nd concern is the emissions factor used to calculate GHG savings. An emissions factor of 0.75KgCO2/year has been used; are these the right units for this (they usually come as tonnes or kg of CO2/MWh not /year)? The GHG emissions savings are given in tonnes but the emission factor is given in Kg which is the correct unit? If the units are tCO2/MWh 0.75 seems a high factor to us, why have you used this number? (Q3) The Net Present Value. How has the NPV been calculated this number, what benefits does it take into account? Could we see a further breakdown of your cost – benefit analysis? (C2) Co-financing. A co-financing figure of $4.6m ahs been calculated; please could you confirm this is correct, as it seems to be made up of $0.6m from the IDB and $1m from other sources. (Q4) Stakeholder Engagement Mention is made of the public consultations that have taken place. What measures were taken to ensure that stakeholders were able to make informed inputs into the process. (Q5) Household solar systems There is very little detail on this element of Component 1. Could the project team please elaborate further on this element of the project? Is the proposed investment sufficient to create a sustainable market for these products? What analysis and evidence is there to support this? SREP Investment Criteria There is not much detail relating to the consistency with SREP's Investment Criteria. (Q6) Could the project team please indicate the % increase in the renewable energy portion of Honduras' energy mix. (Q7) By what % will the project increase access to energy in Honduras. (Q8) Please would the team provide more detail on the contribution to the NDC of the energy sector? (Q9) Please could the team provide more specific detail on the productive use of energy as well and the economic, social and environmental development impact of the project? How many jobs will the project create and how are they disaggregated?	
Response 1	Claudio Alatorre	IDB	A1: First of all, due to an internal error, the economic analysis that we submitted considered the original allocation of USD 6.18 million to the micro-grid component, rather than the final allocation of USD 5.3 million (the amount was reduced due to a lack of available resources in SREP). The unit cost in each solution increases when the installed capacity is reduced, due to constant logistic costs. The updated economic analysis follows: GUANAJA Investment [million USD] 2.75 IRR [%] 15.81% NPV [million US$] 0.69 LCoE [cUS$/kWh] 34.7 Diesel Price [cUS$/kWh] 43.0 Price reduction [%] 24% BRUS LAGUNA Investment [million US$] 2.55 IRR 15.45% NPV [million US$] 0.61 LCoE [cUS$/kWh] 48.2 Diesel Price [cUS$/kWh] 58 Price reduction [%] 20% The economic analysis shows that the projects are in effect economically feasible. However, as it has been mentioned in the document, since the Guanaja and the Mosquitia regions have the highest electricity rates in the country (more than three times more than the mainland), the government's position is that the savings due to the introduction of the PV systems should be transferred to the local population. Project sustainability will not be affected, since the utility will ensure that electricity sales will cover operation and maintenance costs, including the replacement of batteries and other system components. In addition to the direct benefit to the local population from rate reduction, the price of public services such as water and wastewater will be reduced, contributing to local economic development. To guarantee the financial sustainability of the project, the execution will be subject	Aug 09, 2017

to the approval of a new regulation of rates for isolated areas, including the cases when there is support for investment for power generation based on clean energy. The regulation will be approved by the national regulatory agency and the government is already working on it.
This will be the first solar micro-grid project to be implemented in Honduras. Lessons to be learned from this project will be used by the government in other regions that are not connected to the main grid. Based on these lessons, the Government will consider moving ahead with loans for expanding electricity coverage with the use of microgrids. Finally, as it was explained in the ADERC transmission project, the standby agreement of Honduras with the International Monetary Fund has limited the indebtment of the country. Since the national power utility is state-owned, there is no fiscal space to do additional loans to the ones that were already approved by the Ministry of Finance under the IMF agreement.
Summing up, taking into consideration the economic hardship of the local population, the high investments needed for PV, the first-of-its-kind nature of the project, and the macro-economic context of the country, we consider that the use of grant resources is justified.

A2: We apologize for this error in the cover page. The correct emission factor is 0.75 kg CO2e/kWh. (Incidentally, this value is conservative: Several similar projects assume a higher emission factor of 0.8 kg CO2e/kWh.)

A3: The NPV was calculated considering total expenses and total revenues cash flow. As it was explained in answer A1, the revenues took into consideration electricity sales based on the current situation (electricity rate based on diesel use). For the total expenses, we considered operation and maintenance expenses, and the periodic replacement of batteries, inverters and other critical equipment.
The IRR and NPV change as a function of the electricity rate. For example, for Guanaja, a rate of 43¢/kWh leads to an IRR of 15.8% and an NPV of USD 0.69 million, whereas with a rate of 35¢/kWh the IRR is 11.2% and the NPV is negative.
Most of the IPP grid-connected renewable energy projects have a 20-year PPA with the national power utility and an IRR higher than 18%. All payments for these projects are guaranteed by the government. For isolated systems, currently there is no incentive mechanism in place.

A4: The selection of places to be benefited from the program took into consideration stakeholder engagement and a presence of IDB technical cooperation activities focused on regional economic development. Nevertheless, public consultations in Bruss Laguna and in the southern area of the country have not yet been executed because ENEE has decided not to make the public consultation until after the project is approved by the SREP Subcommittee.

A5: We appreciate your comments and we apologize for not providing enough information on this activity.
Given the low income of the people in these regions, the government does not consider that it is feasible to provide solar systems on a fully sustainable commercial basis. Subsidies to the upfront investments are justified in the context of the government's social policies. In the case of this program, solar systems will be co-financed with SREP resources (and additional contributions from the beneficiaries). The focus is therefore on ensuring that the operation and maintenance are sustainable by ensuring that users' fees are enough to cover these expenses.
The collection and management of fees will be carried out either through mobile technology (where feasible) or through the rural savings institutions. The use of the mobile technology is particularly promising, not only for assuring project sustainability, but also for catalyzing economic development in the areas of influence.
This subsidized financing scheme for solar systems has been successfully implemented in programs implemented by the Government at the national level. ¶1.22 of our Proposal for Operational Development reports the experience in the country, which has led to a market for rural electrification. Although there is no an updated figure of the participation of individual solar systems in the country, the National Census conducted at the end of 2013 reports that 1.6% of houses in Honduras produce electricity from individual solar panels. That figure has increased on account of ongoing programs.
In addition to technology providers and fee collectors, this business model also fosters the creation of micro-enterprises for the maintenance and repair of solar systems. This will be the case in the municipalities of Concepción de María and El Corpus. Finally, as explained on the proposal, the project will also rely on the role of the parents' associations and boards of trustees for projects in schools and health

centers, respectively.
The IDB group through the now extinct Opportunities for the Majority program and through the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) has been carrying out different programs aimed at supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises with innovative technologies, including solar home and SME systems. There are in particular two projects financed by MIF: one for implementing a de-risking mechanism for rural solar energy in Honduras, and one for supporting mobile companies to increase the productivity in Honduras, by incorporating innovative mechanisms to reduce the cost for collecting money in isolated areas. The project will profit from these experiences by using the best lessons learned from the IDB group.

A6: Non-conventional renewable electricity supply has grown in the last years at an annual rate of 7.2%. However, due to the prolonged droughts that Honduras has faced since 2014 (closely linked to climate change), electricity production from hydropower plants has been reduced by 5% every year. As a result of these two processes, the net annual average increase in renewable electricity production has been approximately 2.7%.

A7: The impact of this project will be to increase by 0.2% modern energy access in the country.

A8: The NDC Honduras document reports "The Republic of Honduras aims to significantly reduce the sector with more emissions, i.e. the production of electricity, while meeting the new national needs derived from population and economic growth. All of this strategy is aligned with a low carbon development strategy."
The NDC is in line with the long-term Country Vision Plan (2010-2038) of Honduras, which aims to increase the participation of renewable energy for power generation, with a 60% target for 2022, and a 80% target for 2038.
The NDC also reports that "The Republic of Honduras undertakes, as a sectoral objective, to afforestation / reforestation of 1 million hectares of forest by 2030. Likewise, through the NAMA of efficient stoves, it is expected to reduce firewood consumption by 39% Families, helping in the fight against deforestation". SREP resources are supporting Honduras' efforts to disseminate efficient stoves through the "Promoting Sustainable Business Models for Clean Cookstoves Dissemination" project, and through the "Support for the Use of Climate Finance Instruments for Low-Carbon Cook-stoves" component of this proposal.

A9: Access to reliable energy will enable the communities in Brus Laguna and in Guanaja to increase the value-added of their productive activities, thanks to the ability to use energy for refrigeration and crop processing applications.
Due to the high cost of electricity, economic activities in these two locations are constrained. In the specific case of Guanaja, the lack of affordable and reliable electricity supply affects the operation of water and wastewater facilities. Water pollution is affecting the coral reefs, which are the most valuable asset for the Island's tourism industry. Renewable energy production will also reduce the risk of diesel spills in the sea. Summing up, the project will help to improve tourism services and this will in turn help economic development.
Fishing is an important economic activity in Brus Laguna, the Moskitia region and Guanaja. However, it has been constrained due to the lack of access to reliable electricity. The IDB group is working in both places under the Mipesca project, supporting artisanal fishermen to strengthen their capacities to sell their products in the national and international markets. The analysis shows that the main constraint to develop the activity is the accessibility and affordability of electricity.
In the southern region of Honduras where individual solar systems will be installed, the main economic activity is agriculture. In this region, access to electricity will favor small scale agroindustry activities.
The project will benefit indigenous communities from Honduras that face different economic problems. The inhabitants of Guanaja are black and English speaking, while in Brus Laguna most are Miskito. Both ethnic groups are active in favor of initiatives to address climate change impacts. On the other hand, energy will also contribute to the provision of public services such as water and wastewater that demand energy. The project will improve the quality of life of the citizens and will reduce the risk of illegal migration, mainly to the United States of America, which has been a serious social issue in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador and the main driver for promoting the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle.
With regards to job creation, the estimated figures are as follows (i) for the microgrids, project construction is expected to generate at least 70 direct jobs in each location, and for operation and maintenance 15 in each location; (ii) for the

			individual solar systems, and based on previous experiences and the complexity for logistics, we estimate 120 jobs for construction, and for operation and maintenance at least 12 jobs.	
Response 2	Simon Ratcliffe	United Kingdom	Firstly, we would like to thank the project team for looking at our questions and providing in-depth responses to them, it's been very useful. We find the project very interesting, however we would like to check our understand with a few follow-up comments and questions. 1) The LCOE for the mainland is approximately $0.14/Kwh; one of this projects' stated objectives is to reduce LCOE to levels that allow competitive socio-economic development in the participating areas, at what level would you deem this objective to be achieved? Under the analysis provided the LCOE are $0.347/Kwh for Guanaja and $0.482/Kwh for Brus Laguna, this is still much higher than the mainland average; will this project effectively address the identified market failures? We note the installed capacity is relatively small scale, have other options been considered to suggest this is the most effective option to reduce the LCOE through renewable energy and as such have the biggest impact on reducing the market failure? What are the constraints behind building more capacity or the same capacity for a lower investment? 2) We would like to understand a bit more about your calculations for the NPV. Does it only take into account revenue flows, or does it factor in the value of other benefits, for example GHG savings and how are these benefits been valued and discounted?" 3) Are the costs of diesel likely to be volatile at these two separate sites? Given that a slight change in the diesel cost can push the NPV to be negative; what is the likelihood of this happening? Secondary to this, what are the factors that make the cost of diesel in Brus Laguna so much higher compared to Guanaja? 4) As an additional comment, a 25% capacity factor for small scale solar is slightly high, what evidence is this based on? 5) Regarding the answer to our previous Q4, it is stated that public consultations have not yet taken place. This answer seems to miss the point of the original question, regarding the measures that were (or will be) taken to ensure that participants are able to make informed decisions. Who will be represented? What interests do they represent? How will less educated, or less vocal people be heard? Will the decisions taken be robust? 6) Regarding the answer to our previous Q6, mention is made of subsidies to the upfront investments. How has/will the level of subsidy be determined? How long will these subsidies be necessary?	Aug 11, 2017
Response 3	Claudio Alatorre	IDB	A1: The Honduran Government selected Guanaja and Brus Laguna as beneficiaries of SREP resources because of the level of isolation of the towns, the socio-economic difficulties of their citizens, and the opportunity for the development of RE projects that will be catalyzers for using RE technologies in the surrounding areas. As part of IDB's technical Cooperation "renewable energy resource evaluation in the Bay Islands", different alternatives for renewable energy production in Guanaja were assessed. Based on the available renewable energy resources and the financial resources for the ERUS project, it was recommended that a microgrid using solar power should be deployed first. Guanaja has good sites for PV production with capacity factors higher than 23%. In addition, the project team could find a good option for locating the PV panels, despite the land scarcity in the island (some of the surface area is reserved as protected areas, some surface has geographic and topographic constrains, and some land is devoted to private economic activities). One area of Guanaja has the best wind resource in the Bay Islands. The development of this windy site will imply the development of infrastructure, including access roads and harbor improvement. The government is currently preparing a pre-feasibility study, including an assessment of the impacts of wind turbines on the local flora and fauna (results will be ready next year). In the Moskitia region the use of local biomass is an option, but more detailed analyses in terms of biomass availability and environmental impacts are needed, especially because most of the area is protected. Summing up, based on readiness for project implementation, environmental safeguards compliance, land access, RE resource availability, infrastructure requirements, and economic viability, microgrids based on PV and supported with energy storage were the selected option. The main reason for the high costs of electricity in Guanaja and Brus Laguna is the complexity involved in logistics. The Gracias a Dios - Mosquitia Region, where Brus Laguna is located, is the Amazons of Central America: It is the only department in the Honduran mainland that has no road connection to other departments. Reaching Brus Laguna involves traveling by boat from Puerto Lempira, the capital of Gracias a	Aug 23, 2017

Dios, or from La Ceiba. These logistics constraints increase the price of goods and services. For both projects, civil and logistics cost represent 30 to 36% of the total investment.
As we informed before, the GoH has demonstrated its commitment for expanding the market of RE and its effort has been widely recognized. Nevertheless, most efforts have been focused on grid-connected RE market development, and a different framework is needed for isolated places. The ERUS micro-grid project will be the first of its kind and will provide key information and practical experience for the design of policies and regulations for the use of RE in isolated areas. Thanks to the SREP resources and other resources that the Bank administrates, IDB will continue supporting the GoH with technical assistance for the development of the appropriate legal scheme that will enable reducing the electrification gap.

A2: As we informed in our previous response (A3 to the UK), the NPV was calculated considering the total cash flow of expenses and revenues.
Revenues only take into consideration the electricity sales. In order to be conservative, we considered the electricity sales with the current rate, which has been relatively low, given the current price of diesel (for more details please see A3). Benefits from GHG emission reduction or the potential sale of renewable energy certificates were not considered.
Expenses include operation and maintenance expenses, and the replacement of batteries, inverters, and other critical equipment.

A3: In Honduras, the price of oil products is regulated by the Oil Administration Commission (CAP), a government agency. The price of diesel, in particular, depends on the international prices, plus transportation costs inside the country, plus dealer costs and taxes. Transport costs are determined by each agent as a function of distance, complexity of transportation and the infrastructure available in both ends.
The diesel for both Guanaja and Brus Laguna comes from Puerto Castilla in the Caribbean coast. The navigation distance from Puerto Castilla to Guanaja is 45 km and the power plant is located next to the shore. The distance to Brus lake (entrance point to Brus Laguna) is 310 km by sea, 13 km to cross the lake, and finally 1.2 km by truck. This makes oil products more expensive in Brus Laguna than in Guanaja.
With regards to your concern about the NPV turning negative, the economic analysis was made considering a reference scenario with electricity rates that correspond to an oil price of USD 50/barrel. The sensitivity analysis considered a theoretical worst-case scenario of electricity rates that are approximately 20% lower than the reference scenario (in which case NPV would indeed be negative). However, the rules for determining electricity rates in Honduras establish that when the international price of oil is lower than USD 46/barrel, electricity rates will remain constant at the USD 46/barrel level. This means that the worst-case scenario cannot happen under the current regulations and with the current generation technology and fuel.
Summing up, under the current regulations, electricity rates in Guanaja and Bruss Laguna cannot be lower than 5% under the reference scenario, and there is no risk that NPV could reach negative values. We used the same constant value of electricity rates during all the lifetime of the project in the cash flow to make a conservative analysis.

A4: The capacity factor for PV projects in Guanaja is 22%, in Brus Laguna is 18% and in Choluteca 25%. Data for Guanaja come from solar measurements conducted under the IDB-funded technical cooperation study. Data for Brus Laguna comes from a Multilateral Investment Fund's project that has installed meteorological stations (the focus of this project is climate change adaptation, but it has produced useful solar radiation data). Finally, data for Choluteca come from a nearby large-scale PV project connected to the grid.

A5: Consultations will take place before the project goes to the IDB's Operation Policy Committee, a phase before contract negotiation and Board approval. It is a Bank requirement to have the public consultations. A map of principal stakeholders has already been carried out. Invitations will be sent in accordance to this map. Public consultations should be held in a public place and easily accessible by the stakeholders. They should take place in a date in which the stakeholders would most probably be able to attend, given their social and economic activities.
The IDB has provided guidelines to the executing agency to carry out a meaningful consultation process, following the Bank's procedures. A consultation report will be annexed to the final environmental and social analysis of the operation prior to the IDB's OPC. Recommendations raised on the consultation process should be

reflected.
The IDB group has experience carrying out consultations and executing projects in the communities where the projects will be implemented. Therefore, there is knowledge of the local customs, institutional setup, and governance.
In addition, given that some of the beneficiaries are defined as belonging to indigenous groups, the consultations will need to take into consideration their socio-cultural particularities, as established by the IDB's environmental and social standards. For instance, since there are some stakeholders who do not speak Spanish, the consultation should be performed as well in the local language (Miskito language in Brus Laguna and Caribbean English in Guanaja).
In Brus Laguna, the Biocultural protocol for the consultation process is followed with Moskitia communities. This procedure, under the characteristics of a free, prior and informed consultation, ensures a wide and fair participation of the beneficiaries of an activity or project in indigenous territories. It includes the following aspects:
a) First contact
b) Agreement on the process
c) Discussion of relevant information
d) Decision making
e) Negotiation between communities and relevant actors
f) Agreement on Consent
g) Implementation and monitoring
The Bio-cultural protocol defines also the actors that should be contacted and how the consultations should be made. The political organization of the Miskitu People in Honduras is MASTA "Miskitu AslaTakanka" (Miskita Unit). This organization has a Board of Directors, Territorial Councils and their respective Communal Councils, which have in turn their own Boards of Directors. The project consultation processes are managed in coordination with these structures and according to their guidelines.
What interest do they represent?
According to the IDB guidelines for Public consultations, the executing agency should ensure representation of all sectors with interests. Community authorities, government institutions (Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment, Health, Education), mayor of the city, the productive sector (tourism in Guanaja and fishing in Brus Laguna), representatives of political organizations, other stakeholders. All stakeholders will be part of the consultation processes during the project lifecycle. When required, bilateral meetings with stakeholders could also be held to explore specific issues.
How will less educated, or less vocal people be heard?
In Brus Laguna (Moskitia) and in Guanaja, local translators will be available during the consultation process, so that they can translate to people who do not speak Spanish. A strategy that works very well to promote the participation of the shier or less educated people, and in some cases of women, is the division into smaller discussion groups, so that they present the results of their discussion and reflections on the subject. The executing agency has also a strategy to receive questions, comments and suggestions by means of an open mail box and a telephone line to receive calls. After the consultation period, the executing agency is compelled to report all the comments and questions
The implementation strategies of the consultations will consider these elements, in addition to those that are provided in the free, prior and informed consultation protocol (Prior Consultation).
Will the decisions taken be robust?
The decisions taken will be backed up by key stakeholders, through a transparent exchange of information and opinions in a free, secure and trustworthy space. The participants will jointly construct an agreement that will be written and signed as a testimony of their consent and conditions.

A6: We suppose you mean Q5, which refers to the solar home systems in Choluteca. Here, only the upfront investments will be subsidized. The level of subsidy will be determined as a function of the socioeconomic situation of the beneficiaries by the executing agency, with the support of the National Center of Information for the social sector (CENIS), which is the entity responsible for establishing social programs for poor communities. The level of subsidy will be determined using the Single Registration of Participants, a national tool for focusing and allocating subsidies, that allows knowing the socioeconomic situation of the beneficiaries.
The period of time for allocating the subsidies will depend on the improvements of the economy of the country, but also on the level of progress of other programs (rural electrification with grid connections, rural roads development, and microgrid development). It will also depend on the evolution of the solar PV and energy storage markets for individual home systems (given the high dispersion of houses in Choluteca, micro-grids are currently more expensive, but this may change in the

			future). If the prices of PV systems come down, the need for subsidies would be lower.	
Response 4	Simon Ratcliffe	United Kingdom	Dear Mafalda, Apologies that this is a little late. The UK is now pleased to approve this project. We expect that the project team will do some further NPV analysis that also values the economic benefits of the project. Please would you give a special word of thanks to the project team for their comprehensive answers to our questions. We are appreciative of the time they have taken to do this. Kind regards, Simon	Aug 30, 2017
Comment 4	Katie Berg	United States	We appreciate the responses from the IDB. Could IDB confirm that public consultations will take place before the project is considered by the IDB Board and that the IDB Board will be informed about the results of the consultations? With that confirmation, we are content for the project to move forward. Katie Berg	Aug 11, 2017
Response 1	Claudio Alatorre	IDB	A: Yes, this is confirmed.	Aug 23, 2017
Comment 5	Simon Foster	United Kingdom	Thank you for explaining the reasons for a further delay. Could the IDB please expand on the reason that the agenda time for approval consideration has moved into November? My reading of the explanation is that the project is ready for approval consideration but the date of doing this has moved. It would be helpful for us to understand the reason for this. Regards Simon	Oct 26, 2018
Response 1	Claudio Alatorre	IDB	Dear Simon Thank you for the question. Approval delays are common during the last months of the year, when most operations are approved. We now have dates for the key milestones: The Operation and Policy Committee will take place on November 15th, and Board approval is scheduled for December 5th. Regards, Claudio	Nov 01, 2018