

## **Comments response table for the Lao PDR full proposal**

Project eligibility	Questions	Comments initial review	Comments final review	Response
Project eligibility	2. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	<p><b>CR 2:</b> The concept proposal should provide a higher level of details regarding the activities that the project plans to deliver, highlighting the visible and tangible results of such outputs. It would be particularly useful to further explain how the project will increase the capacity of governments, and how it will sustain it (component 1). Similarly, please explain the type of approach that will be followed to build and sustain the capacity of settlements and communities to climate resilience (component 2), the extent to which the communities and local stakeholders will be involved in delivering component 3, and in participating into the “community-level criteria-based prioritization exercises” that will be conducted.</p> <p><b>CR 3:</b> Please clarify what will be the role of the governments (national and local) in developing and implementing the community infrastructures planned in component 3.</p> <p><b>CR 4:</b> The capacity building activities at human settlements and community levels planned under component 2 seems to be aligned with the institutional strengthening planned under component 1 (output 1.3). However, the proposal does not explain how these efforts at institutional and settlement/communities level will be articulated. Please do so, highlighting what the project will do to ensure appropriate synergies between the deliveries of these outputs.</p> <p><b>CR 5:</b> As the hard investments that will be</p>	<p><b>CR 2:</b> Addressed, although the full proposal needs to be more specific in explaining how the capacity built through the activities (both at institutional and local/settlements level) will be sustained overtime.</p> <p><b>CR 3:</b> Not addressed. The full proposal should describe more precisely the role that the governments (local and national) will play in developing and implementing the assets planned in component 3.</p> <p><b>CR 4:</b> Not addressed. The full proposal should explain how settlements, communities and institutional level efforts will be articulated, and how synergies will be built between these efforts.</p> <p><b>CR 5:</b> Partially addressed. The full proposal</p>	<p>Addressed in Part II section A, G and J</p> <p>Addressed in Part III section A and annex 7 (where the roles and responsibilities are clarified in an AoC)</p> <p>Addressed in Part II section A</p> <p>This comment was dropped by the AF</p>

		made under component 3 will be definitively selected based on the deliverables of components 1 and 2, please provide a slightly higher level of details regarding the potential activities that could be selected as a result of the prioritization exercise, and briefly explain the system through which the project will ensure that such activities are climate change adaptation measures.	should explain in detail how the project will ensure that the planned hard infrastructures selected following the vulnerability assessments and community-level prioritization criteria-based workshops, are indeed adaptation measures. It also appears important to describe the criteria upon which the activities will be selected.  In addition, given the crucial importance of the results of the vulnerability assessments in selecting activities, a draft/tentative vulnerability assessment should be provided at the full proposal stage.	Board during the Board meeting. However, Part II, Sections A and B and Part III Section A addresses this point  For the criteria see the ESMP in annex 8  The draft/tentative vulnerability assessment can be found in annex 9
	3. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?	Yes. However, benefits should be provided in a more specific and detailed manner. In addition, more information is needed regarding vulnerable groups and indigenous people living in the region.  <b>CR 7:</b> The information provided in the background section indicate that multiple ethnic groups live in the selected region. Please describe any vulnerable or minority groups or indigenous people that have been identified in the region, and provide more information about the particular benefits that the project would provide to such groups.	<b>CR 7:</b> Partially addressed. The full proposal should elaborate on the specific benefits that the project would provide to the identified ethnic groups and indigenous people, including minorities.	Addressed in Part II, section A, B and C and Part III, section A  Addressed in Part II section B
	6. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?	Unclear. This section does not provide information on how the project meets relevant national standards  <b>CAR 1:</b> The relevant national technical standards need to be identified, and compliance stated in a logical manner. These standards include Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), building codes, water quality regulations, and sector- specific regulations. Regarding EIAs, all proposed projects/programmes	<b>CAR 1:</b> Addressed. Following the final assessment of CR 24 below, the Environmental and social management plan needed at full proposal stage should demonstrate how it will comply with national regulations of environmental and social safeguarding.	See ESMP in annex 8

		shall undertake a screening of environmental and social risks and demonstrate compliance with the environmental and social principles as outlined in the Environmental and Social Policy.		
	8. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?	<p>The knowledge management activities seem to be included under output 1.1. However, the activities planned to capture and disseminate knowledge are not sufficiently explained and remain unclear.</p> <p><b>CR 15:</b> Please further elaborate on the project knowledge management strategy and activities, highlighting the learning objectives and indicators, and the way lessons learned will allow to feed the project strategy.</p> <p><b>CR 16:</b> Please demonstrate how the knowledge management strategy of the project will be sustained overtime and after the project ends.</p>	<p><b>CR 15:</b> Addressed. More information on the knowledge management strategy will be needed at full proposal stage.</p> <p><b>CR 16:</b> Partially addressed. The mechanisms through which the knowledge management strategy will be sustained will need to be explained more precisely at the full proposal stage.</p>	<p>See part II section G</p> <p>Addressed in part II section G</p>
	9. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations?	<p>A preparation/fact-finding" mission for the development of the proposal has taken place. However, it has mostly involved international and national stakeholders, without evidence that key stakeholders such as the local authorities, and the target settlements/communities have been engaged in a comprehensive way. In addition, beyond the topic of the ESP, there is no evidence of the topics discussed, nor evidence that views and interests expressed during such consultations have been taken into account during the development of this proposal. As the project is planned to be community focused, it is important that communities be consulted early in proposal development.</p> <p><b>CAR 2:</b> Please clarify whether the local</p>	<p><b>CAR 2:</b> Mostly addressed. Given that the</p>	<p>See part II section B (especially figure 10)</p>

		<p>authorities/ settlements/communities, minority groups and indigenous people have been consulted and provide evidence that their concerns and interests have been taken into account when designing the proposal. If necessary, please carry out further community consultations in these areas, taking into account vulnerable groups, indigenous people, and gender considerations.</p>	<p>target population consists of a high percentage of ethnic minorities, the full proposal should provide evidence that interests and concerns of the different ethnic groups are taken into account in the proposal design.</p>	
	<p>2.Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?</p>	<p>It is unclear. An “exit strategy” has been mentioned but not explained, and some actions have been listed.</p> <p><b>CR 22:</b> The proposal should mainstream the sustainability of the project outcomes in the design of the activities themselves. It addition, it should explain the specific arrangements through which the sustainability would be achieved, taking into account sustainability and maintenance of the infrastructures that will be developed, the policies that will be developed and the knowledge that will be generated. It would be also useful to explain how the local utility will participate in the project, and how their capacities are improved for the new infrastructures.</p>	<p><b>CR 22:</b> Mostly addressed. The full proposal should further explain the formal arrangements that will be made with the responsible government agencies to ensure long-term infrastructure maintenance.</p>	<p>Addressed in part III A and annex 7 (where the roles and responsibilities are clarified in an AoC)</p>
	<p>13. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified?</p>	<p>No. The Environmental and Social policy principles that would apply should be addressed at the concept stage. This is of utmost importance, as hard infrastructures planned in the proposed project are likely to need further assessment for compliance with the ESP.</p> <p><b>R 24:</b> Although the proposal states that “the project does not foresee any negative effects” in some ESP principles, it should actually explain why the project does not foresee such negative effects. As a result, please identify potential impacts and risks, considering all potential direct,</p>	<p><b>CR 24:</b> Sufficiently addressed at concept stage, although indirect impacts (e.g. at the level of access and equity) should be further taken into account and that the steps that will be taken to ensure that no environmental or social impacts can occur should be detailed.</p>	<p>Please find the ESMP in annex 8</p>

		<p>indirect, transboundary, and cumulative impacts and risks that could result from the proposed project and determine whether or not the project requires further environmental and social assessment, mitigation, and management. For any principles where further assessment and management are required for compliance, please describe how relevant standards will be applied through the project implementation, or how risks will be managed through project implementation, when applicable. Information provided in Table 5 contains already some of this information.</p>	<p>In addition, the ESP risks cannot be comprehensively identified, as the project includes unidentified sub-projects (USPs). As a result, the full proposal should include an environmental and management plan (ESMP) to identify ESP risks when a USP is identified. The ESMP should be fit for application at an adequate level, at the scale of the interventions. It may be needed to restrict the scope of the USPs that can be funded and to develop a generic risk identification and technical guidelines for ESP compliance for the typical USPs. Nonetheless, risks and impacts identifications need to be done taking the particular environment of an activity into account.</p> <p>Finally, ESP measures are currently mentioned throughout the document. They should be grouped and consolidated in the ESMP.</p>	
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