

July 11, 2023

36th Board Meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities

INTERVENTION

FP207: Recharge Pakistan: Building Pakistan's resilience to climate change through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Green Infrastructure for integrated flood risk management

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b36-02-add02-rev01>

We appreciate this fully grant-funded project designed to address the undeniable need for flood risk management, and demonstrate the evidence for and benefits of ecosystem-based adaptation and green infrastructure in comparison to focusing only on grey infrastructure. These EbA and green infrastructure interventions are necessary and effective to reduce climate impacts, as well as promote biodiversity co-benefits. Ensuring implementation is conducted with the partnership and co-creation of communities and the grant-funding of community-based organizations, including in monitoring, is an important approach.

Additionally, we appreciate that the GAP sets varied targets specific to activity type; the consideration of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in activities; and the involvement of women's groups in the design and implementation of green infrastructure measures. We hope to see this more in other GAPs.

We thank the accredited entity for their engagement, and hope to build on this for continued conversation and engagement on the implementation and monitoring of this project, as well as future ones.

We see in this project a commitment to robust implementation of environmental and social safeguards, and working with communities to co-develop plans for more sustainable and effective outcomes. The effective operationalization of these safeguards and fulfillment of the Gender and Indigenous Peoples Policies, building on a premise that community engagement is vital for transformative climate and biodiversity action, will indicate if this model can indeed fulfill its promise for replication and scaling across more of Pakistan's catchment areas.

In that vein, we are concerned by the Secretariat's statements in its assessment that the AE must affirm to the Government of Pakistan the financing arrangements for long-term operation and maintenance of the project's interventions during implementation. As we have seen phased proposals come to the Board with the intention of asking for future rounds of funding, and as reducing the devastating impact of projected flooding events in Pakistan will remain a climate priority, we envision that securing future grant funding through the GCF

would indeed be a realistic sustainability strategy, and question why that is not proposed or considered.

We reiterate a truth we have affirmed many times but feel we need to assert again, and hope Board members will do the same: the GCF does not have a co-financing requirement. Correspondingly, country ownership is not indicated by government financial contributions, as we see strong country ownership with this proposal, from the government as well as communities. Indeed, providing full grant funding for adaptation initiatives that address urgent and significant country needs and priorities is a purpose for which the GCF was designed.

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