

SAP052: Building Oman's Climate Intelligence and Early Warning Ecosystem for Risk-Informed Planning and Inclusive Climate-Proof Investment

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b43-02-add01>

We want to emphasise again the critical importance of early warning systems for developing countries that face the worst impacts of the climate crisis, as well as significant challenges to improving these systems. For this reason, we are troubled and disappointed at the unusual way in which this proposal has been treated.

While we note and appreciate seeing SAP052 return to the floor of the Board meeting, we are concerned that out of all the proposals that we have seen come to the Board for approval this year, many of which have raised much more serious concerns about their viability, potential climate impact, as well as compliance with the environmental, social and gender policies and safeguards, this proposal has received this heightened level of scrutiny. While in an ideal scenario, with unlimited time and capacity, we would have technical sessions exploring all proposals to this extent, the increased interest in this project and subsequent revision of the proposal give the appearance of having a political objection.

What's more, this uncalled for level of scrutiny has resulted in this proposal deviating from its initial focus on supporting communities, to a focus on promoting private sector participation, reducing the grant component as a way to appeal to the Board seats with stated objections to the grant size and align with their particular preferences. We worry that this sets a negative example for future proposals, who may scale down community-focused elements from much earlier on in the design phase in favor of something that will be mistakenly interpreted as more catalytic or transformative. We urge the Board to honor its funding mandate and engage in discussions on funding proposals focused on the proposal's merits such as its climate rationale and technical design.

We also want to reiterate the emphasis on community engagement as part of the AE's stakeholder consultation and ask for a transparent and accountable commitment on this. While the AE indicated that, due to the legal restrictions on formal community associations, the government representatives had been authorized to convey community views, we believe that the AE should strive for local consultations beyond what government representatives are able to convey. As we've noted in previous proposals with similar issues, no other entities can represent the views of the communities but themselves. Opposing this tenet also threatens the process of meaningful consultation and principle of country ownership.