

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

Intervention on

SAP066: SCALE – Strengthening Chad’s Adaptation for Land, Ecosystems and smallholders

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b44-02-add01>

While we welcome this proposal as an important contribution to strengthening climate resilience in Chad, and support its intention to scale up previously successful interventions, we agree with concerns raised by the ITAP regarding risks related to land tenure and land-use rights affecting targeted populations.

We note with particular concern that the project documentation indicates that no Indigenous Peoples were identified during project design, hence no Indigenous Peoples were invited to multistakeholder consultations, while at the same time an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) was developed as a precautionary measure, acknowledging the possible presence of nomadic Indigenous Peoples in some target areas.

We note that the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) has developed a participatory framework for mapping of Indigenous Peoples in the country. Their mapping and communication with the CSO network indicate the presence of Indigenous Peoples in the project target areas. In this regard, we regret that the AE did not engage with Indigenous Peoples in these areas during the development of the Concept Note and Funding Proposal, but only shortly before this Board meeting started, and that existing Indigenous Peoples’ data sources were not adequately considered or integrated into the project’s design.

We emphasize the guarantee of Indigenous Peoples participation and the additional screening of situations, including conflict over resources in the proposed areas, to be conducted prior to implementation, given the concerns raised by the Indigenous Peoples of the country and the Secretariat’s assessment of this funding proposal. We strongly recommend that AFPAT and other Indigenous Peoples’ organizations be actively engaged in this process and that their existing resources be leveraged. Any consultations should be meaningful and inclusive.

As Indigenous Peoples organizations claim Indigenous Peoples presence in the project area, the project should operationalize an Indigenous Peoples-led Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process and Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), particularly in relation to land rights, potential overlaps with customary use systems, and risk of conflict over resource sharing.

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In contexts where land and mobility are central to livelihoods, we further encourage the project to ensure that adaptation measures do not inadvertently promote sedentary models that could undermine traditional mobility systems, particularly for pastoralist and nomadic communities. Additional detail on how the project will support climate-resilient pastoralism and mobility would be welcome. We also emphasize the importance of assuring direct access to project activities and decision-making power for IPs such as in project steering committees.

Finally, drawing on precedents from the African context, including the FP041 for Tanzania approved at B.16 by the Board, we recall that specific conditions were applied. Similarly, we recommend that this project include clear conditions to ensure that IP safeguards and FPIC are fully operationalized and verifiable during implementation.

As agreed with the Accredited Entity during a consultation with the Indigenous People's organization AFPAT the day before the B.44 started—which also included the presence of the Secretariat, IPAG members and CSO representatives—prior to the signing of the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA), the Accredited Entity shall, through the Executing Entity, and formally:

1. Ensure the representation and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in project governance structures (for example, Project Coordinating Unit at all levels, including national to local/grassroot level;
2. Ensure the ethical engagement of Indigenous experts and knowledge holders in project operations and activities; and
3. Ensure formal partnership with Indigenous Peoples organizations in the implementation of project activities.

We also strongly urge the project to acquire FPIC from pastoralist and hunter/gather communities self-identifying as Indigenous People who may be affected by the project.

In conclusion, while we support the objectives of this proposal, addressing these concerns will be critical to ensuring that the project delivers inclusive and context-appropriate, and sustainable climate adaptation outcomes, without exacerbating tensions or creating conflict among people and communities on the ground.