Technical Assistance Consultant's Report

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Tajikistan: Building Capacity for Climate Resilience
Mid-term Report

Prepared by ABT Associates

For the Asian Development Bank and Government of Tajikistan

Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS
(as of 1 January 2016)

Currency unit	–	Tajikistan Somoni (TJS)
$1.00	=	TJS 7.17 Tajikistan Somoni (TJS)
TJS 7.17	=	$1.00

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CDTA	–	Capacity Development Technical Assistance
CIF	–	Climate Investment Funds
COEP	–	Committee on Environmental Protection
PPCR	–	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
SPCR	–	Strategic Program for Climate Resilience

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2012, the Asian Development Bank approved a $6 million technical assistance (TA) to Tajikistan. It is one of 5 investments that make up the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, which is financed and coordinated by the Climate Investment Fund in Washington, D.C. for highly climate vulnerable countries.

Abt Associates was awarded the implementation contract in 2013. There are five outputs. This midterm report summarizes the progress on each output and activity and their related targets. The report also highlights general issues and challenges as the TA heads into its final year of implementation. Progress in the first year was slow but improved in mid-2014. In 2015, the TA experienced steady progress across all five outputs. The State Agency for Hydrometeorology (Hydromet) is the Executing Agency for Output 1, and the Committee of Environmental Protection (COEP) is the Executing Agency for Outputs 2-5.

Progress to date per activity is described below.

Output 1 - Make climate change information available to multiple users

Tajikistan's Hydromet will be able to produce timely and reliable information on weather and climate that can be easily accessed by national and local decision makers. There are six activities under this output relating to the sequential steps in developing the data and delivering it to users.

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
1.1 Train personnel of the climate modeling facility (year 1)	In progress	Q4 2016
1.2 Climate modeling facility established (Year 1)	Completed	Q3 2014
1.3 Climate change projections (dynamical downscaling) (Year 2)	In progress	Q1 2017
1.4 Climate impact assessments completed for water resources, energy, agriculture (Year 2) and transport and social development (Year 3)	In progress	Q1 2017
1.5 Establish a climate data management system (year 1)	In progress	Q1 2017
1.6 Climate change science modules integrated into one university (Year 1)	Completed	Q3 2015

Output 2 - Climate Change Risks are integrated into Tajikistan's Development Projects

This output aims to integrate climate change risks into Tajikistan's development planning and implementation of development projects through development of tools and guidelines necessary to climate-proof investment projects and incorporate climate change risk management in operational policies.

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
2.1 Review national and sector programs and national budgets (year 1)	Completed	Q3 2015

2.2 Develop climate risk screening tools for priority sectors (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.3 Produce a guidance manual on how to consult effectively with poor and marginalized groups, including women (year 1)	Completed	Q2 2016
2.4 Develop an climate risk management system (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.5 Design and implement training programs (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.6 Support a national climate change adaptation strategy with allocated national budget (year 2)	In progress	Q1 2017
2.7 Develop modalities for a small grant facility (year 2)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.8 Support local adaptation plans in five vulnerable districts (year 3)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.9 Provide technical support to the government (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017

Output 3 - Knowledge Management Systems are Developed and Applied

Output 3 is focused on the development and application of knowledge management systems. This relates specifically to raising public awareness about climate change, making data and information and publications available to the public locally and online. Findings from a national survey will form the basis of knowledge priorities. The first round of surveys were conducted in the five highly vulnerable districts identified by the TA, but the public proved to be less aware than the team of surveyors anticipated. Questions required lengthy explanations, but are also proof of the need for the TA and the awareness campaigns that are to follow.

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
3.1 Conduct national surveys on climate change awareness (year 1)	Completed	Q4 2015
3.2 Develop a national communications strategy (year 1)	Completed	Q3 2015
3.3 Conduct climate change public awareness campaigns (year 2)	In progress	Q4 2016
3.4 Develop a knowledge management system (year 1–4)	In progress	Q3 2016
3.5 Establish a network of climate information outposts (year 2)	In progress	Q3 2016
3.6 Produce annual publications on the PPCR in Tajikistan (year 4)	In progress	Q4 2016
3.7 Hold annual dissemination events in local outposts (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
3.8 Hold midterm and final PPCR conferences (years 2 and 4)	In progress	Q4 2015 / Q1 2017

Output 4 - Manage Outputs from the PPCR for Results

The TA is responsible for reporting to the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) the annual results of the PPCR investments across all five projects. The TA team has worked with government and other PPCR investment teams to understand the process, identify proper indicators of results, and report on them. The TA begins its 3rd year of CIF reporting, with the PPCR Secretariat taking the lead in 2016.

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
4.1 Assess current monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity (year 1).	Completed	Q4 2015
4.2 Assess baselines and identify indicators for the PPCR (year 1)	Completed	Q2 2015
4.3 Agree on M&E with government agencies and multilateral development banks (year 1)	Completed	Q4 2015
4.4 Develop a PPCR reporting system (year 1)	Completed	Q3 2014
4.5 Conduct annual project performance updates (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.6 Conduct annual reviews of the PPCR (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.7 Produce annual PPCR performance reports (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.8 Produce a final report on lessons learned (year 4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.9 Facilitate independent M&E (years 2 and 4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.10 Provide technical support (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017

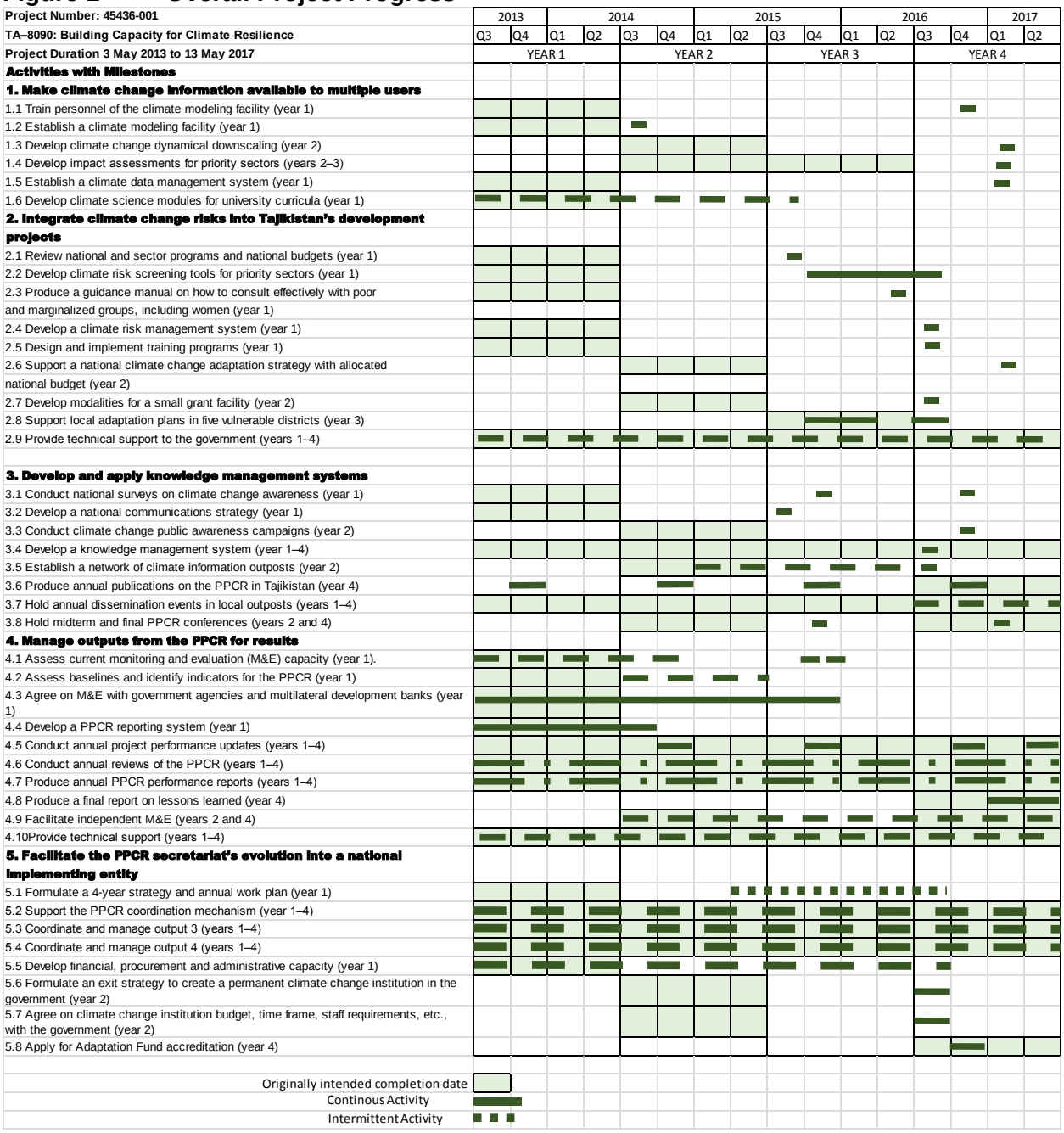
Output 5 - PPCR Secretariat Evolves into a National Implementing Entity

The TA designers anticipated that PPCR secretariat will evolve into a national implementing entity and be accredited by the Adaptation Fund Board as a National Implementing Agency. The idea is to ensure that Tajikistan is able to use the knowledge and competences acquired in outputs 1–4 to leverage additional financial support and implement climate change projects beyond the life of the PPCR.

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
5.1 Formulate a 4-year strategy and annual work plan (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
5.2 Support the PPCR coordination mechanism (year 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
5.3 Coordinate and manage output 3 (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
5.4 Coordinate and manage output 4 (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
5.5 Develop financial, procurement and administrative capacity (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
5.6 Formulate an exit strategy to create a permanent climate change institution in the government (year 2)	In progress	Q3 2016
5.7 Agree on climate change institution budget, time frame, staff requirements, etc., with the government (year 2)	In progress	Q3 2016
5.8 Apply for Adaptation Fund accreditation (year 4)	In progress	Q4 2016

The overall project progress is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 Overall Project Progress



I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

This midterm report provides ADB, the government, and public stakeholders a summary of what has been achieved and the activities that remain to be fulfilled on this TA. The report goes output by output, looking at the status of each activity and target related to the outputs. The report also highlights general issues and challenges that deserve more attention as the TA heads into its final year of implementation.

II. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF TA OUTPUTS

A. Output 1: Climate Changing Information is Available to Multiple Users

The TA intends for Tajikistan's Hydromet to be able to produce timely and reliable information on weather and climate that can be easily accessed by national and local decision makers. Hydromet will receive substantial training and equipment enabling it to carry out dynamical downscaling and impact modeling. The output 1 consists of six distinct but interrelated steps necessary to develop and deliver climate and impact data. A climate modeling facility will be established in Hydromet's Forecast Department, equipped with the hardware and software necessary for high-resolution forecasting and dynamic modeling techniques and interpretation of the outputs from those models. A Management Information System will be established to store and share existing and newly generated data, including disaster risks. Training on how to generate and use climate data and information will be provided to local experts that are already involved with hydro-meteorological data measurement and to the new experts engaged by the Hydromet under the State Program for the Monitoring of Glaciers.

Table 1: Summary Achievement of Performance Targets for Output 1

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
1.1 Train personnel of the climate modeling facility (year 1)	In progress	Q4 2016
1.2 Climate modeling facility established (Year 1)	Completed	Q3 2014
1.3 Climate change projections (dynamical downscaling) (Year 2)	In progress	Q1 2017
1.4 Climate impact assessments completed for water resources, energy, agriculture (Year 2) and transport and social development (Year 3)	In progress	Q1 2017
1.5 Establish a climate data management system (year 1)	In progress	Q1 2017
1.6 Climate change science modules integrated into one university Year 1)	Completed	Q3 2015

Activity 1.1 Train personnel of the climate modeling facility

The training program is needed for the local experts who are already involved with hydro-meteorological data measurement and whom the Hydromet will train under the State Program for the Monitoring of Glaciers.

The Hydromet has developed a list of experts it wishes to train. Identified experts have been ranked by the international climate modeling specialists based on their educational and scientific modeling backgrounds. Training will begin in August 2016.

Issues. Candidates with solid climate change science and modeling background do not exist in Tajikistan; and as a result, creating a list of even semi-qualified candidates for training and staffing in the climate modeling facility has been difficult. This is mainly because, before the start of this project, there were no courses available on climate change science and modeling in the country. The candidates who have been identified have relevant background e.g., engineering, physics, etc., but do not have the experience in climate change science or modeling. This raises a question about sustainability of the facility.

Recommendation. CDTA team recommends providing continuous training and support to the trainees in the future. ADB and/or other development agencies should begin planning for additional and post-project training programs to continue to build the capacity of the experts trained and staffing the facility after this CDTA finishes.

Activity 1.2 Establishment of climate modeling facility

A climate modeling facility has been established in the Hydromet Forecast Department.

The CDTA project completed the renovation of three rooms in the Hydromet campus on the 30th August 2014.

The facility itself has been established, and the purchase of equipment and software with the subsequent training of staff is planned for August 2016.

Figure 2: Facility and interior room after renovation

ADB suggested forming a climate modeling advisory group and on 18th of March, 2014. Abt also received a request from Hydromet to form such an advisory group.

Abt Associates brought together a group of world renowned climate modeling and impact modeling experts and a workshop was conducted on the 26th November 2014, whereby the modeling advisory group members presented potential climate and impact models suitable for the Tajikistan context. Discussions were held after each presentation giving participants from Hydromet, relevant ministries, agencies and the general public a chance to ask questions.

The final advisory group report was submitted to the government on the 17th of March, 2015. The advisory group recommended the climate model PRECIS. Hydromet were concerned that they had no previous experience with PRECIS and thought it was not appropriate to Tajikistan. Abt organized two Skype conference calls between Hydromet and the advisory group, in which the model specifications and use were explained together with the reasoning as to why it was

the best model for Tajikistan. These explanations satisfied the deputy director who then asked Abt to proceed with procurement of the proposed climate model PRECIS. The final formal agreement from Hydromet was received on September 17th, 2015.

ADB agreed that the hardware and software necessary for the facility would be procured in batches, and the Abt advertised the RFP and evaluated the received bids. Abt has submitted the documents for purchase of the software and hardware to ADB for approval.

Activity 1.3 Develop climate change dynamical downscaling

Downscaling refers to the modeling of local climate by relating global changes to local conditions such as temperature, precipitation, snowmelt, extreme events and other key climatic factors. Abt Associates has already solicited training candidates from the Tajik Hydromet and identified the sub-contractor (UK-Hydromet) capable of providing support on dynamical downscaling. This activity will begin in the third quarter of 2016.

Issues and challenges. A contract variation is required to mobilize staff proposed by the subcontractor (UK-Hydromet).

Activity 1.4 Develop impact assessments for priority sectors

Climate impact assessments will be carried out on priority sectors and this will constitute part of the training. Abt has already identified the trainee candidates from the relevant ministries/agencies. The sub-contractor Climsystems will be conducting the climate impact modeling for the energy and water, agriculture, transport, and health sectors.

Issues and challenges. The candidates identified for the impact modeling training do not have any prior climate impact modeling experience. More training in the future might be required in addition to the training provided by the CDTA project to ensure sustainability of the project impacts.

Activity 1.5 Establish a climate data management system

Abt has submitted a concept note for a climate data management system, which has been approved by ADB. A contract variation is needed to further this activity as the subcontractor Climsystems has expended the assigned level of effort (LOEs). This activity will begin in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Issues and challenges. Climate data management system may require some minor data consolidation and enhancements as volume of data increase.

Activity 1.6 Develop climate science modules for university curricula

Prior to the start of this project, no higher education institutions in Tajikistan offered courses in climate change science. The CDTA project organized and conducted curriculum training for teachers of 7 Tajik Universities:

- Tajik National University
- Tajik Agrarian University
- Tajik State Pedagogical University
- Tajik Technical University
- Khujand State University

- Khorog State University

The training was also attended by teachers of Tajik Lyceum, representatives of the COEP, the Ministry of Education, Hydromet and two NGOs. All participants received certificates from SimClim.

Curriculum training organized by the project has already started showing positive results. Beginning in September 2015, Bio-ecology faculty of Khujand State University introduced a curriculum on hydrometeorology and climatology. Currently, 30 students are taking the course.

The project has developed introductory undergraduate and postgraduate modules on climate science and glaciology. In 2014, Tajik National University and Tajik Liceum of Communications began offering the undergraduate courses developed by this project. Tajik Agrarian University and Tajik State Pedagogical University started the graduate level courses in the spring of 2015.

Issue. Support is needed for climate change research through access to computer models and new software, otherwise the current interest in climate change courses may fade quickly. Ministries and agencies dealing with climate change need to create employment and provide an opportunity to put knowledge acquired by students into practice. It is acknowledged that students need to feel that they have good career prospects if they study climate science and pursue a career in the field.

Output 1 - Lessons Learned.

Substantial software and equipment will be procured and installed in Hydromet and the risk of it being underutilized is high, given the current low capacity of Hydromet staff and candidates nominated for training and future staffing in the Climate Modeling Facility.

PPCR countries like Tajikistan face limited capacity. Resources should be provided for continuous training following on from initial training.

ADB could consider and begin planning for a follow-up-TA that aims to continue training and educational gains made by this CDTA. Additional technical assistance should build on the introductory undergraduate and graduate courses, the professional-level training for government scientists and specialists and include a strategy for identifying and promoting employment opportunities in the climate market.

B. Output 2: Climate Change Risks are integrated into Tajikistan's Development Projects

This output aims to integrate climate change risks into Tajikistan's development planning and implementation of development projects through development of tools and guidelines necessary to climate-proof investment projects and incorporate climate change risk management in operational policies.

Table 2: Summary Achievement of Performance Targets for Output 2

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
2.1 Review national and sector programs and national budgets (year 1)	Completed	Q3 2015
2.2 Develop climate risk screening tools for priority sectors (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.3 Produce a guidance manual on how to consult effectively with poor and marginalized groups, including women (year 1)	Completed	Q2 2016
2.4 Develop an climate risk management system (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.5 Design and implement training programs (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.6 Support a national climate change adaptation strategy with allocated national budget (year 2)	In progress	Q1 2017
2.7 Develop modalities for a small grant facility (year 2)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.8 Support local adaptation plans in five vulnerable districts (year 3)	In progress	Q3 2016
2.9 Provide technical support to the government (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017

Activity 2.1 Review National and Sector Programs and National Budgets

The aim of the review was to identify the level of expenditure of funds allocated by the national budget for all or a part of national and sector climate change programs, projects or activities.

The review is completed and has been approved by ADB on September 3, 2015. Activities consisted of collecting and reviewing the national budget and major sector documents and interviews with staff from relevant ministries and agencies. Although international programs and budgets were excluded from the task, international studies were reviewed for local currency contributions from counterpart government agencies for climate-related activities.

The review has resulted in a better understanding of the level of expenditure of funds allocated in the national budget for all or a part of national and sector climate change programs, projects or activities. Climate change issues are evident in the health sector and poverty strategies, as well as Hydromet. However government strategies give only nominal attention to these issues.

Issues/Challenges. Climate change adaptation is evident in the national budget but only in peripheral and informal ways. It is left to the singular judgment of sectors rather than prioritized from the central and highest levels of government as a matter of national environmental security. Ministries and agencies need a systematic foundation for deciding how to incorporate climate resilience into their budgets in optimal ways that can have a multiplying effect rather than a one-off benefit from a single project or activity.

Activity 2.2 Develop Climate Risk Screening Tools for Priority Sectors

The CDTA project is developing tools and guidelines for climate-proofing investment projects and incorporating climate change risk management into operational policies. The screening tools will help manage sector vulnerabilities to climate change, reduce climate risks and impacts, and enhance adaptation. The climate change adaptation technical working group (TWGs) members and sector experts from the relevant ministries were consulted in development of the tool.

The climate-risk screening tool for the transport, water and energy sector, and the agriculture sector has been delivered and approved by ADB. The tool for the social sector is under preparation and will be delivered in the third quarter of 2016.

Issues/Challenges. Sector experts might not use these tools unless the government makes them compulsory.

Activity 2.3 Produce Guidance Manual on How to Consult Effectively with Poor and Marginalized Groups including Women.

The project is formulating guidance for local government staff on how to consult effectively with poor and marginalized groups, address their concerns, and empower them to participate in building national resilience. This manual will help local officials and NGOs to understand climate risks and impacts faced and design interventions that are suitable for local context.

The guidance manual has been delivered and approved by the ADB.

Issues/Challenges. The project will sponsor initial training on the manual in the five designated most-vulnerable districts, will promote it across the knowledge platform, and sponsor printing and distribution of it. It would benefit from a partnership between a government agency, such as the COEP, and an NGO who agree to update it annually with new case studies that feature lessons and good examples of how it has been used. The updates provide the opportunity to re-issue it and the promotions and training that should go along with the re-issue.

Activity 2.4 Develop a climate risk management system

The activity refers to inclusion of the climate risk management concept in the national adaptation strategy.

Issues/Challenges. Climate change risk management is currently not practiced in Tajikistan. In order to introduce the concept to government officials, NGOs, and other organizations a one-day workshop on climate risk management systems will be held in the third quarter of 2016.

Activity 2.5 Design and implement training programs

The activity refers to training local experts involved in hydro-meteorological data measurement and monitoring of glaciers on how to generate and use climate data and information and on the concepts of climate risk screening and management. A one-day workshop will be conducted in the third quarter of 2016.

Issues/Challenges. Whether or not the experts trained will actually have the opportunity to put their newly acquired knowledge into practice is a big question. Unless respective ministries/agencies make sectoral climate risks and impacts reduction a priority, the staffs trained may never actually use their newly acquired knowledge.

Activity 2.6 Support National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy with Allocated National Budget

The Government will be apprised about the budgetary need for the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy's implementation once it is approved by the government and unveiled. The strategy is being finalized and will be unveiled in the third quarter of 2016. A pipeline of climate-resilient investment projects has been established. Budgets necessary for the investment projects have also been worked out. The strategy also includes a list of potential funding sources that the government can approach in order to realize the identified projects. The first draft of the strategy has been shared with the ADB and is under translation into Russian. It will be shared with the government as soon as the translation is complete.
Issues/challenges. Implementation of a climate change adaptation strategy is a big challenge. Low human and institutional capacity and lack of dedicated funding are major barriers towards effective implementation of the newly developed climate change adaptation strategy.

Activity 2.7 Develop Modalities for a Small Grants Facility

The facility aims to promote the participation of community organizations, NGOs, and vulnerable groups in community-level climate risk reduction and management. The small grant facility will support activities that address key community-level climate change vulnerabilities. The fund will prioritize adaptation measures that use participatory approaches, the training of community-based organizations and local NGOs, and dedicated advisory services on adaptation.

Modalities for a small grant facility have been developed in accordance with ADB's Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook and in consultation with the COEP, PPCR Secretariat, and local governments of the five most vulnerable districts selected for preparation of local adaptation plans. It is currently being revised prior to submission to ADB for final approval.

Modalities developed for small grants can be used by the government in future to spur local climate change adaptation experiments. Such experiments will have demonstration effects and over time help enhance local resilience.

Issues/challenges. Enhancing local climate resilience is likely to require scaling up of experiments supported in key sectors such as agriculture and water resources.

Activity 2.8 Support Local Adaptation Plans in Five Vulnerable Districts

The adaptation technical working group, using criteria and a selection process put in place by the project and approved by the COEP, identified five vulnerable districts that would be supported with the development of local adaptation plans of action (LAPAs). The adaptation activities identified in the LAPAs will be supported through a small grant facility.

Preparatory field work concluded in the 4th quarter of 2015, and 10 LAPAs (two in each vulnerable district) are being finalized. They will be delivered in the second quarter of 2016. The small grant facility will support activities prioritized in LAPAs through participatory approaches. Disbursement of small grants will occur in the third quarter of 2016.

The government, NGOs, and agencies interested in reducing climate risks and impacts can use the LAPA methodology to develop LAPAs in other parts of the country.

Issues/challenges. The small grant facility is unable to fund all adaptation options identified in the LAPAs. In order for climate risks and impacts to subside over the years and adaptation to improve, most of the identified adaptation options need to be implemented and up-scaled. The government may want to seek additional necessary support from development partners to fund the adaptation options that remain unfunded.

Activity 2.9 Provide Technical Support to Government

The chief technical advisor of the PPCR secretariat and CDTA project staff provide continuous support to the government by supporting their attendance at international, regional, and local climate change conferences and events. For example, the team helped the COEP prepare for the World Water Forum in Korea, the CIF meeting in Italy, and the COP21 in Paris 2015.

Issues/challenges. A means of support after the CDTA has finished needs to be developed.

C. Output 3: Knowledge Management Systems are Developed and Applied

Output 3 is focused on the development and application of knowledge management systems. This relates specifically to raising public awareness about climate change, making data and information and publications available to the public locally and online. Findings from a national survey will form the basis of knowledge priorities. The surveys were conducted in the five highly vulnerable districts identified by the TA.

Table 3: Summary Achievement of Performance Targets for Output 3

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
3.1 Conduct national surveys on climate change awareness (year 1)	Completed	Q4 2015
3.2 Develop a national communications strategy (year 1)	Completed	Q3 2015
3.3 Conduct climate change public awareness campaigns (year 2)	In progress	Q2 2017
3.4 Develop a knowledge management system (year 1–4)	In progress	Q3 2016
3.5 Establish a network of climate information outposts (year 2)	In progress	Q3 2016
3.6 Produce annual publications on the PPCR in Tajikistan (year 4)	In progress	Q4 2016
3.7 Hold annual dissemination events in local outposts (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
3.8 Hold midterm and final PPCR conferences (years 2 and 4)	In progress	Q4 2015 / Q1 2017

Activity 3.1 Conduct National Surveys on Climate Change Awareness

This activity refers to surveys conducted to assess public awareness of climate change. The first round of climate change awareness surveys was conducted in the five most vulnerable districts: Jirgital, Panjakent, Darvoz, Muminobad, and Hamadoni districts in the 4th quarter 2015. The public proved to be less aware than the team of surveyors anticipated. Questions required lengthy explanations, which is proof of the need for the TA and the awareness campaigns that are to follow. The second round will take place in the 4th quarter of 2016.

Issues/challenge(s). Lack of climate change knowledge was a big impediment when it came to respondents completing the surveys with interviewers. Respondent knew less than anticipated about climate change, and questions had to be explained in considerable detail.

Activity 3.2 Develop a National Communications Strategy

A number of climate change activities are currently taking place in Tajikistan but not many are focused on raising awareness on climate change.

A national communications strategy was also developed and delivered in 2015 as part of the CDTA's overall knowledge management proposal. This detailed the approach to be taken in developing the knowledge management platform. The PPCR website contains a comprehensive description of many climate change related activities in Tajikistan. (http://ppcr.tj/index.php/en/about-ppcr-in-tajikistan)

Issues/challenge(s). Reporting success stories in the 5 selected districts will encourage stakeholders at "grass roots" levels to participate in climate risk reduction and adaptation activities.

Activity 3.3 Conduct Public Awareness Campaigns on Climate Change

Climate change public awareness campaigns will be conducted in vulnerable districts as soon as information outposts are in place. The CDTA project has organized several awareness raising campaigns in the form of NGO roundtables, both within and outside Dushanbe. Now that vulnerable *jamoats* have been identified and the COEP has provided space for climate change learning centers in the vulnerable districts, several climate change awareness raising campaigns will be organized in those districts. The results of the national surveys on climate change awareness will also be used to design specific products and activities to address priority awareness gaps.

Feedback on the activities in the 5 selected districts will be reported on the website under Activity 3.2. This will encourage other parties to participate.

Issues/challenge(s). Local governments should build on the awareness raising activities conducted under the TA or else the knowledge raised will not be enough to deal with increasing climate risks and impacts.

Activity 3.4 Develop a Knowledge Management System

The knowledge management system will be set up as a very basic system, allowing the users to access relevant climate change data and information. The design and execution of the platform has been completed. The landing as well as interior pages have been constructed and are being filled with relevant climate data and information.

Issues. In the detailed proposal the CDTA consultant recommended that the COEP establish an ICT council to oversee the general knowledge management needs of the COEP. This would increase their online presence through e-governance. A council would be a part of the system and continue after the TA has ended. The COEP made a counter proposal to form a PPCR technical working group. However a concern is that such a working group would only exist for the duration of the PPCR TA and the platform may not develop further after the PPCR implementation period.

Challenge(s). The ICT council was suggested by local stakeholders. The idea should be reconsidered.

Activity 3.5 Establish a Network of Climate Information Outposts

The location of the district-based information centers in the five most-vulnerable districts has been determined. Furniture and other necessary instruments/materials needed for the establishment of district-based information centers have been finalized. The centers will be established in the third quarter of 2016. The government agencies where these outposts will be located will have the responsibility of managing them.

Issues/challenges. Sustainability is a concern. Local governments should dedicate a person to man these outposts in future.

Activity 3.6 Produce Annual Publication on the PPCR in Tajikistan

The PPCR secretariat has been producing annual publications. A final volume highlighting the PPCR activities, achievements, and success stores will be published in 2016.

Issues/challenge(s). Production of e-newsletters will continue and report on climate change risk reduction and management progress.

Activity 3.7 Hold Annual Dissemination Events in Local Outposts

Once local outposts/information centers are suitably equipped and have the required instruments and materials, the team together with the PPCR Secretariat will organize series of dissemination events.

Issues/challenge(s). None at this time.

Activity 3.8 Hold Mid-Term and Final PPCR Conferences

The mid-term conference was held in November 2015. The final conference will be organized in the first quarter of 2017.

Issues/challenge(s). None at this time

D. Output 4: Manage Outputs from the PPCR for Results

The TA is responsible for ensuring that the other outputs of the PPCR activities are managed for results. Activities under output 4 are aimed at monitoring the progress of the six PPCR (Phase 2) activities under a single reporting framework to optimize shared learning among lead agencies and harmonization of the monitoring and reporting of all climate change resilience initiatives in Tajikistan. The TA team has worked with government and other PPCR investment teams to understand the process and identify proper indicators of results and report on them. The TA begins its 3rd year of CIF reporting, with the PPCR Secretariat taking the lead in 2016.

Table 4: Summary Achievement of Performance Targets for Output 4

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
4.1 Assess current monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity (year 1).	Completed	Q4 2015
4.2 Assess baselines and identify indicators for the PPCR (year 1)	Completed	Q2 2015
4.3 Agree on M&E with government agencies and multilateral development banks (year 1)	Completed	Q4 2015
4.4 Develop a PPCR reporting system (year 1)	Completed	Q3 2014
4.5 Conduct annual project performance updates (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.6 Conduct annual reviews of the PPCR (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.7 Produce annual PPCR performance reports (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.8 Produce a final report on lessons learned (year 4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.9 Facilitate independent M&E (years 2 and 4)	In progress	Q2 2017
4.10 Provide technical support (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017

Activity 4.1 Assess Current M&E Capacity and Reporting Mechanisms

It is required to report on 5 CIF key indicators:

1. Number of people supported by the PPCR to cope with the effects of climate change
2. Degree of Integration of climate change in national and sector planning
3. Evidence of strengthened government capacity and coordination mechanism to mainstream climate resilience
4. Quality and extent to which climate responsive instruments/investment models are developed and tested
5. Extent to which vulnerable households, communities, businesses and public sector services use improved PPCR supported tools, instruments, strategies and activities to respond to climate variability or climate change

A key task is to strengthen the M&E systems for reliable reporting in the short and long-term. Specifically (a) multi-stakeholder consultations for CIF indicators 1 and 2(b) PPCR project-level reporting for CIF indicators 3, 4, and 5. Climate-resilient development indicators should also be incorporated into the national M&E system for poverty reduction, economic development etc.

In 2013-2014, semi-structured assessments were organized through various missions and consultations. In October of 2015, CDTA and the PPCR Secretariat facilitated a structured self-assessment of the PPCR M&E systems. The self-assessment results were validated to inform the organization of a comprehensive M&E strengthening workshop for all PPCR projects and other stakeholders (Dushanbe, 24-25 November 2015). The baseline values for the PPCR reporting scorecards were a practical reference point for the 2014 and 2015 PPCR reports.

The CDTA has instilled a basic understanding of M&E. The CDTA has also supported the PPCR Secretariat to play a leadership role in facilitating external M&E technical support to the PPCR projects and increased the lead MDBs engagement in M&E related activities.

Issues/Challenges. Limited focus on M&E in climate adaptation programming and generally low M&E capacity across development aid programs means there are few opportunities for cross learning and benchmarking in the PPCR portfolio. Additional and continuous external coaching on M&E will be required to enhance M&E capacity.

Activity 4.2 Assess baselines and identify indicators for the PPCR

The PPCR investment plan was endorsed on 10th November, 2010. The baseline values for the PPCR reporting scorecards—which were all zero—were the practical reference point for the 2014 and 2015 PPCR reports. In June 2014, as part of the 2014 CIF reporting process, CDTA organized an ex-post baseline scoring exercise with key stakeholders. Results are captured in the 2014 CIF reporting templates.

Issues/Challenges: After three reporting rounds, the understanding among stakeholders of the scoring categories for PPCR indicators 1 and 2 has improved significantly. These scorecards are being revised for the next PPCR reporting, which will happen in June of 2016.

Activity 4.3 Agree on M&E with government agencies and multilateral development banks

The CDTA supports the PPCR Secretariat establish agreement on common M&E system standards, definitions and processes for the annual CIF reporting process.

In 2014 and 2015, CDTA worked closely with national and international stakeholders to organize a reliable CIF reporting process based on CIF guidance. Building on lessons learned from this process, the CDTA and the PPCR Secretariat organized a multi-stakeholder M&E workshop (Dushanbe, 24-25 November 2015), in collaboration with the CIF Secretariat and with inputs from the MDBs, to reinforce PPCR reporting standards, and to discuss the challenges and opportunities for a common M&E system across the PPCR portfolio. Stakeholders have agreed on common reporting standards and transparent processes for the PPCR projects.

Issues/Challenges. Ongoing leadership and technical support from the MDBs will be required to ensure standards are consistently met within each PPCR project.

Activity 4.4 Develop a PPCR reporting system

The CDTA has been supporting the PPCR Secretariat to introduce the CIF reporting system for the 5 core indicators.

The CIF reporting process was successfully rolled out in 2014 and consolidated in 2015. From 2015 onwards, the CDTA has been supporting the PPCR Secretariat to take a leading role in subsequent reporting rounds. As a result, the PPCR reporting system is functional. The annual PPCR reports are of satisfactory quality and are submitted on time to the CIF. Opportunities to further improve the PPCR reporting process have been identified.

Issues/Challenges: The PPCR Secretariat has developed a good understanding of the PPCR M&E needs but will require additional technical and resource assistance to support the PPCR projects in strengthening their M&E.

Activity 4.5 Conduct Annual Project Performance Updates

The CDTA has completed three annual progress reports to ADB. The 2013 and 2014 report focused mainly on the introduction of the CIF reporting process that year. The 2015 report covered both the CIF reporting process and the broader capacity strengthening objectives of the CDTA. Both reports have been approved by ADB.

Achievements: The annual project reporting process for 2016 has covered all CDTA outputs. This reflects the progress made by the CDTA in consolidating its specific project activities into a more coherent technical assistance program to strengthen climate adaptation in Tajikistan.

Issues/Challenges: None at this time.

Activity 4.6 Conduct Annual Review of PPCR

The 2014 and 2015 CIF reporting processes have been completed through direct facilitation and technical support from CDTA. Planning for the 2016 reporting process is in progress and is, for the first time, led by the PPCR Secretariat

Achievements: The PPCR Secretariat has the capacity to play a leadership role in the 2016 PPCR reporting process, with reduced and more targeted support from CDTA. In December 2015, the PPCR Secretariat initiated an additional semi-annual reporting process with PPCR project representatives, and government, civil society stakeholders, donor and international organization stakeholders. Based on this information, the PPCR Secretariat produced the PPCR Secretariat Annual Progress Report (2015) and the PPCR Implementation Progress Report (2015), which were submitted to the Government of Tajikistan in January 2016.

Issues/Challenges: The PPCR Secretariat has developed a good understanding of the PPCR M&E needs but will require additional technical and resource assistance to support the PPCR projects in strengthening their M&E.

Activity 4.7 Produce Annual PPCR performance reports

This refers to a timely submission of a high-quality CIF report by the PPCR Focal Point to the CIF Secretariat.

Achievements: Tajikistan was the first country to submit the report for two years in a row for 2013 and 2014. The 2014 CIF report was satisfactorily received by the CIF Secretariat and was commended by the CIF. In 2015, in order to make further improvements CDTA team along with the PPCR secretariat organized an M&E workshop in November 2015 and collected data that will feed into the report. In December 2015, the PPCR Secretariat initiated an additional semi-annual reporting process with PPCR project representatives, and government, civil society stakeholders, donor and international organization stakeholders. Another workshop was held in May 2106. With two rounds of data, the team is in an even better position to produce a quality report and is confident of meeting the deadline set by the CIF, which is 30 June 2016. Going forward, the PPCR Secretariat has the capacity to play a leadership role in the 2017 PPCR reporting process.

Issues/Challenges: None at this time.

Activity 4.8 Produce Final Report on Lessons Learned

The final annual report will include a section specifically describing Output 4 activities and lessons learned regarding national reporting on climate indicators that have relevance to the broader national and international climate finance architecture. The CDTA has strengthened the culture of learning and adaptive management in PPCR M&E. Lessons are now more likely to be acknowledged, but not necessarily learned without additional support.

Issues/Challenges: The PPCR Secretariat has developed a good understanding of the PPCR M&E needs but will require additional technical and resource assistance to document and utilize lessons learned and good practices to further strengthen PPCR M&E.

Activity 4.9 Facilitate Independent Monitoring and Evaluation (Years 2 and 4)

The CDTA is to facilitate an external formative evaluation and a final summative evaluation to assess PPCR performance (financed directly by ADB). A formative evaluation is being planned for 2016. The final evaluation is planned for early 2017.

Achievements. Not applicable. Activities have yet to commence.

Issues/Challenges. Additional resources will be required for the 2016 and 2017 evaluations.

Activity 4.10 Provide technical support (years 1–4)

The CDTA team has been providing M&E support to the government agencies, projects, and programs on a regular basis throughout the project.

Achievements. The National consultants “on the ground” meet M&E professionals from various ministries and projects on a regular basis and provide needed technical support.

Issues/Challenges. None at this time.

E. Output 5: PPCR Secretariat Evolves into a National Implementing Entity

The TA designers envisioned the evolution of the PPCR secretariat into a national implementing entity. The idea was to ensure that Tajikistan can use the knowledge and competences acquired in outputs 1–4 to leverage additional financial support and implement climate change projects beyond the life of the PPCR. Both the government and ADB have agreed that the COEP should be the applicant on behalf of the government.

Table 5: Summary Achievement of Performance Targets for Output 5

Targets (Original years)	Status	Actual / Expected Completion Date
5.1 Formulate a 4-year strategy and annual work plan (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
5.2 Support the PPCR coordination mechanism (year 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
5.3 Coordinate and manage output 3 (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017

5.4 Coordinate and manage output 4 (years 1–4)	In progress	Q2 2017
5.5 Develop financial, procurement and administrative capacity (year 1)	In progress	Q3 2016
5.6 Formulate an exit strategy to create a permanent climate change institution in the government (year 2)	In progress	Q3 2016
5.7 Agree on climate change institution budget, time frame, staff requirements, etc., with the government (year 2)	In progress	Q3 2016
5.8 Apply for Adaptation Fund accreditation (year 4)	In progress	Q4 2016

Activity 5.1 Formulate a 4-year strategy and annual work plan

The PPCR Secretariat could not formulate a 4-year strategy in the first two years of the project as there were several vacancies due to PPCR Secretariat staff resignations. Once the PPCR Secretariat was fully staffed in 2015, a work plan was developed and is being successfully implemented.

Issues/challenges: Initially, for almost two years, a major challenge was to ensure daily engagement with the government counterparts due to the vacancies in PPCR secretariat. Although positions were filled, there has since been turnover. Currently, the PPCR Secretariat is fully staffed, and swift completion of remaining tasks on the CDTA is anticipated.

Activity 5.2 Support the PPCR coordination mechanism

The CDTA continues to support both the PPCR secretariat and the COEP on climate change issues, projects, and events.

Issues/challenges. At times, there are competing demands from various quarters that need to be attended. Competing demands makes support to the PPCR challenging.

Activity 5.3 Coordinate and manage output 3

The CDTA in general and the finance and procurement specialist in particular assist the communications manager of the PPCR on climate change communications activities carried out under output 3 by the PPCR secretariat and knowledge management specialist.

Issues/challenges. Coordination and management support to output 3 has been ongoing and will be completed in Q2 2017.

Activity 5.4 Coordinate and manage output 4

The procurement and finance specialist are to support the management of M&E activities of output 4. Coordination and management support to output 4 has been ongoing and will complete in 2017.

Issues/challenges. None at this time.

Activity 5.5 Develop Financial Procurement and Administrative Capacity and Systems

This activity refers to the capacity building of Committee on Environment Protection's (COEP) staffs, specifically the finance, procurement, and project management staffs. Capacity need assessment is being carried out. Capacity building exercises will begin in the third quarter of 2016.

The delay mainly happened because of the ambiguity on agency capable of serving as the National Implementing Entity. The government of Tajikistan has nominated the COEP to serve as the National Implementing Entity (NIE). This decision was confirmed in correspondence of 16 August 2015. Abt Associates initiated compilation of documents necessary to satisfy NIE qualification criteria. Financial, procurement and administrative capacity building activities will start in the second quarter of 2016 to be completed in the third quarter 2016.

According to the recently completed Gap Analysis NIE Accreditation will be applied for by the fourth quarter of 2016. The Gap Analysis states that the COEP has the potential to meet the NIE requirements, provided a series of capacity building measures are taken in the coming months. Financial management and integrity will be substantially enhanced to meet the increased future funding flows.

It is intended that a permanent government institution on climate change will be established by Q4 2016.

Issues/challenges. Although the organization to serve as an NIE has been chosen, there is no way to tell if and when the chosen entity will actually be accredited. The COEP may require support in answering queries regarding the accreditation from the Adaptation Fund if they come after the CDTA is over.

Activity 5.6 Formulate an exit strategy to create a permanent climate change institution in the government

This activity refers to the development of strategy for the PPCR to evolve as an NIE, with well-trained, long-term government experts.

As the COEP has now been appointed to serve as an NIE, exit strategy is being prepared. Final gap analysis report will have an exit strategy.

Issues/challenges. Exit strategy cannot be actually implemented and a permanent institution in the government created until the COEP qualifies as an NIE. This will not be known until COEP complete the NIE Accreditation process. (Task 5.8)

Activity 5.7 Agree on climate change institution budget, time frame, staff requirements, etc., with the government

This activity refers to the agreement on NIE's budget and staff requirements, with the government.

The proposed NIE's budget and staff requirements need to be developed. Final gap analysis report, which will be available in early July of 2016, will have institution budget, time frame, and staff requirements.

Issues/challenges: There is no clarity on whether or not there will be budgetary allocation for the NIE.

Activity 5.8 Apply for Adaptation Fund Accreditation

This refers to seeking accreditation by the Adaptation Fund Board and Accreditation Panel of the Kyoto Protocol, which will give the Tajik government direct access to the Adaptation Fund. Upon completion of responsive and appropriate capacity building measures in the third quarter of 2016, the application for Adaptation Fund's NIE accreditation will be submitted

Issues/challenges: Adaptation fund criteria are stringent and might be hard for a country like Tajikistan to qualify with only a few weeks of capacity building conducted by one international consultant.

CONCLUSION

The project is now entering the last year of the program (2nd quarter 2016–2nd quarter 2017) and having the right institutional commitments and arrangements of stakeholders in place is key to ensuring sustainability.

The CDTA team will be transferring more tasks and working closely with government counterparts to ensure their understanding and commitment to the next steps that they will have to take in order to keep systems running and insure against lack of resources.

Initial delays have been overcome. Even though the project is well positioned to achieve its objectives, it most probably will need an extension to complete Output 1 related tasks.