

SUMMARY OF PROJECT PERFORMANCE

A. Background

1. The current project supports the improvement of the Government of Tajikistan's water resources management capacity, and increased food security and water use efficiency in irrigated agriculture in the Pyanj River Basin in southern Tajikistan. The Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI) and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR) are the project executing agencies, and their project implementation groups (PIGs) implement the project, which has three outputs. An attached Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) technical assistance grant (\$2.0 million) finances output 1, a concessional ordinary capital resources loan (\$19.2 million equivalent) and Asian Development Fund grant (\$5.9 million) finance output 2, and a JFPR grant (\$3.0 million) finances output 3.¹

B. Performance of the Project

2. Following approval of the project by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Directors on 28 September 2016, the JFPR technical assistance became effective on 21 October 2016 and the current project became effective on 8 August 2017. The current project is performing well based on the following assessment:

- (i) **Delivery of expected outputs.** The current project is on track to meet the three intended outputs: (a) water resources in the Pyanj River Basin better managed, (b) modernized and climate-proofed Chubek Irrigation System water resources management infrastructure fully operational, and (c) farm management capacity and water use skill improved.
- (ii) **Satisfactory implementation progress.** The project is progressing as scheduled. As of April 2018, cumulative contract awards were \$3.2 million (12% of total) and disbursement was \$1.1 million (4% of total) against 15% elapsed time. Project implementation consultants (PICs)—one for each project output—were mobilized in July 2017 (output 1), October 2017 (output 2), and November 2017 (output 3). PIGs have satisfactorily been established and staff recruited.² The MEWR PIG, with the support of their PIC, is preparing the establishment of the river basin organization and its offices. Detailed design of civil works is ongoing, and the bidding of the major civil works and supply contracts for output 2 will commence in the second quarter (Q2) of 2018, with the contract award targeted for Q4 2018. For output 3 (financed by JFPR grant), the ALRI PIG, with the support of their PIC, is selecting demonstration plots and seed growers and conducting a review of existing water users' associations to identify capacity gaps. The project closing date is 30 June 2022.
- (iii) **Satisfactory compliance with safeguard policy requirements.** The current project is category B for environment and C for involuntary resettlement and indigenous people. No significant adverse social or environmental impacts are expected, as structural activities are primarily conducted on existing irrigation systems. The project complies with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009). To date, no physical works have started, and safeguards implementation is on track

¹ ADB. 2016. *Technical Assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan for Water Resources Management in Pyanj River Basin Project*. Manila (TA 9183-TAJ). Administered by Asian Development Bank.

² Implementation responsibility of the ALRI-led components was handed over from the ALRI project management office of the ongoing *Building Climate Resilience in the Pyanj River Basin Project* (G0352-TAJ) to the newly-established ALRI PIG, following the mission's confirmation of the PIG's satisfactory establishment. This intended handover was previously agreed during loan negotiations held in July 2016.

with no outstanding corrective actions required. The ALRI PIG engaged an environmental safeguards officer and a social officer to increase the PIG's capacity and to supervise the implementation of environmental management plans. The PIG is supported by a PIC team. The PIG is preparing the detailed designs for civil works and rehabilitation of pumping units. Once environmental management plans are prepared and implemented by the contractors, the environmental safeguards officer and the social officer in the PIG and the PIC will start supervising contractors' environmental performance and submit bi-annual environmental monitoring reports to ADB.

- (iv) **Successful management of risks.** The project has measures to manage risks. The PIGs of ALRI and MEWR are implementing the project activities. The PICs, led by international specialists, support the PIG in implementation, including managing technical, financial, safeguards, and procurement risks.
- (v) **On track rating.** The current project's performance rating has been *on track* since effectiveness through Q1 2018. The project was erroneously rated *potential problem* in eOps for Q4 2017 because of a system bug, which indicated noncompliance with project covenants for safeguards. No bidding for goods and works and no physical activities had commenced at that point, so there was no noncompliance with or risk to safeguards. The system error has been resolved as of 23 February 2018.

C. Conclusion

3. Overall, the project is performing well and additional financing is warranted. The project is eligible for additional financing. The current project remains technically feasible and is expected to be economically viable and financially sound. Investments in the climate resilience of WRM are a high government priority, in line with climate change adaptation and national development strategies. The current project and proposed additional financing are consistent with the current country partnership strategy.³

4. Table 1 summarizes the key components of outputs 1 and 3 under the original project, and the complementarity with the additional financing components. Output 2 has no additional financing activities.

Table 1: Alignment of Current Project with Proposed Additional Financing

Current Project	Additional Financing	Complementarity
Output 1		
Establishment of Joint Afghanistan–Tajikistan Pyanj River Basin Commission, Pyanj River Basin Council, RBOs	Modernization of Hydromet operations center Organizational and legal transformation of Hydromet	Consultation process will strengthen relationship between Hydromet and key information users (e.g., RBOs)
River basin management plans established	Capacity building for flood forecasting in PRB, including community preparedness	Strengthened forecasting will support better water resources management and climate resilience of RBOs and the executing agencies of the current project
Capacity building on water resources monitoring by RBOs		

³ ADB. 2016. *Country Partnership Strategy: Tajikistan, 2016–2020*. Manila.

Output 3		
Establishment and/or strengthening of WUAs	Establishment of information technology platform for sale of fee-based information services	New and improved information will support farm management for planning, planting, and cultivation.
Capacity development for improved farm management	Development of information products for stakeholders in PRB	Consultation process will strengthen relationship between Hydromet and key information users (e.g., farmers and WUAs)
Demonstration plots of advanced methods and technologies		

Hydromet = State Agency for Hydrometeorology in Tajikistan, PRB = Pyanj River Basin, RBO = river basin organization, WUA = water users association.

Source: Asian Development Bank.