

## **Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP)**

### **Meeting between CUTS International, DFAT and IOD PARC**

The meeting with DFAT, CUTS and IOD PARC took place on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of January, 2014 at CUTS CITEE office, Jaipur.

#### **Overview of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

##### **Venue-CITEE Conference Room**

**Time-10:30 am to 5 pm**

##### **Broad Outcomes from the meeting:**

- ❖ There has been a shift in the focus of DFAT's Aid Programme from climate change adaptation to economic growth. Sustainable Development Investment Strategy (SDIS) has been reframed into Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP).
- ❖ The overall goal and objectives of SDIP have been revised to complement DFTA's framework for the South Asian Regional Programme.
- ❖ SDIP Goal: Increased water, food and energy security in South Asia to facilitate economic growth and improve livelihoods, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls.
- ❖ SDIP Objectives:
  - ✓ Confident and cooperative decision-making across jurisdictional borders for the effective and equitable management of shared water resources
  - ✓ Increased access to and cooperation on energy
  - ✓ Increased agricultural productivity and farm incomes through the adoption of more efficient and sustainable agricultural practices and better developed value-added market chains
- ❖ Climate change is a cross cutting issue that will implicitly find its essence in the above mentioned SDIP objectives.
- ❖ South Asia for SDIP includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan. This will cover three major rivers basins in South Asia namely the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra.
- ❖ SDIP will be focusing on commercial energy (mostly hydro power), though opportunities for renewable energy will also be looked into.
- ❖ With respect to agriculture, SDIP will cover the three river basins with focus on Eastern Gangetic Plains. An additional component of value added market chain has been introduced
- ❖ CUTS role in the entire portfolio narrative is to engage in advocacy for policy and governance reforms at transboundary levels and thereby supporting regional networks for policy dialogues and collaborations.
- ❖ On a broader perspective, CUTS role in SDIP is to engage in:-
  - ✓ Policy Research

- ✓ Policy Advocacy
  - ✓ Policy Dialogues
  - ✓ CSO Mapping and Outreach
  - ✓ Media Mapping and Outreach
  - ✓ Undertaking the logistics of the annual SDIP Partnership Dialogues meetings in consultation with DFAT and IOD PARC
- ❖ IOD PARC will engage in monitoring and evaluation of the entire portfolio by looking at this partnership narrative through the lens of development outcomes as well as through organizational outcomes i.e. evaluation of the success and non-successes of this new partnership approach.
  - ❖ In order to assess CUTS achievements through policy research and active advocacy, CUTS will do its own internal monitoring and support portfolio level M&E of IOD PARC by undertaking proactive/responsive research/evaluation on emerging issues.
  - ❖ Also, CUTS will engage in policy research to find the gaps/hotspots in the existing system of food, energy and water in South Asia. The initial diagnostic studies will help to understand the conditions necessary for transboundary cooperation and identify the channels which can potentially influence reforms. CUTS will look into the domains of change (nature of system, relationship, behavioural challenges and evidence of change) to identify the correct entry points at grass root level. Eventually CUTS will produce *quick and dirty* snapshots of South Asia's food, water and energy sectors based on desk research and perception analysis of different stakeholders spread across the major three river basins of South Asia (Indus-Ganges-Brahmaputra).
  - ❖ The question that was addressed in the meeting for CSO and Media Mapping and Outreach was how CUTS' work on the respective mapping and outreach will benefit the entire portfolio level narrative?
  - ❖ CUTS will engage with CSOs right from the inception of SDIP. CUTS already have one strategic partner each in Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan and will identify one in Bhutan. Apart from this CUTS will be identifying more CSO partners working on transboundary issues related to food, water and energy. Selection will be based on the understanding of CSOs on transboundary issues and also their network profile at various levels. CUTS will learn from them and also enhance their capacity in key issues so that it is a win –win cooperative game. Policy advocacy will be effective by taking help of respective CSOs in given South Asian countries on account of their strong hold in the grassroots, their contacts and influential impact on the domestic public as well as on governance reforms.
  - ❖ CUTS will have separate partnership agreements with its strategic partners in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan.
  - ❖ Eventually, CUTS will conduct a comprehensive brainstorming meeting with its strategic partners along with DFAT and IOD PARC in April, 2014. The venue would be Kathmandu in Nepal, most probably.
  - ❖ Media mapping and outreach will specifically look at media tools that will cater to our stakeholders. The mapping will be revised as per the geographical focus .Local newspapers will be identified in each country with the help of strategic partners.

CUTs will be publishing articles on advocacy issues regularly once the project takes off and will identify one or two media houses as strategic partners. However, CUTS engagement with media will be rather tactful as when required without disclosing the role of DFAT in the initial years.

- ❖ CUTS will prepare a document of its Activity Plan that will be presented in the first SDIP inception meeting to be held in Canberra. This document will lay out our proposed project activities in a sequential manner. Taking into consideration of CUTS overall role in SDIP and TFIP (Trade Facilitation Investment Portfolio) in DFAT's South Asia Regional Programme, this document will try to explore the shared space between these two pillars by explaining their interlinkages and importance of garnering maximum & effective benefits from this.
  
- ❖ The inception meeting with the SDIP's strategic partners along with partnership facilitation workshop will be held at Canberra in Australia. The tentative dates for partnership workshop are from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2014 and for the inception meeting from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
- ❖ The logistics of the first inception meeting is being managed by DFAT. IOD PARC will also contribute for the conduction of the first inception meeting and the detailed agenda for this meeting will be circulated by the end of this month.
- ❖ On the whole, the inception meeting will discuss the following broad points:-
  - ✓ Overall administration of SDIP
  - ✓ DFAT's role in SDIP
  - ✓ Confirmation of SDIP partners for the M&E approach at the portfolio level
  - ✓ Getting validation of initial landscape of development landscape on the ambits of water, food and energy in South Asia.
  - ✓ Putting up of a visual map on the SDIP issues by IOD PARC and seeing where the current work of SDIP partners fit in the snapshot.
  - ✓ Open session on specific and larger issues pertaining to this overall portfolio narrative.
- ❖ The partnership workshop will look upon:-
  - ✓ Organization's domain and method of operation
  - ✓ Operationalization aspects of SDIP partnership agreements and arrangements
  - ✓ How the framework of this partnership process progress with over time
  - ✓ Annual partnership health check by Julie Mundy
- ❖ On 30<sup>th</sup> January, BC will meet Ryan in New Delhi to review SDIP status as a part of CUTS-DFAT's quarterly meeting.
- ❖ There is a cut in the overall amount of aid provided by DFAT for SDIP by approximately 20 percent. Though, this cut will most likely not affect the aid that CUTS has already received for the year 2013-14.

## Annexure 1

### **Broad Agenda for the meeting between Australian Aid, Cuts International and IOD PARC**

#### **Participants:**

<b>CUTS</b>	Bipul Chatterjee (Deputy Executive Director) Archana Jatkar (Coordinator and Deputy Head, CUTS CITEE) Veena Vidyadharan (Policy Analyst) Ram Kumar Jha (Policy Analyst) Prithviraj Nath (Consultant) Manbar Kadka (Research Associate) Akshat Mishra (Research Assistant)
<b>Australian Aid</b>	Ryan Thew (1 <sup>st</sup> Secretary, New Delhi)
<b>IOD PARC</b>	Julian Gayfer (Director, IOP PARC) Vijay Shrestha (Senior Consultant, IOD PARC) Kristin Olsen (Senior Consultant, IOD PARC)

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#### **Broad Agenda-16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January**

- ❖ Introductions – individuals/ organisation
- ❖ Update on state of play with SDIP drawing on the discussions Ryan, Brian and Julian involved in December
- ❖ Introduction to the M&E framework (work in progress version) for SDIP – implications for SDIP Partners (CUTs being one of these) and for the work of IOD PARC with the inputs of others (including CUTs)
- ❖ Shaping and positioning initial planned activities such as the Media mapping work.
- ❖ Using the group in the room to test out and develop some ideas of how the SDIP M&E process can work in practice.