Context and Problem Statement

Tajikistan is a country with around 93% of territory covered by mountains. Only 7% of the territory is therefore considered to be suitable for economic land use. The country’s 947 streams account for over 60% of water resources of Central Asia. Ranking 129 out of 187 on the Human Development Index (2015), Tajikistan is considered the poorest country in the region. In 2012 46.7 percent of the population was deemed poor with more than 70% of the population living in rural areas a majority of them being women and children due to male labor migration of men to Russia. Agriculture employs 60% of the total workforce and a further 20% are dependent on the sector. Land degradation is a key factor leading to low agricultural productivity and low economic returns and incomes. In addition weak public administration, lack of implementation of reforms and laws at the local level, are key barriers to sustainable development.

Barriers Analysis

1. Lack of disaggregated data, (including with respect to gender and poverty), and lack of capacity (technical and human) to analyze, interpret and apply available data to adequately inform the design, implementation and monitoring of policy actions.
2. Weak coherence between national P-E objectives and sector/district budget allocations, including due to inadequate institutional capacity and management systems for coordinating budget allocations and other investments with national objectives to address climate change and improve natural resource management.

Project Objective and Assumption

Objective
To enhance implementation of local development policies, plans and budgets that combine environmental sustainability and poverty eradication to contribute to achievement of the SDGs.

Assumptions
With political stability, P-E mainstreaming will remain of strategic relevance to the government’s evolving policy path to sustainable development and achieving a green economy. Evidence-based decision making around the P-E nexus will improve cross-sector coordination and integrated planning and budgeting processes, leading to increased investments in integrated water and better land management.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEI Interventions</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Remaining Interventions</th>
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<tr>
<td>In response to identified challenges, PEI focuses efforts in two key areas with capacity building as a crosscutting objective:</td>
<td>Collect sector and local evidence around the poverty, environment and gender nexus to inform planning and budgeting for pro-poor environmental sustainability.</td>
<td>Develop sector policy briefs based on key findings of the PEER of the water sector to make the case for increased investment through establishment of the Steering Committee for “National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management”.</td>
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<td><strong>P-E approaches and tools for integrated development policies, plans and coordination mechanisms applied</strong></td>
<td>Build the knowledge base around environment-economic accounting systems towards institutionalization of cross-sectoral budget and medium-term expenditure frameworks.</td>
<td>Develop a methodology for the introduction of the System for Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) in the in the system of national accounts.</td>
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<td>Application of P-E approaches and tools for integrated national and local development policy and planning (focus on agriculture and links to land degradation, water management).</td>
<td>National Development Strategy (NDS) for period of 2016-2030, the Mid-term Development Programme (MTDP) 2016-2020 integrates pro-poor environmental sustainability objectives and indicators.</td>
<td>Promote cross-sectoral budget and expenditure reviews at the subnational level in the water sector as the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR) is in the process of implementing sub-sector programme reforms.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sixty district development plans out of total 68 districts integrate pro-poor environmental sustainability objectives and indicators.</td>
<td>Integrate P-E objectives in the 6 remaining local development plans (4 districts and 2 cities).</td>
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**Annex: ToC Diagram**

**Assumptions**
With political stability, poverty-environment mainstreaming will remain of strategic relevance to the government’s evolving policy path to sustainable development and achieving a green economy. Evidence-based decision making around the poverty-environment nexus will improve cross-sector coordination and integrated planning and budgeting processes, leading to increased investments in integrated water and better land management.

**Key Issues**

**P-E Issue**
Tajikistan is considered the poorest country in the ECIS region. In 2012 46.7 percent of the population was deemed poor with more than 70% of the population living in rural areas, a majority of them being women and children due to patterns of male labor migration of men to Russia.

Agriculture employs 60% of the total workforce and a further 20% are dependent on the sector. Land degradation is a key factor leading to low agricultural productivity and low economic returns and incomes.

**Outputs**

P-E approaches and tools for integrated development policies, plans and coordination mechanisms applied.

National knowledge base is strengthened on cross-sectoral budget and expenditure frameworks, coordination mechanisms, and environment-economic accounting systems institutionalization.

**Short Term Outcomes**

Coherent and synergetic policymaking as a result of better coordination, gender mainstreaming, and inclusive governance mechanisms at the sub-national level.

SEEA is introduced and piloted in the country.

EIA law is adopted and piloted in the country.

National Development Plan and the DDPs are aligned with SDGs and integrate PE indicators into social aspects and development processes.

**Medium Term Outcomes**

Integrated cross-border water management, social inclusion in water sector management and increased water sector investments.

Area based planning and budget allocations to PE projects are applied for improved livelihoods.

Public voice is engaged as stakeholder for transparency in a participatory EIA processes.

**Barriers:** 1) Disaggregated data 2) Coherence between national PE objectives and sector/district budget allocations