

June 29, 2012

Comments from Germany on Approval by Mail: Request for Endorsement of the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience for Papua New Guinea

Dear colleagues,

We congratulate the Government of Papua New Guinea for designing and presenting a sophisticated SPCR document. However, we would like to support the request made by the UK. The usual practice with few exceptions has been that, in the interest of thorough assessment and to allow proper discussion of strategic programmes, SPCRs are usually adopted in the framework of a meeting of the Trust Fund Sub-Committee. We were wondering therefore if there is any urgent matter that requires the SPCR for Papua New Guinea to be adopted now by written procedure to justify this exception? Otherwise we would prefer to stick to the usual practice and discuss the SPCR in the next PPCR Sub-Committee meeting.

As we have also some more detailed comments on the substance of the strategy please find those enclosed for consideration.

Thank you very much,

kind regards

Ina von Frantzius

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Referentin / *Policy Advisor*

Referat Klimapolitik und Finanzierung / *Division Climate Policy and Climate Financing*

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung / *Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development*

Comments on Papua New Guinea's Strategic Program for Climate Resilience

General comments

We congratulate the Government of Papua New Guinea for designing and presenting a sophisticated SPCR document. However, we would like to support the request made by the UK. The usual practice with few exceptions has been that, in the interest of thorough assessment and to allow proper discussion of strategic programmes, SPCRs are usually adopted in the framework of a meeting of the Trust Fund Sub-Committee. We were wondering therefore if there is any urgent matter that requires the SPCR for Papua New Guinea to be adopted now by written procedure to justify this exception? Otherwise we would prefer to stick to the usual practice and discuss the SPCR in the next PPCR Sub-Committee meeting.

As we have already prepared some more detailed comments on the substance of the strategy please find those below for consideration.

On the SPCR

We appreciate the thorough assessment of sectoral vulnerabilities and the involvement of the different stakeholders. We also recognise food security as an area of high priority in the context of climate change. The infrastructural support for the construction of wharves will surely contribute towards improved food access and markets.

Overall, there are no major objections from our point of view.

However, we suggest elaborating the capacity building efforts for sectoral and provincial implementing agencies. This effort would be of essence in ensuring successful implementation on the ground and for institutional development. In addition, we recommend strengthening the multi-stakeholder approach and participatory processes for the implementation of Component 1 (Building Climate Resilient Communities) and Component 2 (Addressing Climate Change Risks to Food Security).

Furthermore, we suggest taking the recommendations made below (see bold highlights) into account during the following steps of program preparation.

Background and Rationale:

Concerning section 1.4 "Rationale for PPCR Support", we note that there is some contradiction with regard to the availability of finance. The first paragraph states that the government has considerable resources for a development programme, whereas the second paragraph mentions that there is limited budget to meet current priority development needs. We recommend clarifying these statements.

Component 1: Building Climate Resilient Communities

Regarding Indicator 1 "community climate change vulnerability maps, adaptation plans, and risk management strategies developed in vulnerable islands", we recommend

considering adding: "... vulnerable islands and communities" to be consistent with the phrasing of the other indicators.

The maps and plans will be developed together with the local communities. Local knowledge and practices are as important as the expertise of the trainers. We recommend including clarification on the participatory planning process and on how the expert trainer pool will be established.

We also recommend considering that besides the OCCD (Office of Climate Change and Development) also other government agencies already conduct Provincial, District, and Community level trainings. These government agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Research Institute already have rich experience with capacity building activities of this kind.

Additionally, we recommend that the mentioned activities should include a vulnerability assessment focussing on food security.

Component 2: Addressing Climate Change Risks to Food Security

The described activities "design/establishment of pilot food processing, preserving and storage systems in seven vulnerable districts..." for the Kivori Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) program are currently being undertaken by SPC/GIZ CCCPIR (Regional Programme - Coping Climate with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region). This was agreed in the GIZ Papua New Guinea national planning workshop in June 2011. Therefore, we recommend adding GIZ as collaborating partner.

Proposed SPCR Investment Program and Summary of Components:

Concerning section 2.6 "Implementation Arrangements, Coordination, and Results Management", we note that the bullet point "integrating CCA and disaster risk management (DRM) into land-use planning processes" appears without any link to the program components. Therefore, we recommend elucidating which program component includes the CCA and DRM activities.

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Participation

Other programs and the involvement of NGOs and community-based organisations are mentioned in the SPCR document, but the multi-sectoral implementation needed for Components 1 and 2 is not well defined. It is unclear how the program will coordinate efforts with other programs. We suggest being more precise on how the program will facilitate and promote the involvement of all concerned sectors during the implementation of the program.

Gender

The information on gender aspects in the Annexes is quite thorough and we appreciate the provision of a gender expert. The project document itself is however quite vague on these aspects. Therefore, we recommend defining how gender aspects will be considered in the context of climate change mainstreaming and planning at all levels. We also suggest formulating stronger indicators to measure how gender aspects are considered in the planning and implementation process.

Learning

NGOs have been very active in the field of community training and have developed best practices. We suggest including the existing best practices and experiences in the planning process for the components.

Synergies with German Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

The German supported SPC/GIZ CCCPIR (Regional Programme - Coping Climate with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region) carries out similar interventions like this program under its Components 1 and 2. There is scope for collaboration to promote synergies and avoid duplicity amongst programs. GIZ is implementing climate change adaptation-focussed projects and will establish a REDD+ pilot site through the SPC/GIZ CCCPIR and the SPC/GIZ Climate Protection through Forest Conservation Project respectively. We recommend cooperating with these two GIZ programs in Papua New Guinea.