

May 7, 2013

Comments from Germany on the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) for Haiti

Summary

We would like to congratulate the Government of Haiti for designing a well elaborated SPCR, with the overall objective to “*reduce vulnerability to climate change in target regions experiencing different levels of risks while forecasting the consequences and impacts of climate change on key sectors of the national economy and strengthening the resilience of both rural and urban communities in the target regions; and involving and promoting long-term engagement of all relevant stakeholders*”.

The proposed investment projects (1) Climate Proofing of Infrastructures in Centre-Artibonite Loop, (2) Climate Proofing of Agriculture in the Centre-Artibonite Loop, (3) Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Cities of the Gulf of La Gonâve and (4) Strengthening Knowledge Management of Hydro-meteorological, Water Resources, and Climate Data to Inform Decision Making and Policy Dialogue seem highly justified considering the multiple risks Haiti is facing. We welcome the approach of addressing both immediate and longer-term adaptation needs, as well as targeting regions with diverse geographic and socio-economic conditions. Further, we appreciate that the linkage between adaptation activities and disaster risk management is well considered throughout the SPCR proposal. This is particularly important in the Haitian context where both climatic and seismic hazards should be taken into account in all SPCR/PPCR activities.

There are no major objections from our point of view. We however would like to see our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) incorporated during the following steps of programme preparation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Projects

Investment Project 1: Climate Proofing of Infrastructures in Centre-Artibonite Loop

Parallel to the climate proofing of infrastructure-projects in the Boucle Centre-Artibonite (BCA) region, efforts should be made to integrate climate-proofing into existing and future administrative procedures within Ministry of Environment (MDE), Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications (MTPTC), Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR), amongst others. Especially in the context of the reconstruction and development efforts currently undertaken by various national and international stakeholders, climate proofing should become an integrated and obligatory element of project planning and approval on government level. Against this backdrop, we appreciate that this investment project will explicitly “*seek to ensure climate proofing of existing or planned infrastructure investments from the government, in particular those supported by World Bank operations*”(p. 78), as stated in the proposal. This will be of utmost importance, in order to avoid that upcoming infrastructure projects outside of the PPCR do not comply with climate proofing criteria. **To the extent possible, we also recommend close coordination with other infrastructure investments, besides those supported by World Bank operations.**

Investment Project 2: Climate Proofing of Agriculture in the Centre-Artibonite Loop

Regarding objective 4 “*Strengthening of local law enforcement as it relates to environmental matters (i.e., forest rangers) through a community-based adaptation approach*” of this investment project, it should be highlighted that the environmental legislation in Haiti, especially regarding law enforcement, is generally outdated and fragmented. It should be considered that local legislation (arretés) on municipality level needs to be channeled via the Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities (MICT). The required MICT-approval may delay project implementation, and the community-based approach might lead to further legislative fragmentation due to different legal basis in different municipalities. **Parallel to the efforts of strengthening local law enforcement in environmental matters, we therefore recommend exploring opportunities to contribute to a modernization of relevant national environmental legislation and the corresponding administrative procedures.** This would enhance the potential of upscaling project outcomes. Roles and responsibilities for local stakeholders, such as forest rangers could be included in national regulations and thus allow application outside the BCA. **With regard to the corresponding indicator of objective 4, we would suggest measuring the results also by means of the number of cases dealt with in the participating communities, instead of only by the number of people employed under a forest ranger programme.**

Investment Project 3: Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Cities of the Gulf of La Gonâve

Considering the wide and diverse scope of this investment project, the coastal stretch from Léogâne to Saint-Marc, **it might be useful to begin the project activities in a smaller scale. After a phase of successful implementation, the approach could then be up-scaled to cover the whole area. At that point, if feasible, we would suggest also extending the proposed project to the Island of Gonâve** which suffers from severe waste and environmental problems that are exacerbated by extreme weather events. In general, **we recommend taking into account the increasing tendencies of mangrove destruction** in the project activities in the Gulf of La Gonâve.

Investment Project 4: Strengthening Knowledge Management of Hydro-meteorological, Water Resources, and Climate Data to Inform Decision Making and Policy Dialogue

We particularly welcome the aim of this investment project to enhance the availability and processing capacity of climate information, for the use of both end-users and policy makers. The SPCR intends to build on existing regional initiatives in the Caribbean, which is particularly important in this context. **In order to ensure that these efforts will benefit the end-users and policy makers also after the end of the project, we recommend considering the (financial) sustainability of the project results throughout the project design, including operation and maintenance of any hydro-meteorological equipment.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

Women have been identified as particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters in Haiti. Gender aspects have been taken into account in the SPCR to some extent, especially in the investment projects 2 and 3. While we appreciate this, these aspects could in our view be further elaborated. This applies particularly to the gender-specific indicators which currently mainly measure the participation (e.g. x number of women trained) in the project activities, and less the results of the project in terms of benefit for both women and men. **We therefore recommend incorporating additional results-oriented indicators that explicitly address gender aspects.**

Learning

We appreciate the SPCR's focus on capacity development and knowledge management. The SPCR refers to the "*urgent need to strengthen institutional capacities*" as one of the key elements of the strategy (p. 68). It also mentions the deficit in qualified human resources at all levels. To address this issue, the proposal states that a specific component will be developed to upgrade the technical skills at national level, as part of academic collaboration. In addition, sector-specific training will be undertaken. We very much welcome this approach. However, due to the paramount importance of capacity development in building climate resilience in the Haitian context, we would encourage integrating some additional capacity building measures into the proposed investment projects, especially into the projects 1-3. This might be achieved e.g. by:

- systematically integrating staff from relevant ministries (MTPTC, MDE, MARNDR etc.) based at department or central level into the planning and monitoring of the activities in the BCA region and coastal cities of the Gulf of La Gonâve, including technicians from other *départements*;
- including non-academic training activities on climate change aspects in road maintenance etc. for larger target groups, e.g. including technical staff from MTPTC and from other *départements*;
- strengthening exchange and participation of relevant ministries in projects of which they are not in charge. This might be the case e.g. in future environmental impact assessments and permits to be issued by MDE, for road constructions and other infrastructure.

We recommend incorporating the suggestions for additional capacity building measures (mentioned above) to the extent possible. In addition, as stated in the SPCR, the MDE has very limited human resources. This applies particularly to its Climate Change Department. **Adequately assuming its role in the PPCR/SPCR, the MDE and its Climate Change Department might require specific measures to strengthen their capacities and human resources. We recommend taking this into account during further design of the investment projects.**