

March 24, 2011

Comments from Germany on the Endorsement by Mail of the SPCR for Samoa

Dear Patricia,

Thank you very much for the SPCR for Samoa .We would like to congratulate the PPCR-Team and the respective governments for a swift and thorough preparation of these documents.

We are fully supportive of the SPCR for Samoa, despite a number of recommendations which we would like to pass on to you in order to observe during implementation.

Thank you so much for your consideration and I'm looking forward to your response.

Kind regards
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Comments on Samoa's Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience

Overall, the SPCR document exhibits a high standard, and the proposed investment projects and technical assistance measures are appropriate. From our point of view there are no major objections. We would, however, like to suggest that during implementation recommendations (see **bold** highlights) should be observed.

Considering the short time span of only 6 months between submissions of the respective proposals for phases 1 and 2 of the PPCR, Samoa has proven to be highly efficient in acquiring climate finance and planning for its use. This once again proves that Samoa has structures and institutions responsible for development cooperation in place, which set standards by regional comparison.

The SPCR has three major thrusts, two of which are investment projects, while the third is a technical assistance component.

Investment Project 1: Enhancing the climate resilience of the West Coast Road

This is a rather conventional infrastructure investment project. However, it seems well justified given the strategic importance of the road for the country's economy. It links the capital to both the airport and the inter-island ferry wharf, and is therefore crucial for both tourism (which accounts for accounts for some 25% of GDP) and the inter-island movement of goods and services, from which major parts of the population benefit. As parts of the West Coast Road run very close to the shore, upgrading it will only be a medium-term solution from a climate change point of view when considering expected future sea level rise. However, this issue is being discussed and upgrading is convincingly justified in the SPCR proposal, considering the resource availability and time horizon of the PPCR.

Investment Project 2: Enhancing the climate resilience of coastal resources and communities

This investment project places its focus on implementing the *Coastal Infrastructure Management (CIM)* plans. Its incorporation of a bottom-up approach (“*review [of the CIM plans] to be undertaken during project preparation, in consultation with the affected communities*”) and its ecosystem-based perspective (“*ridge-to-reef approach*”) as well as the promotion of “*soft greener solutions*” as adaptation options in addition to hard infrastructure are commendable. If properly implemented, this will ensure that local conditions and contextual differences between communities are being addressed appropriately. Two additional components supporting knowledge management and civil society organizations (including a small grant facility) will contribute to meeting the objectives of the PPCR.

Care however will need to be taken that the review of CIM plans and their subsequent implementation will indeed strike a balance between hard and soft infrastructure measures, and will truly establish an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation. This is particularly important, since the bulk of the USD 25 million grant will already be used for a hard infrastructure project (namely the West Coast Road). Government following through on its stated intention to rename the CIM plans to better describe their scope of action going beyond mere infrastructure will be a very appropriate first step. **However, we recommend that this be accompanied by closely monitoring the outcome of reviewing the CIM plans, at least during the first year into the project and prior to their implementation.** This could be done by a panel composed of representatives of the main stakeholder groups from government, development partners and civil society, and including the private sector. Such monitoring would at the same time also constitute an important element of learning-by-doing and sharing lessons, which the PPCR aims to promote.

There is considerable potential for synergies, but also a certain risk of overlaps with the German supported CCCPIR (*Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region*) programme. Like the UNDP/GEF/AusAID supported *Community Based Adaptation Project* mentioned in the SPCR, the CCCPIR programme supports capacity development for addressing climate change, and also generates knowledge on communal and ecosystem-based adaptation. **Therefore we recommend that, when selecting communities for support in the “approximately 16 districts”, consultations with the CCCPIR be held to identify areas of possible geographic overlap, and to align planned activities with those of the CCCPIR.** For instance, during the CCCPIR appraisal mission, Samoa has requested support related to marine resources, which could possibly complement the ridge-to-reef approach underlying the *Investment Project 2*.

Technical Assistance: Establishing a climate change adaptation trust fund

The establishment of a climate change adaptation trust fund for professional and coordinated management of climate finance needs to be seen before the background of the international and regional debate about the only partially coordinated and sometimes even disjoint climate change adaptation efforts. There are also discussions ongoing about establishing a regional financing mechanism for the Pacific Island states. Samoa with its proposed national adaptation trust fund will set a very useful example for the region. We therefore welcome the proposed technical assistance.

Cross-cutting issues: Participation and Gender

During preparation of the SPCR, substantial efforts to ensure participation and gender-differentiation in assessing and addressing the impacts of climate change have been made. However, gender aspects do not feature very prominently in the actual investment proposals. **We recommend that aspects of participation and gender be given more prominence in the description of investment projects, and – most importantly - indicators in Section 2 of the SPCR, and subsequently also during preparation of the detailed investment proposals, in particular for *Investment Project 2*.**

Cross-cutting issue: Learning

One of the PPCR's key objectives is to enable learning and sharing of lessons at the country as well as at the regional level. While aspects of learning and sharing lessons are being emphasised in a number of places throughout the SPCR document, and a knowledge management component has been incorporated into *Investment Project 2*, the document remains somewhat vague in explaining *how* learning and sharing lessons will be carried out, and which existing institutions (e.g. universities) and networks will be used. **We recommend that the SPCR document provide some additional clarification on issues of learning and sharing lessons, in particular for the *Investment Project 1* and the *Technical Assistance* component, and on how insights gained will feed back into policy making.**

Incorporating German Climate Change Engagement in the Region

The German climate change related engagement in Samoa, provided through the regional CCCPIR programme, is not being mentioned (see paragraph 116.). This is probably due to the fact that support will only begin in June 2011, and because Samoa's share of the regional support cannot be quantified exactly in monetary terms. **Nonetheless, we recommend explicitly mentioning the CCCPIR in the SPCR document, because there will be potential synergies, as outlined above.** In Samoa, the programme has components on mainstreaming adaptation, implementation of adaptation measures, tourism and climate change, and climate change awareness and education.