

October 2, 2013

**Comments from Australia on Approved by mail: Samoa - Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Coastal Resources and Communities (IBRD) PPCR**

Dear Patricia,

Further to the below AusAID information sent through earlier by Kate Sangster, I would like to provide an additional query from AusAID's Pacific climate change team. Apologies that this is coming through separately.

The additional query relates to Component 2, sub-component 2:

o We welcome the financing of LiDAR for Apia, however we query whether it is necessary to finance LiDAR throughout the whole country? It is expensive technology which is highly valuable, however it is quite an expensive undertaking for the use of aid funding when other options might be adequate in many circumstances.

We are concerned about raising expectations throughout the region. We are aware that most Pacific Island Country Governments would like comprehensive LiDAR data for their countries, however financing LiDAR throughout each country is not likely to be feasible or best use of Pacific adaptation funds.

We appreciate that it may be that the additional funds for undertaking LiDAR throughout the country may be minimal once the plane is sourced for collecting the LiDAR for Apia.

We welcome any feedback in relation to this query.

Kind regards  
Karen Lummis  
Climate Change, Pacific Division, AusAID

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Dear Patricia,

In regards to proposed projects in Samoa, public holidays in Australia have delayed us in providing comment by the deadline. I did note that the UK had raised concerns in regards to the projects, and assumed that the deadline would be extended to allow for these concerns to be addressed. Could you please advise as to why the deadline was not extended? Apologies in advance if there is something I have missed. I understand that these projects are now approved and I have provide Australia's comments below for Admin's information:

We welcome the notion of additional grant funds being provided to the Samoa SPCR, and welcome the proposal that has been put forward.

We are in agreement with the concerns and comments raised by the UK, particularly in relation to potential forced resettlement and the request for further information to be provided.

In addition to the below UK comments, we have the following comments:

re. Component 1 – Implementation of Priority Adaptation Measures to Manage Climate and Disaster-related Threats

- o It will be important to ensure that adaptation activities identified under the review of Coastal Infrastructure Management Plans and participatory processes do not primarily favour the construction of sea walls. The range of appropriate adaptation measure options, such as those listed in the table at paragraph 21 or Annex 2, should be seriously considered (eg. upgrading of community evacuation shelters, early warning systems, coastal vegetation planting, coral reef and wetland management).

- o One of our Pacific staff members was in Samoa several months ago and reported that it appears there is a perception that the PPCR project is going to fund seawalls for the communities it is working in. This potential expectation needs to be managed, and appropriate community education and awareness raising activities undertaken to ensure people understand there are other measures that might be more appropriate than sea walls, and awareness raising about the potential negative impacts of seawalls that are not appropriately designed (eg. coastal erosion in adjacent areas).

re. Component 2 - Strengthened Climate Information Services

- o In Samoa there has already been donor supported activities for strengthening climate information services and communicating climate and disaster concepts in the community. Feedback received from stakeholders has been that the information provided to the public through such programs has not been appropriate/ in a form that is accessible at the community level. What will be done differently in this project to ensure that information prepared is appropriate for target audiences?

- In relation to the outcomes - What sort of community led resilient activities are likely to be implemented (are examples the activities listed the table at paragraph 21 or Annex 2)?, What improved tools, information and instruments will be provided for design and implementation of such activities?, and what will be done to ensure that the tools, information and instruments that are developed are appropriate for vulnerable communities?

Kind regards,  
Kate Sangster

Senior Policy Officer | Sustainable Development Funds | AusAID