

September 30, 2013

**Comments from Germany and Spain on Approval by mail: Samoa - Enhancing the
Climate Resilience of Coastal Resources and Communities (IBRD)**

Dear PPCR Team on Samoa,

Thank you very much for your project proposals on behalf of Spain and Germany.

Kind regards

Annette Windmeisser (Germany)

Aize Azqueta Quemada (Spain)

Spanish and German Comments on proposed project: Samoa Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Coastal Resources and Communities

Summary

The Samoan government have already made good progress in mainstreaming climate change across various sectors of government, and the project proposed here recognises the important links between the PPCR and other major climate change programmes. The proposed project aims to strengthen the resilience of Samoa's coastal communities to climate change impacts, using an integrated approach beyond mere community infrastructure plans.

We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. We however would like to see our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) incorporated during project implementation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

We welcome that the project recognises ecosystem-based adaptation and ridge to reef approaches as important elements of holistic approaches to reducing vulnerability. From our view, this holistic approach could be further strengthened by focusing next to 'technical solutions' (ecosystem or infrastructure based) more on multi-faceted aspects of vulnerability, including ability to access information, inclusive decision making processes etc. This would ensure that adaptation responses addressing these 'softer' but equally important aspects of enhancing adaptive capacity are considered. This will perhaps eventuate as civil society organisations are a key delivery partner but at present this does not come out strongly in the document. **We recommend taking the above mentioned aspects of vulnerability (ability to access information, inclusive decision making processes) into account during project implementation, as appropriate.**

There is a strong link between Component 2 (Strengthened Climate Information Services) and Component 1 (Implementation of Priority Adaptation Measures to Manage Climate and Disaster-related Threats) in terms of using the information to inform the design of adaptation measures. We believe this could be brought out more clearly in the proposal. It will be important to consider sequencing of measures in both components appropriately to ensure that adaptation measures are informed by the best available information and communities' capacities are built to make well-informed decisions. From our view, it will also be essential to consider how communities (men, women, elders, youth, those with disabilities, children) access information currently and ensure that structures are put in place to address any existing barriers to accessing information. **We recommend bringing out more strongly the existing link between Component 1 and 2 in a way that aims to exploit the existing potential for using the available climate information for effective adaptation decision-making.**

In Component 2, Sub-Component 2, more attention could be given to the resources that will need to be dedicated to information and knowledge management (e.g. the development and management of databases to ensure data and information is stored appropriately, the ability to understand user needs to ensure data and information is made available in appropriate formats

etc.). Some of this is already implied in the proposal but it will be important to dedicate appropriate resourcing to these components. **We therefore recommend exploring possibilities to dedicate resources to information and knowledge management as part of the additional resources proposed to be dedicated to Component 2, Sub-Component 2.**

In general, a strong alignment with existing community governance structures and planning processes is recommended to ensure that plans are owned by the communities. With regard to coordination with other relevant activities, it is good to see that support (Component 3) is foreseen for enhanced coordination across government in managing climate change and disaster risk management projects. We also welcome the expectation that the Program Coordination Unit could be expanded to play a larger role in this space. It would be useful to have those discussions early during implementation to avoid duplication of structures and perhaps increase the ambition to ensure that this happens. **We therefore recommend (1) taking into account existing community governance structures and planning processes and (2) starting the activities aiming for enhanced coordination across government early on during project implementation.**

Given that a social science specialist is not foreseen as part of the expertise being hired for the project, it would be useful to include in the terms of reference of all the positions, and perhaps in criteria for selection, that social science expertise should be an important skill set for the positions. **We therefore recommend considering social science as an essential skill for hiring expertise for the project.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Participation and Learning

In the monitoring and evaluation aspects the link between community level tracking of resilience and national level reporting is mentioned. We consider this an area that warrants specific attention when planning the community level participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks. Lessons could be drawn on from Vanuatu where consortia of NGOs (led by Oxfam) have supported communities to develop a 'Framework of Resilience' with a number of key pillars which the government are considering using in their national M&E frameworks. See link for more details

http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/learning_in_vanuatu_laban.pdf .

Gender

We appreciate that a gender analysis has been conducted to enable gender-sensitive project design. However, we feel that some of the findings may not have been translated to the indicators of the proposal. In the indicators of beneficiaries a target of 45,000 people (30% being women) is given. Given that women make up around 50% of the population, and as many of the projects will be civil society organisations focussed and are likely to involve women's groups, this target should be at least 50%. **We therefore recommend raising the target of female project beneficiaries to at least 50 %.**