

September 27, 2013

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

Dear colleagues

The UK welcomes this project, which we are content to endorse subjects to the concerns raised on involuntary resettlement being better addressed. We have the following comments:

- A strength is that the project supports national priorities for example, the Government of Samoa's Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2012-2016, which focuses on strengthening economic resilience and encouraging inclusive growth.
- We are concerned about the references in the project to involuntary resettlement and would like to see more details on this in the project document, why it is considered necessary, what the likelihood is, and a thorough assessment of what the risks and social and political implications are. At a minimum we would expect to see this issue included in the risk assessment and mitigating actions spelt out.
- We welcome the strong focus on lesson learning, with lessons drawn from a variety of other projects and initiatives as well as a recent evaluation of World Bank experience.
- Pleased that a gender impact assessment has been carried out and that a gender monitoring framework has been developed and will be used to track the gender impact of the project. Some indicators have also been disaggregated by gender.
- We also welcome the focus on community engagement which will no doubt contribute to the sustainability of the project.
- We would like clarification as to how the indicators will be measured, for example, it is not clear from the results framework exactly how the number of direct beneficiaries will be measured.
- The project appears well-coordinated with other programmes/ implementing partners.

Kind regards

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