

October 7, 2013

Comments from United Kingdom on Approval by mail: Tonga: Climate Resilience Sector Project (ADB)

Dear PPCR Tonga team,

Pls find attached our comments. I had contacted Spain earlier this afternoon for feedback. Possibly they would still like to comment, for the time being I only send comments for Germany.

Thanky ou very much for forwarding these comments to the MDB colleagues and including us on the web site,

all the best

Dr. Annette Windmeisser
Division for Climate Policy and Climate Financing
Deputy head of division
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

German Comments on proposed project: Tonga Climate Resilience Sector Project

Summary

Without any doubt Tonga is among those countries that face the highest risks created by global warming. The proposed *Climate Resilience Sector Project* seems very well designed to address these risks. Its objective is to increase resilience of vulnerable communities in Tonga to climate variability and change, and to disaster risk. The overall expected outcome is a strengthened capacity of government and communities to finance, develop, implement and monitor investments to improve ecosystem resilience and climate proof critical infrastructure. To this end, the project addresses four themes: (i) capacity building to facilitate climate resilience mainstreamed into development planning: US\$ 1.68 million; (ii) improved monitoring and management of climate data and information, including integrated water resources and coastal zone monitoring data and information: US\$ 3.30 million; (iii) sustainable financing mechanisms to support community based climate responsive investments: US\$ 5.35 million; and (iv) eco-system resilience (coral reefs, mangroves) and climate resilient infrastructure investments (evacuation and post disaster access roads, coastal protection, upgraded schools, other critical infrastructure): US\$ 9.34 million.

We have no major objections to the implementation of the proposed project. However, we have some concerns regarding the project's expected outcome and impact, as presented in its design and monitoring framework. We furthermore feel strongly that gender issues should feature more prominently in the project's hierarchy of objectives and at the higher levels of its design and monitoring framework. Our related recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) should be observed during project implementation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

We very much appreciate that the proposal makes direct reference to four of the five the PPCR core indicators (A13, A21, B2, B5). However, it would seem that the targets listed as corresponding to indicator A21 ("Degree of integration of climate change into national planning") do not fully reflect the development that the indicator attempts to capture. The targets "increased coordination and knowledge management capacity of JNAP Secretariat", "institutional responsibilities by vulnerable sectors assigned and number of "investments apply [ing] climate proofing and resilience principles are certainly important steps on the way to integrating climate change into national planning. Achieving these targets is however not sufficient to measure whether integration of climate change into national and community planning is actually taking place beyond the limited range of investments directly supported by the PPCR. **We therefore recommend raising the ambition of the project's targets by which the PPCR core indicator A21 will be tracked.** Regarding the target "5 sector policies or plans integrate climate resilience ...", listed as corresponding to PPCR core indicator B2 ("Evidence of strengthened government capacity ..."), we could not identify from the documents provided which sectors would be covered, and reiterate the recommendation we already made when commenting on the SPCR, i.e. **that the documents provided should explicitly mention those relevant sectoral policies and plans that will be supported as part of the project's mainstreaming and institutionalisation efforts.** We note that the design and monitoring framework, at the level of impact, lists only one institution, the capacity of which will be strengthened as a result of the proposed project: the *Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (JNAP) Secretariat*. We understand that the proposed project aims to strengthen the capacity

of a much broader range of government institutions (see e.g. the outputs proposed), and, making reference to our earlier comments on capacity building made when commenting on the SPCR, we **recommend tracking, at the impact level of the design and monitoring framework, the results achieved in at least some of the government institutions supported by capacity building (other than the JNAP Secretariat) as well.**

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

We very much appreciate that a gender action plan has been developed to accompany the implementation of the proposed project. This gender action plan lists a number of important outputs, like “representation of ... women on consultation forums”, “... staff training ... with at least 20% women participated”, “PMU ... staffed by ... least 40% .. females”, or “at least 50% of approved projects that specifically bring improvement of women’s livelihoods”. These are all very important measures, which, if implemented, should lead to measurable results at the project’s outcome and impact levels. However, it would seem that, while the outputs of the gender action plan are mirrored in the outputs of the design and monitoring framework, there is currently no gender disaggregation at either the outcome or the impact level of the framework. Fully expecting that the project, given its elaborate gender action plan, will achieve gender balanced results, **we strongly recommend introducing gender-disaggregated indicators at both the outcome and impact levels.**

Synergies with other donors – in particular German – Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

To strengthen the capacities of Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and other Pacific islands to better cope with the predicted effects of climate change, the *Secretariat of the Pacific Community* (SPC), in cooperation with Germany, started a regional programme in January 2009. The programme, called *Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region* (CCCPIR), is funded by the *German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development* (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. Since 2011 the programme has been operating with an increased budget envelope of 17.2 million € in 12 Pacific countries, Tonga among them. Its in-country presence and wide-ranging network will make the CCCPIR a strong partner for implementing the proposed project, in particular with regard to institutional capacity development. **We therefore recommend establishing strong links and proactively exploring synergies between the proposed project and the programme *Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region* (CCCPIR), jointly implemented by the *Secretariat of the Pacific Community* (SPC) and GIZ.**

The implementation of the proposed project, in particular its theme (iii) sustainable financing mechanisms, could also benefit from best practices established through German support of the *Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund* (ICCTF). GIZ and KfW Development Bank have advised the *Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning* and the *Ministry of Finance* from initially establishing the fund all the way to its implementation phase.