

October 7, 2013

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

Dear colleagues

The UK welcomes this project and is content to approve the allocation of resources. We have the following comments:

- We particularly welcome the focus on capacity building. We are aware of other projects having difficulties moving from the concept to the implementation phase. Therefore efforts to increase capacity will be important, as well as it being important that implementation of the project is effectively budgeted for and monitored. This seems to be addressed in Output 5.
- The proposal to establish a climate change trust fund would seem to address any issues around accessing climate finance. It is an innovative idea. But clearly it will need to be carefully managed to ensure suitable projects are correctly identified and properly managed. This is particularly important because if successful this could serve as a useful model for other countries in the region.
- We welcome the strong focus on lesson learning, and knowledge management.
- Pleased that a gender action plan has been prepared and that a focal point on gender and development will be established within the PMU. Also note that some indicators have also been disaggregated by gender.
- Sustainability of 'core' monitoring stations has been addressed.
- The project appears well-coordinated with other development partners.
- We notice that the involuntary resettlement safeguard has been triggered but that this is unlikely to happen – we would like some more clarification on this.

Kind regards,

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