

July 7, 2015

Approval by Mail: PPCR Papua New Guinea: Building Resilience to Climate Change in Papua New Guinea Project (ADB) – Comments from the Germany

Dear Colleagues,

We also do not have major objections to the implementation of the Papua New Guinea Building Resilience to Climate Change in Papua New Guinea (PNG) Project. Overall, we recommend considering our earlier comments on the SPCR for Papua New Guinea, submitted on 29th June 2012, as well as our comments made below (see bold highlights) during further project design. We look forward to receiving the full project appraisal document, including a complete design and monitoring framework, and will make a final decision on our approval of the overall project at that time.

Individual Comments

We welcome that the project concept note foresees using the additional financing to expand the scope of Output 3 of the Building Resilience to Climate Change in Papua New Guinea (PNG) Project to pilot the upgrading and climate proofing of the Provincial Government wharf in Alotau in Milene Bay province. The overall approach of climate proofing the Samarai wharf to demonstrate how such assets can be protected from the impacts of climate change seems to be meaningful in the Papua New Guinean context, especially regarding the archipelagic nature of the country.

The Concept Note mentions that the Building Resilience to Climate Change in Papua New Guinea (PNG) Project includes the preparation of climate projections as well as site-specific climate change risk and vulnerability assessments. While we very much appreciate this, it remains unclear in what respect current and future climate information is used in the context of climate proofing the Samarai wharf and in decision-making regarding adaptation options. Moreover, the trainings that will be provided to national, provincial and local personnel do not seem to entail modules on access to and appropriate use of climate information. However, using available climate information for adaptation decision-making is vital in order to facilitate more effective, climate resilient planning. Thus, we recommend elaborating how climate information is used in the context of climate proofing coastal infrastructure and whether it will be taken into account in capacity development activities. During the implementation of knowledge management activities, it is important to ensure that data and information is made available in appropriate formats.

Dear Colleagues ,

We have no major objections to the implementation of the project at this stage. Overall, we recommend considering our earlier comments on the SPCR for Papua New Guinea, submitted on 29th June 2012, as well as our comments made below (see **bold** highlights) during project implementation. The project's overall objective to "mainstream climate change in development planning" in order to "increase resilience to the impacts of climate variability and climate change" seems to be meaningful in the Papua New Guinean context, especially with regards to the archipelagic nature of the country. We welcome that the project proposal makes reference to PNG's national long term political vision and

important plans and strategies, that is, the Vision 2050, PNG's Development Strategic Plan (2010-2030), PNG's Medium Term Development Plan (2011-2015), and the National Climate Compatible Development Policy 2014. However, the proposal does neither outline how the project is aligned with these strategies nor does it mention relevant sector policies and plans which focus on sector-specific responses to climate change. **We recommend describing briefly how the proposed project is aligned with the National Climate Compatible Development Policy 2014 and relevant sector strategies. Given that mainstreaming climate change is the overall objective of the proposed project, we also recommend elaborating how the proposed activities fit into the context of a potential National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process for Papua New Guinea.**

We highly appreciate that the project seeks to foster mainstreaming adaptation in development planning at different levels and improve the capacities of communities, government agencies, and civil society to plan and respond to the impacts of climate change. Yet, given the complexity of the topic, we feel that the proposal would have benefited from a greater level of detail, e.g. regarding tools that will be applied to support mainstreaming and entry points in the planning and budgetary cycles. **Thus, we recommend elaborating in more detail how climate risk and adaptation considerations will be systematically integrated in decision-making and planning processes.**

We appreciate that the proposal foresees preparing local climate projections, carrying out climate change and vulnerability assessments and developing adaptation plans for target communities. Yet, it does not become apparent how adaptation options are identified, prioritized and selected on the basis of the vulnerability assessments. **We recommend explaining in more detail how adaptation measures are developed and selected based on the results of vulnerability assessments and/or other assessments (e.g. cost-benefit-analyses). We recommend bringing out more strongly the links and synergies between Output 1 to 3 and explain how the activities under Output 2 and 3 will benefit from the climate projections and vulnerability assessments generated under Output 1.**

Synergies with German Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country/Region

We appreciate that the proposal takes into account possible synergies with other projects supported by international development partners, such as EU and GEF, as well as regional institutions, such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). In addition, the proposed PPCR investment could also benefit from coordination with the German-supported project *Coping with climate change in the Pacific island region* that seeks to increase climate resilience in Pacific island states. **We suggest coordination and collaboration between the proposed PPCR investment and the German-supported project, in order to benefit from lessons learned and from already established working relationships.**

Romeo Bertolini