

May 7, 2012

Comments from Germany on the Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience for the Pacific Program - Regional Track

General Comments

We would like to congratulate the *Pacific Island Forum Secretariat* (PIFS) for designing and presenting an elaborate SPCR document.

We particularly welcome the SPCR's Components (1) *Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction into National and Local Level Development Policies and Plans*; (2) *Identifying and Implementing Practical Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge and Experience*; and (3) *Building and Supporting Pacific Island Countries' Capacity to Respond to Climate Change Risks*. We also appreciate the intentions to complement and build on the country SPCRs of Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Tonga; and to complement, not duplicate, major climate change and related disaster risk reduction initiatives being implemented with support from other donors.

From our point of view there are no major objections. We would, however, like to make a number of suggestions and recommendations (see **bold** highlights below for project design and implementation of the SPCR).

Due to the specific structural conditions of the Pacific island region (large distances, high communication and transportation costs, low in-country implementing capacities, etc.), climate change adaptation in the Pacific island region will require considerable funds.

The SPCR's components 1 (*Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction into National and Local Development Policies and Plans*) and 2 (*Identifying and Implementing Practical Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge and Experience*) are overlapping with those of the German-funded SPC/GIZ Programme *Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region* (CCCPIR), which is also working with *Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme* (SPREP), the *University of the South Pacific* (USP) and 12 Pacific island countries, amongst them the three SPCR countries Samoa, Tonga and Papua New Guinea.

They also overlap with efforts undertaken under the EU programme *Global Climate Change Alliance-Pacific Small Island States*, executed by *Secretariat of the Pacific Community* (SPC), which also works in Samoa and Tonga. All three SPCR components are covered through the GEF-UNDP-SPREP regional programme *Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change* (PACC). Overlaps are also to be found with the Australian-funded *Pacific Australian Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Programme* (PACCSAP), and the EU-Global Climate Change Alliance climate change programme with the *University of the South Pacific*.

The SPCR is a very welcome addition to already ongoing climate change adaptation efforts in the Pacific. While its objectives are rather ambitious in relation to its modest funds (as mentioned in the independent review), it can have considerable impact if it works in close coordination and cooperation with, and complementary to, the already ongoing climate change adaptation efforts supported by other development partners. **We therefore recommend undertaking all possible efforts to ensure such coordination and cooperation with other development partners.**

SPCR Coordination Secretariat

There are already coordination mechanisms in the region. The SPCR is working through three *Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific* (CROP) agencies, namely the *Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat* (PIFS), the *Secretariat of the Pacific Community* (SPC), and the *Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme* (SPREP), which are building up a coordination mechanism at the technical level directly responsible to the CROP CEOs – the so-called *Working Arm on Climate Change* (WACC). A suggestion would be to **strengthen this existing coordination mechanism, rather than creating a new one, and use it as the envisaged SPCR Coordination Secretariat**. This would also ensure close coordination and collaboration with the other climate change adaptation programmes and projects executed by the CROP agencies (as mentioned above).

Comments on Individual Components / Projects / Measures

Component 3: Building and Supporting Pacific Island Countries' Capacity to Respond to Climate Change Risks

The SPCR project document proposes the *Pacific Island Forum Secretariat* (PIFS) as the lead agency for this component. **We recommend considering that PIFS is the CROP agency dealing with political, not with implementation issues.**

Pacific island countries have been working during the past years to reduce overlaps between *Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific* (CROP) agencies mandates, reduce CROP agencies from 16 to 9, and to have CROP agencies focus on their core business. At the moment, both the SPC and the PIFS are undergoing a review of their work.

The proposed *Regional Technical Support Mechanisms* (RTSM) would be linked to the directory of expertise being developed as an element of the *Pacific Climate Change Portal*, which is supported by all Pacific island countries and CROP agencies and is developed under the leadership of SPREP. While the RTSM is more encompassing including the development of a dedicated pool of expertise (CROP and external expertise) **we recommend that the deployment of this pool of expertise should be closely coordinated with existing implementation activities being conducted by SPC and SPREP.**

While it is understood that the involvement of PIFS as a lead agency for this component may have political reasons, **we suggest to (1) await the outcomes of the PIFS and SPC reviews, before deciding which agency to entrust with which component; (2) ensure that at any rate this component, if necessary under the leadership of PIFS, will be implemented by SPC and SPREP; and (3) attach the RTSM as a backstopping mechanism to the regional climate change portal.**