

January 8, 2015

Comments from Germany- Approval by mail: Grenada: Additional Financing to the Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Program (RDVRP) (IBRD) PPCR

Dear Mafalda and Team

We do not have major issues with the implementation of the project. I would like to re-emphasise to consider our earlier comments on the SPCR for Grenada, submitted on 24th March 2011, and on the concept note of the Additional Financing to the Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Program, submitted on 22nd January 2014, as well as our comments made below during project implementation.

Comments on the Proposal

We welcome that component 1 (Prevention and Adaptation Investments) of the Additional Financing to the Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Program foresees the use of “complementary vegetative reinforcements” for the St. Johns River Defense System whenever possible.

Yet, the proposal does not mention if such ecosystem-based measures have already been identified during the project preparation phase and how they will be implemented. As local capacity will be a crucial for successful implementation, we suggest to give a clearer insight into how opportunities for “complementary vegetative reinforcements” will be identified and seized. In addition, the proposal states that “no impacts on biodiversity are expected to occur”. However, as an earlier Environmental and Impact Assessment in 2010 concluded that construction works may result in an increased volume of pollution entering the marine environment, we recommend laying out which mitigation measures are planned in order to prevent negative environmental impacts from construction of the St. Johns River Defense System.

Regarding component 2 (Regional Platforms for Hazard and Risk Evaluation, and Applications for Improved Decision Making), we welcome that it is proposed to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Forestry Department as a prerequisite for successful management of large-scale forest rehabilitation programmes. However, the proposal does not state how the available funds will be split among the four activities envisaged.

Moreover, it seems to focus on the Forestry Department only although other departments may benefit from these activities as well due to the cross-cutting nature of forest management. We therefore recommend outlining the amount of funds designated to the different activities within the Forest Management Capacity Building sub-component and considering including staff from other departments in the capacity building measures too, if appropriate. In addition, it remains unclear if the data development and management activities under component 2 only refer to the island of Grenada or also to the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Thus, we kindly suggest adding brief information on the geographical scope of the envisaged data development and management activities.

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

The experiences and lessons learned from re-scoping the forestry component might be beneficial for other PPCR pilot countries as well. Thus, we recommend sharing learnings from the additional financing on a regular basis also with relevant stakeholders from other countries within the PPCR Caribbean Regional Program.

In several sections, the proposal states that ICCAS is a “GIZ-funded” project, while it is in fact funded by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), and implemented by the Government of Grenada. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are implementing agencies in that respect. Hence, we kindly ask to rectify the description of the Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies (ICCAS) Project regarding its funding and implementation.

In addition, the proposal foresees the creation of bathymetry datasets under component 2. Such datasets are currently also being developed for Grenada by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), with financial support of the ICCAS Project. We therefore highly recommend coordinating with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) before starting bathymetry-related activities to avoid duplication of datasets and share lessons learned.

Thanks for the consideration and best regards

Romeo