

**APPROVAL BY MAIL: JAMAICA: IMPROVING CLIMATE DATA AND INFORMATION  
MANAGEMENT PROJECT (PPCR)**

Response from the World Bank to the Comments received from the United Kingdom

**Approval by mail: Jamaica: Improving Climate Data and Information Management Project  
(PPCR) IBRD—Response from the World Bank**

Component 1 – this component has substantial emphasis on investing in new and upgrading critically needed systems, maintenance is a recognised recurring issue, while government willingness to support O&M is noted and welcomed, financial constraints and pressures make this a risk.

**a. What can be done to ensure equipment procured is robust, and build on past lessons?**

Sustainability of equipment (including O&M) is a key consideration for the Project. Indeed many countries have a weak record regarding the sustainability of hydro-met investments and responsible agencies continue to be faced with declining user fees for services provided and aging/unserviceable equipment. In the case of Jamaica, the existing radar is obsolete (over 20 years old and here are no readily available parts in many cases) and the costs of servicing the same are currently unsustainable. Therefore it is foreseen that replacing this radar with a newer model that has readily available parts and services would greatly lower the O&M costs. Also, past history and current commitments from the Government reflect a level of ownership that would ensure the equipment procured is maintained as a core part of capacity and institutional strengthening for enhanced climate resilience island-wide. In addition, a comprehensive expert assessment on the hydromet observation network was conducted during the Project preparation, which also articulated recommendations and requirements for equipment based on the international standards and experiences. As recommended by the assessment, the Project also plans to provide technical assistance by hiring hydrology and meteorology experts for MSJ and WRA at the early stage of implementation to support various activities under Component 1. These experts will assist MSJ and WRA in developing adequate technical specs of the hydromet equipment to be procured under the Project and ensure the integration of the hydromet system in the country.

**b. Also while diesel may well be the best back up option for the weather radar, it would be good to state why renewable options are not viable.** Thank you for the suggestion. The Project may include the possibility of renewable options for the back-up generator, taking into consideration the reliability of operation during severe weather events. During a power outage in such events, rigorous (50KW and up) and reliable backup power supply would be necessary to ensure the continuous operation of the radar. Solar is still subject to variable generation intermittency. It is considered that diesel generators would be the most reliable under harsh weather conditions even though solar power has become more reliable and could be in the near future an alternative choice.

**2. Component 2 -2.1 Updating statistically downscaled high resolution climate change scenarios:**

**a. Please can you clarify the link to regional PPCR track work in this area, including the UWI team in Jamaica who will also be implementing related regional PPCR track activities.** The UWI's Climate Studies Group, Mona (CSGM) has been the partner in Phase I of PPCR Jamaica and during the preparation of the proposed Project. Thus the regional-track PPCR and the Jamaica project are mutually benefitting from their excellent works. As part of the PPG, CSGM has developed near-term (up to 2040) climate change scenarios for the country as a whole, and for the Rio Minho and Rio Bueno-White River

Watersheds in particular based on the output data from a Regional Climate Model (25km). Improving data collection and quality assurance would also contribute to the Regional PPCR activities. In addition, the Project intends to partner with other regional organizations such as CIMH during the implementation.

3. Sub-component 2.3 Preparation of a detailed health sector vulnerability assessment and a costed resilience strengthening plan for climate proofing the nations health facilities and operations. There is a high risk that proposed investments are not implemented due to financial constraints. **Can this sub component also look at mechanisms for funding/financing e.g through savings expected or identification of other sources.** Thank you for the suggestion. It may be considered that the costed resilience action plan would include recommendations for potential financing mechanisms.

4. Subcomponent 2.4 Carry out community risk profiling and developing targeted early warning messaging for vulnerable groups.

- a) **To note: Several agencies operating in this area so co-ordination essential.** RADA will be implementing the community risk profiling through its extension service with close coordination with ODPEM, WRA, and MSJ to ensure better coordination between agencies and to ensure the development of effective early warning messaging systems. The PPCR Steering Committee will also oversee and ensure the coordination of multiple agencies involved in Project execution. The PPCR Steering Committee has been established by the Government as an umbrella entity that provides advice, oversight and coordination to the implementation of all PPCR (including those implemented through the Inter-American Development Bank) and other associated (e.g., EU-funded and Adaptation Fund) projects in Jamaica.
- b) **Need to keep a strong focus on decision-relevant data and to ensure a strong link is made with potential users (otherwise ambitions won't be achieved.)** This is a critical feature in the design of the Project since one of the key lessons from the 2012 climate change knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) survey was that while there was a fairly high level of knowledge about climate change among respondents, there was more limited awareness of practical measures that could be undertaken at the individual, household and community levels to enhance resilience. A key recommendation from the KAP survey was the need for creative and bold messaging to change present behavioural practices. Hence the Project would move beyond merely sharing information and spreading awareness, and will promote specific behavioural practices among targeted groups to adopt practical means of coping with climate change. The Project will emphasize a demand-driven and user oriented services by putting in place a user feedback mechanism and developing structured messages for different target groups and audiences.
- c) **It is important to develop the targets for this area, when is this likely to be undertaken?** The GoJ and the Bank have just conducted appraisal of the Project and agreed on the indicators. In addition, a Working Group will be established in the first quarter of the Project implementation period in order consultatively develop appropriate strategies for achieving behavior change and ensuring that the most vulnerable groups are appropriately targeted and reached.