



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

COMPILATION OF COMMENTS
SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
ON THE JOINT LDCE/SCEF
WORK PROGRAM
IN JUNE 2013

NOTE: This document is a compilation of comments submitted to the Secretariat by Council members concerning the project proposals presented in the LDCE/SCEF Work Program approved by the Council in June 2013.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----------|
| SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND | 1 |
| 1. Cameroon: Enhancing the Resilience of Poor Communities to Urban Flooding in Yaounde - AfDB – GEF ID = 5263 | 1 |
| 2. Namibia: Scaling Up Community Resilience to Climate Variability and Climate Change in Northern Namibia, with a Special Focus on Women and Children - UNDP – GEF ID = 5343..... | 3 |
| MULTI-TRUST FUND | 5 |
| 3. Regional (Djibouti and Kenya): RLACC - Rural Livelihoods's Adaptation to Climate Change in the Horn of Africa (PROGRAM) - UNDP – GEF ID = 5228 | 5 |
| 4. Regional (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru): Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change in Water Resources for the Andean Region – World Bank - GEF ID = 5384..... | 7 |
| 5. Regional (Cook Islands, FS Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) : R2R- Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities “Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods - UNDP - GEF ID = 5395..... | 8 |
| 6. Haiti: Increasing Resilience of Ecosystems and Vulnerable Communities to CC and Anthropic Threats Through a Ridge to Reef Approach to BD Conservation and Watershed Management - UNDP - GEF ID = 5380 | 10 |

**LDCF/SCCF WORK PROGRAM: COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS
(REFERENCE GEF/LDCF.SCCF.14/03)**

SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

1. Cameroon: Enhancing the Resilience of Poor Communities to Urban Flooding in Yaoundé - AfDB – GEF ID = 5263

✓ *Germany's Comments*

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Germany welcomes the proposed project's aim to enhance the resilience of poor communities to urban flooding, targeting particularly communities in informal settlements.
- However, we share the concerns of the STAP and recommend incorporating the suggestions put forward in the STAP review in the final project document. In our view, this applies particularly to a more thorough vulnerability assessment (point 1), clarifying the way in which the SCCF contribution will modify the baseline project (point 3), inclusion of climate and socio-economic data (point 7) and providing further details on the planned adaptation measures and their suitability in the project context (point 8).
- Since 2010, the Cameroonian government has been transferring competencies to municipalities (*communes d'arrondissement*). Considering the significant role of institutional and community level capacity building in the proposed project, we recommend taking into account the increased role of municipalities in disaster risk management as well as in drainage and water infrastructure. Further, it should be considered that the respective roles of the urban communities on the one hand and municipalities on the other hand might not be very clear. Especially in terms of infrastructure maintenance, the responsibilities between these entities should be well defined. Ideally, a monitoring mechanism could be put in place.
- On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ is supporting the implementation of the "*Decentralisation and local development assistance program*" (*Décentralisation et développement local*) which is working on a regular basis with some of the municipalities of Yaoundé. With partners such as the mayors, municipal counselors and civil society groups, the programme works on issues of local governance, mainly in the sectors of health, basic education and drinking water. We recommend exploring possible synergies with this programme. Given the timeframe (decentralization programme is to end in 2015), cooperation possibilities might be limited but the GEF project could build on some of the

German project's results.

✓ **USA's Comments**

The United States welcomes this project concept. With a view toward strengthening this PIF, we urge AfDB, as it prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, to:

- Provide more information on the types of adaptation technologies the proposed program will adopt and transfer. The term “adaptation technology” is mentioned throughout the proposal but no specifics or explanation are provided as to what exactly this means;
- Clarify how the proposed climate resilient interventions for flood control under Component 3, including construction and upgrading of drainage canals, which are also part of the baseline project, meet the additionally reasoning. We request AfDB to provide evidence of scientific and technical reasoning for the proposed water infrastructure projects and how they were selected;
- Provide more information on current government technical capacity to prepare flood hazard maps and develop climate-smart design and building guidelines (page 6), and how AfDB intends to strengthen such capacity if it is needed; and,
- Clarify how it plans to promote coordination between ministries at both the national and local level. We appreciate the involvement of multiple government agencies, but note the challenges often experienced when coordinating between various ministries and technical agencies. We have seen in other countries with similar program objectives that an inter-ministerial coordinating committee or work group has been instrumental in facilitating dialogue and cooperation between multiple parties.

In addition, we expect that AfDB in the development of its full proposal will:

- Expand on how it will ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation training for beneficiaries at the national and local level;
- Clarify how it will communicate results, lessons learned and best practices identified throughout the project to the various stakeholders both during and after the project; and,
- Engage local stakeholders, including community-based organizations and women in both the design and implementation of the program.

Finally, we strongly encourage AfDB to carefully consider and address the scientific and technical challenges, omissions and opportunities identified by the STAP in its review of the PIF, including its recommendation for major revisions.

2. Namibia: Scaling Up Community Resilience to Climate Variability and Climate Change in Northern Namibia, with a Special Focus on Women and Children - UNDP – GEF ID = 5343

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany approves the following PIFs in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- The proposed project has the potential to make an important contribution to increasing climate resilience in North-Central Namibia. The focus on women and children is of special importance considering that the north has a particularly high HIV/AIDS prevalence, and because the care for sick family members is a major burden for women.
- We do however share the observations and support the suggestions made by the STAP and recommend taking these into account in the final project document. In particular, we recommend clarifying how the baseline activities will be modified as a result of the SCCF contribution (STAP review, points 2 and 3).
- Considering the natural resources variability and the difference in agricultural systems, we recommend specifying the project sites. Especially in rained agriculture the difference between the O-Regions and Kavango is significant. In the latter region the ecosystems (various stages of degradation) surrounding the agricultural plots make an important contribution to food security and should be included in a resilience strategy.
- For outcome 2 it would be important to state the role of the recently created water point committees in relation to well improvement and to analyze from a hydro-geological point of view the aggregated impact of well use and the additional wells being drilled in the region in relation to the aquifer. This could take the form of a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- Regarding potential synergies with relevant ongoing initiatives, we highly recommend coordination with German Development Cooperation. The “*Biodiversity Management and Climate Change*” project, the implementation of which is supported by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is starting pilot initiatives in Kavango/eastern Ohangwena with regards to ecosystem vulnerability assessments and ecosystem-based adaptation, including diversifying income from biotrade products which could help to increase resilience beyond agriculture. In the region the relationship to community-based natural resource management initiatives should be clarified in order to avoid promoting conflicting landuses.

✓ USA's Comments

The United States welcomes this project concept. We appreciate the project's targeted focus on women and children, who are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We also appreciate that UNDP has applied lessons learned from the previously implemented SPA project "*Adapting to Climate Change through the Improvement of Traditional Crops and Livestock farming*" to the design of this project. With a view toward further strengthening this PIF, we would like to request that UNDP, as it prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement to:

- Clarify how project results will be delivered by a series of partnerships between the government and non-government sectors in areas such as agricultural service delivery, financial services and marketing as mentioned on page 10. Are these pre-existing partnerships that will take on new areas of work as part of project implementation? Or, will these partnerships be established as part of project implementation? As government and non-government stakeholders often have different objectives, we urge UNDP to develop these partnerships in a way that ensures active participation from all parties in order to deliver results; and,
- Provide more information on how the adaptation alternative described on page 16 under Outcome 2 will take into account the issue of flooding described in the baseline paragraphs also found on page 16. For example, will the restoration of 8,000 traditional wells proposed under Output 2.1 on page 17 take into consideration the build back better approach in order to increase the resilience of new irrigation infrastructure in the event of future flooding?

In addition, we expect that UNDP in the development of its full proposal will:

- Clarify how it will communicate results, lessons learned and best practices identified throughout the project to the various stakeholders both during and after the project;
- Clarify how it will facilitate coordination and information and knowledge exchange between the project activities and relevant ongoing initiatives in Namibia, including coordination with development partners such as FAO that work very closely on issues related to drought and improving resiliency of farmers in Namibia; and,
- Expand on how it will ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation education, such as the training mentioned under Output 2.2.

MULTI-TRUST FUND

3. Regional (Djibouti and Kenya): RLACC - Rural Livelihoods's Adaptation to Climate Change in the Horn of Africa (PROGRAM) - UNDP – GEF ID = 5228

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Germany welcomes that the project addresses the known challenges outlined for the arid and semi-arid areas (ASALs) in Djibouti and Kenya which are in line with priorities of the Kenyan government. However, regarding component 1 and 2 we would like to ask for details on how “targeted areas” as well as “vulnerable groups” are selected. Please specify what the base for the selection is (i.e. source and approach of the vulnerability assessment) and how this relates to national strategies, such as NAPA or also findings from the National Communications. See also STAP review (points 1 and 6).
- Regarding component 1, Germany would like to highlight that beside the training activities for strengthening technical skills and capacities for integrating climate change aspects into planning and decision-making processes, additional activities that accompany the actual integration in a participatory way could support that the gained knowledge is put into practice.
- The proposal clearly addresses “efficient, timely and accountable coordination and monitoring and evaluation of project activities”. A more systematic monitoring of these specific aspects, e.g. baseline and changes in adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups and the impact of the interventions might be considered. Information generated on the country level could be fed into the National Framework. Currently, a number of tools are tested how to capture adaptive capacity and/ or adaptation and mitigation benefits, e.g. by the project “Adaptation to Climate Change and Insurance (ACCI)” implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).
- As the proposed project aims at increasing the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, Germany supports suggestions made by the STAP review, especially regarding the inclusion of local knowledge into the adaptation measures proposed (point 8), and the inclusion of existing data on climate change projections and strengthening further the socio-economic data (point 11).

✓ USA's Comments

The United States strongly recommends that the implementing agency carefully consider and address the scientific and technical challenges, omissions and opportunities identified by the STAP in its review of the PIF and to make major revisions as it prepares the draft

final project document for CEO endorsement. In addition to the recommendations made in the STAP review, the United States urges AfDB to:

- Make a stronger case for how the project will integrate a climate change adaptation lens into the baseline project. The current rationale is unclear. For example, the PIF states in paragraph 43 that the baseline project will address the supply side by investing in infrastructure whereas the LDCF SCCF project will reinforce the demand side. How will more systematic incorporation of climate change-related knowledge into local development processes by the LDCF SCCF project result in communities benefiting from the baseline project's enhanced regional market information systems – and in such a way that is resilient to climate change in the longer term? How will helping communities and households undertake gender-sensitive income generating activities help them benefit from the baseline project's efforts to develop and promote gender policies – and in such a way that is resilient to climate change in the longer term?
- Provide more information on the social transfer schemes proposed under Component 2 paragraph 29, page 15). Have these social transfer schemes already been tested in the project areas? We are somewhat concerned with the sustainability of these safety nets if consideration is not given to details such as appropriate gap periods before benefits are felt or mitigating the participant's perception of risk in adopting new practices;
- Provide more information on how a cross-border approach will be incorporated into the project design and implementation as we see this as particularly important in the case of Djibouti (paragraph 38, page 17);
- Clarify how it plans to promote coordination in each country between ministries and agencies at both the national and district level. We appreciate the involvement of multiple government agencies and institutions across the various districts as the development of agro-pastoral adaptation technologies (e.g. water extraction technologies) and local development planning will not only require input from experts of various sectors but also produce information applicable to numerous ministries and institutions;
- Clarify how the proposed activities will help increase access to social services for the program beneficiaries as mentioned in paragraph 46 on page 20.

In addition, we expect that AfDB in the development of its full proposal will:

- Expand on how it will ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation education for beneficiaries at the national and local level and how these trainings will be linked to similar proposed interventions at the household level;
- Clarify how it will communicate results, lessons learned and best practices identified throughout the project to the various stakeholders both during and after the project; and, Engage local stakeholders, including community-based organizations and women, in both the design and implementation of the program.

4. Regional (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru): Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change in Water Resources for the Andean Region – World Bank - GEF ID = 5384

✓ Germany's Comments

Germany requests for the following projects that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Germany appreciates the attempt of addressing the resilience of vulnerable ecosystems in the Andean region across national borders which is an important yet challenging appointment. However, for successful implementation of the proposed activities, Germany recommends explaining how they build on national policies and plans, other projects and interventions and findings from the National Communications (baseline scenario). Germany further recommends elaborating on what kind of activities are already covered by those national plans and where additional activities start that are delivered by the GEF project (additional cost reasoning).
- Regarding the proposed activities, Germany recommends refining the activities and describing precisely how the activity is linked to the expected output and where exactly they will have an impact in the rather large area covered by the project. Calculating the amount of the fund per year and country, the project should focus on few watersheds. We would appreciate more information on which vulnerability assessment the selection of watersheds is based on, the target areas in each country including a description of the socio-economic characteristics of the communities in the target areas, the climate change impacts in the target region as well as an indication how each component will contribute to reducing the vulnerability of the communities to the expected climate impacts. In addition, Germany, recommends better explaining how the special component for Ecuador fits into the project as also suggested in the STAP review.
- Germany appreciates that the SGCAN makes use of its expertise, core competency, its role and mandate given by the four countries in bringing the countries together and facilitating exchange as proposed in component 1. However, the allocation of funds seems disproportionate and might be reconsidered.
- Since the project endeavors to mainstream climate change into national policies and plans, Germany recommends identifying and advancing the cooperation with national counterpart institutions. These counterparts should include several relevant line ministries and meteorological institutes. The latter once are also currently strengthened by the recently started project PRESDES, financed by the Finish Government, which can be a benefit for the proposed GEF project.
- As stated already in the comments from the GEF Secretariat, Germany would like to ask that the GEF fee policy is followed (point 11), that the links between the proposed project activities and objective of the SCCF-B are outlined (point 2) and that it should be outlined how gender dimensions are considered in the project (point 6).

- In addition, Germany shares the concerns of the STAP and recommends integrating the requests from the STAP review in the final project document. This applies particularly to a clearer outline of the projects activities, their outcomes and the SCCF strategy (point 3), and providing a context-appropriate and user-friendly solution for measuring key results (point 6).

✓ **USA's Comments**

- While we welcome the project concept, particularly in a region that is especially vulnerable to climate change, the United States strongly recommends that the implementing agency carefully consider and address the scientific and technical challenges, omissions and opportunities identified by the STAP in its review of the PIF and to make major revisions as it prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement.
- The PIF did not provide any information on indicative SCCF financing or indicative co-financing. In addition, the PIF provided very little specific information about the adaptation interventions proposed. The lack of detail regarding the proposed adaptation interventions, as the STAP review points out, made it difficult to provide more substantive feedback on the technical components of the proposal.

5. Regional (Cook Islands, FS Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) : R2R-Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities “Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods - UNDP - GEF ID = 5395

✓ **Germany's Comments**

Germany approves the following PIFs in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- The proposed project has the potential to substantially generating experience and knowledge. Germany appreciates the approach very much. Nevertheless, a clearer link between the various proposed sub-projects and the way they contribute to the expected outputs and outcomes, thus to improving climate resilience, would strengthen the proposal. Additionally, a clearer link to national plans would further back the proposed sub-projects. Both could be achieved by including references in the description of the sub-projects.
- Germany further welcomes the proposed activities on Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation in order to best evaluate, disseminate, and transfer experiences and knowledge. However, given the numerous countries involved in the project and their respective conditions, the level of knowledge, understanding as well

as the way how successful demonstration might be replicated on other islands will be diverse. Therefore, Germany recommends taking these diversities into account when designing knowledge products. In addition, different knowledge products and their design should be based on demand for such products, such as generic and tailor made trainings, exchange visits, generic documents, visualitions, and implementation guides, etc.

- The diversity of capacities and commitment of the involved institutions should also be taken into account when implementing the different sub-projects at island and regional level.
- Germany would also like to highlight a suggestion made by the STAP review. EbA activities have been proven to be successful and often have a better cost-benefit relation than engineered solutions. Considering the financial situation of many of the islands, and the fact that the national institutions should take over the activities, Germany supports the request for more details on the already mentioned EbA-activities and suggests further exploring the benefits (point 14).

✓ *USA's Comments*

- The US welcomes this project concept. We appreciate the proposal's targeted focus on building human and institutional capacity as part of an economy-wide approach to climate change adaptation at both the national and local level.
- The United States strongly recommends that the implementing agency carefully consider and address the scientific and technical challenges, omissions and opportunities identified by the STAP in its review of the PIF as it prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, particularly the recommendation in paragraph 13 of the STAP review to further elucidate elements of the programmatic approach explicitly designed to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
- In addition, we urge UNDP, UNEP and FAO, during preparation of the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, to:
 - Expand on how they plan to promote coordination between ministries and technical agencies at both the national and local level. We appreciate the involvement of multiple government agencies and institutions as designing and implementing multiple integrated strategies across various sectors will require input from various sector experts; and
 - Provide more information on the degree to which technical experts will be brought in to implement program activities versus local technical capacity built within the project areas to ensure sustainability of activities and success of overall program objectives.
 - Provide more information on the special trainings and clarify the envisioned role for the University of the South Pacific.

- In addition, we expect that UNDP, UNEP and FAO in development of the full proposal will clarify how they will:
 - Facilitate coordination and information and knowledge exchange between the program and relevant ongoing initiatives in the 14 PICs, including LDCF and SCCF projects that have recently received CEO endorsement or are currently being implemented in the project areas;
 - Communicate results, lessons learned and best practices identified throughout the project to the various stakeholders both during and after the project; and
 - Engage local stakeholders, including community-based organizations and women in both the design and implementation of the program.

6. Haiti: Increasing Resilience of Ecosystems and Vulnerable Communities to CC and Anthropic Threats Through a Ridge to Reef Approach to BD Conservation and Watershed Management - UNDP - GEF ID = 5380

- *No comments were received for this project.*