



COMPILATION OF COMMENTS
SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
ON THE
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INTERSESSIONAL WORK PROGRAM

NOTE: This document is a compilation of comments submitted to the Secretariat by Council members concerning the project proposals presented in the Joint LDCF/SCCF March 2014 Intersessional Work Program

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CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Global: Assisting non-LDC developing countries with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), – UNEP - GEF ID = 5683

✓ Germany's Comments

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

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

- Component 1 of the proposed project describes the technical support that should be provided (stock-taking, identification of gaps, institutional and coordination arrangements, NAP roadmaps). Germany suggests that the PIF outlines in greater detail through which mechanism (e.g. consultant missions, missions by the project, missions by partners) exactly the technical support will be provided and how the project ensures that the countries contribute to the analyses and own the process, as they should be able to conduct such analysis themselves in the future, e.g. for monitoring the advancement of the NAP process.
- In component 2, “NAP teams” are mentioned. Germany recommends describing in more detail to whom this denomination exactly refers, i.e. whether NAP teams are nominated by the project or by the country, and how these teams will be supported beyond the participation in trainings.
- Component 2 also mentions making use of existing tools, methods and guidance thus far developed for non-LDCs in partnership with other agencies and organizations. Germany strongly welcomes the use of already existing methods, which will save time and resources. Several guidelines and tools exist that could be used for such analyses after being adjusted to the country context, such as the “Stocktaking for National Adaptation Planning (SNAP)” or “Aligning National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes with development and budget planning” developed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Germany further recommends outlining in more detail the mechanism by which the contributions from other agencies and organizations will be sought.
- Germany strongly welcomes the envisaged cooperation with the Adaptation Committee and recommends that the project specifically cooperates on support issues

related to NAPs (finance, technology and capacity building). This cooperation should not only seek input from the Adaptation Committee (AC) but also provide input to the AC, as well as use it as a vehicle for better outreach and dissemination.

- Section A.2. on stakeholders provides insights into the work with other agencies and organizations. It does not mention working with bilateral agencies. Often, bilateral agencies have programmes directly working with relevant ministries. Germany therefore recommends that the project takes into account these work relations and ensures that the results from the different working packages are implemented in the long-run.

2. Regional (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) - Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector – FAO - GEF ID = 5667

✓ Germany's Comments

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

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

The proposed project aims to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts in the fisheries sector of seven countries in the Eastern Caribbean. Germany welcomes the key interventions of introducing adaptation measures to fisheries management, as well as capacity building activities targeting fisherfolk and aquaculturists. Germany suggests the following adjustments:

- In line with STAP, Germany recommends specifying the relationships between the proposed SCCF project and the baseline projects, as well as clarifying the relationship between the proposed project and the activities to be undertaken under the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) for Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (STAP review, paragraph 2).
- Regarding other relevant initiatives, it might be useful to contact the projects (1) “Blue Solutions - Implementing the CBD Strategic Plan in the field of marine and coastal biodiversity,” the implementation of which is assisted by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), and (2) “Enhancing the Adaptive Capacity of Rural Economies and Natural Resources to Climate Change” (the implementation is assisted by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)).

3. Regional (El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico) - Building Climate Resilience of Urban Systems through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Latin America and the Caribbean – UNEP - GEF ID = 5681

✓ **Germany's Comments**

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

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

Germany welcomes the proposed project and its ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approach in an urban context, targeting vulnerable urban communities in three medium-sized Latin American and Caribbean cities. We support the comments made by the STAP, in particular the definition of explicit indicators for each adaptation benefit (STAP review, paragraph 1). Germany would like to add the following comments:

- The proposed project sets as its objective to increase the climate change resilience of “vulnerable urban communities”. In relation to this target group, the PIF notes that the SCCF project will "...increase the climate resilience of vulnerable, marginalised population in urban areas. Slum dwellers, people renting accommodation in low-income neighbourhoods, women and female-headed households, people who depend on urban agriculture, recent migrants and daily wage labourers are among the target beneficiaries for this project ...". We very much appreciate this, yet in our view this focus should be more strongly reflected in the conceptualization of the approach. We therefore recommend clarifying in the final project document how the proposed project will ensure that the interventions will actually benefit the vulnerable/poor urban population in the pilot cities.
- With regard to ownership, it remains somewhat unclear to what extent actual demand for the EbA approach exists on the part of the pilot cities' local governments. The PIF recognizes the risk (“Resistance of local governments to adopt urban EbA instead of hard engineering interventions”) and rates it as “high”, yet the proposed mitigation measures do not seem sufficient for addressing the risk. In order to further mitigate the risk from the very beginning, we would recommend closely involving and consulting the pilot cities' local governments (as soon as the cities are chosen) in the process of designing the final project document.
- In addition to the relevant projects mentioned in the PIF, it might be useful to identify possible synergies with the following initiatives: (1) “Planning of Coastal Areas and Sustainable Development in Central America”, (the implementation is assisted by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)), and (2) “NAMA Program Mexico” (the implementation is assisted by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)).

4. Belize - Energy Resilience for Climate Adaptation – IBRD - GEF ID = 5687

✓ 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:

The proposed project concept aims at increasing the resilience of the energy sector in Belize. Germany welcomes the objectives, as the energy sector is very important for further economic development despite the impacts climate change may have on the country. Germany further welcomes that the project is in line with the National Climate Resilience Investment Plan (NCRIP) and builds on the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CRIP) funded by IBRD. However, Germany would like to make some suggestions to strengthen the concept:

- Component 1 should include a capacity needs (self-)assessment in order to identify the capacity and knowledge gaps in the Government of Belize (GoB) and its technical implementation agencies. The assessment should be further developed into a Capacity Building Strategy to avoid capacity substitution by the project as a result of too many externally delivered outputs. In addition, this component should outline in more detail how the vulnerabilities and adaptation challenges will be analysed. No-regret adaptation measures should be emphasized.
- Germany enthusiastically welcomes that implementation of adaptation measures will be underscored and enforced by introducing necessary regulatory requirements under Component 2. To further improve this Component, Germany recommends outlining in more detail the relation of the “bio-energy policy” to other existing policy and defining the target group of the demonstration of engineering techniques.
- The concept should explain the current and future role of the private sector in (resilient) energy production.
- The knowledge sharing activities described in Component 3, should be accompanied by and build on a well conceptualized framework, but simply to manage Adaptation Monitoring & Evaluation System.

5. Bosnia-Herzegovina - Technology Transfer for Climate Resilient Flood Management in Vrbas River Basin – UNDP - GEF ID = 5604

✓ 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:

The general reasoning for the project seems to be well based, particularly in the light of flooding being the most damaging climate change impact in the Vrbas River Basin. Germany is pleased to see technology transfer being incorporated as part of the proposed flood risk management activities. We do agree with the observations and support the suggestions made by the STAP.

- In particular, we recommend including a description of the current early warning system (STAP review, paragraph 1) and strengthening the efforts to integrate the national, regional, and local scale issues (STAP review, paragraph 10). Related to the latter issue and in order to ensure effective inter-institutional cooperation, it would be important to define the roles and responsibilities of the different institutions more clearly. We recommend specifying in the final project document the respective roles and responsibilities on the partner side, and also how the different institutions will be supported.
- In our view, the role of hydropower stations in flood protection should be emphasized more strongly. Hydropower companies must be enlisted right from the beginning, as any effective flood management will be difficult to achieve without them. The hydropower operators would need to put flood protection as their first priority. Also, the Sava River Commission (and to some extent the Danube Commission) should be involved closely in the project. As the work in Vrbas is important for the whole catchment area, the Commission should play a key role.
- As mentioned in the PIF, land-use planning is one of the key aspects in the project context. We therefore recommend ensuring that all the relevant institutions in this field, including those at the national level, are involved in the project. Buildings in flood prone areas that have been built illegally should receive particular consideration.
- While the focus on non-structural measures appears to be right, in specific cases also structural measures might be needed. The PIF notes that the existing flood protection structures are mostly in a poor state (item 69, p. 21). We therefore suggest considering whether and which of these structures could be rehabilitated.
- Regarding other relevant projects, we would like to note that in addition to the projects mentioned, it might be useful to take into account the results of the World Bank Project “Vrbas River Integrated Water-Energy Development Study”, <http://www.wb-vrbasstudy.com/about-project.html>, e.g. with regard to hydrological modelling.

6. Morocco - Increasing Productivity and Adaptive Capacities in Mountain Areas of Morocco (IPAC-MAM) – IFAD - GEF ID = 5685

✓ **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 and its objective to contribute to increased productivity in vulnerable regions of Morocco. However, the proposal lacks some important information. Therefore, Germany requests that the following suggestions are taken into account:

- The project components as described in Section B should be checked against the description of the component in the Project Overview (page 4), as there is some inconsistency between the two descriptions. In addition, it would be helpful to divide the additional cost reasoning into the three components.
- The additionality of the intervention compared to the baseline project should be outlined in more detail, as the baseline's objective is also stated as to "reduce the vulnerability of the rural population" and also refers to the same two intervention areas. Thus, it is not clear why the baseline project should remain a "business-as-usual" development project.
- Component 1 foresees the production of development plans for the intervention areas. Germany recommends explaining in detail how such plans relate to existing planning procedures and structures and where new mechanisms have to be established. It should be further outlined how financing of the planned activities is ensured and implementation is monitored. In addition, it should be outlined which stakeholders are responsible for such planning activities. So far, no planning or decentralized agency is mentioned among the key stakeholders.
- The selection of value chains that will undergo a climate proofing as part of Component 3 should be explained. The same Component includes the installation of weather stations. Germany suggests describing how the produced information is suited to the ability of the end-users to interpret and utilize the data, and how this generated information is related to the baseline vulnerability assessments to be conducted in Component 1.
- Germany welcomes that several agencies were cooperating in the conceptualization of the proposed intervention, such as the Adaptation to climate change - implementation Nagoya Protocol (ACCN). ACCN and IPAC-MAM planned to be represented in each other's steering committees. This commitment will be

advantageous as both projects complemented each other very well and will benefit from synergies. Therefore this should also be mentioned under section A.4.

7. Pakistan - Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation through Water Resource Management in Leather Industrial Zone Development – UNIDO - GEF ID = 5666

✓ 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 PIF and appreciates the aim of increasing the resilience of the leather industry in Pakistan's Sialkot District, as it is an important economic driver. However, Germany would like to make some suggestions to strengthen the PIF:

- We suggest including a more detailed description of the “strategic development plan for Sialkot” that is developed by the baseline project and that should be climate mainstreamed by the proposed project. The description should include the involved entities, a short outline of the policy cycle, the corresponding entry points for integrating adaptation to climate change into the document, and whether the plan is already being implemented.
- Although the PIF describes that a detailed vulnerability assessment will be conducted during the PPG phase, Germany fully supports the comments made by the STAP stating that the proposed adaptation measures should be based on a more solid basis of climate sensitivities and projections, which is currently still lacking.
- We recommend including “climate proofing” as a methodology for ensuring that the large investments made by the baseline project are a sustainable contribution to economic development in the long-run.

MULTI-FOCAL AREA

8. Haiti - Ecosystem Approach to Haiti Cote Sud – UNEP - GEF ID = 5531

✓ Germany's Comments

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

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

Germany welcomes the proposed project and its aim of promoting climate resilience and sustainable management of ecosystem services in the southern region of Haiti. We are particularly pleased to see that the PIF incorporates mitigation actions. With a view to further improving the proposed project, we share the observations made by the STAP and recommend taking its suggestions into account while drafting the final project document. In particular, we recommend analysing in more detail which population groups are most vulnerable to climate risks in the project communities and how interactions between the population and ecosystems affect adaptation to climate change (STAP review, paragraph 2; see also our comments on gender aspects further below). Furthermore, Germany recommends the following:

- It should be specified how the proposed project will complement and build on the Cote Sud Initiative (see STAP review, paragraph 7).
- Regarding gender aspects, the PIF notes that the proposed activities targeting men's and women's livelihoods will be pursued differentially in order to benefit both, and also to be able to address gender-specific vulnerabilities. In addition we would encourage identifying gender-specific potentials that may be used in the project context. In order to determine these potentials, as well as to further specify the vulnerabilities and the possibly gender-differentiated ways livelihoods are affected by climate change, we would recommend conducting a comprehensive target group and gender analysis. The analysis should then form a basis for an assessment on whether and how gender equality can best be promoted in the project context.

The project proposal addresses highly relevant and important issues for the sustainable management of natural resources in Haiti and for issues of adaptation to climate and environmental change. Germany makes the following suggestions for improvement:

- From our perspective, the project should put stronger emphasis on the relevance of ecosystem services and biodiversity for development, particularly with regard to linkages and trade-offs with existing and planned development activities (e.g. energy, infrastructure, agriculture, etc.).
It should put an emphasis on assessing ecosystem services and integrating them accordingly into development planning.
It should consider "trade-offs" between different (economic) activities and their dependence and impact on ecosystem services.
- Vulnerability plays a central role in the PIF. From our perspective, the project needs to be based on thorough vulnerability analysis which in many cases does not yet exist in Haiti, particularly for rural and remote areas. The project should therefore consider applying (established) methods of vulnerability analysis with regard to climate change, ecosystem management and protected area (e.g., using the MARISCO methodology: <http://www.giz.de/expertise/downloads/giz2013-en-biodiv-marisco.pdf>).

- There is currently a German-supported cooperation project being prepared to support the Haitian Ministry of Environment regarding the “La Selle” Biosphere reserve (ecosystem-based adaptation and cross-border approach resource management with the Dom. Republic). As far as possible, links and an exchange should be established with this initiative (and previous initiatives like the integrated watershed management programme in the Artibonite-region and the disaster-preventive reconstruction and livelihood stabilisation project).