



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

COMPILATION OF COMMENTS
SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
ON THE
JOINT LDCE/SCCF
OCTOBER 2014 WORK PROGRAM

NOTE: This document is a compilation of comments submitted to the Secretariat by Council members concerning the project proposals presented in the LDCE/SCCF Work Program approved by the Council in October 2014.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Chile: Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector - FAO - GEF ID = 6955

✓ 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 proposal:

- Germany welcomes that the PIF aims to strengthen adaptive capacity to climate change in the Chilean fisheries and aquaculture sector. Furthermore, we appreciate that the selection of pilot sites under component 2 builds upon the “National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change on Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector” (NAP-FAS). Germany offers the following suggestions:
 - The selection of pilot sites could also benefit from more detailed information on vulnerabilities at community level. Germany thus recommends conducting sector-specific vulnerability analyses in the selected communities in order to identify appropriate adaptation options for the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
 - The PIF mentions that “[a] monitoring and performance evaluation system will be designed and implemented at all seven local [pilot] communities”. As no further information is provided in this respect, Germany kindly asks to provide more details on the scope of the envisaged monitoring and evaluation system. In addition, we suggest repeating vulnerability assessments (see comment 1) after the implementation of the pilot adaptation measures to generate valuable information on outcomes and effectiveness of the interventions.
 - Germany notes with appreciation that it is foreseen to use the experiences from the pilot applications to inform the implementation of the NAP-FAS and to scale-up adaptation measures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Yet, it remains somewhat unclear how knowledge management and outreach activities will be coordinated and implemented. Germany thus suggests providing more information on how relevant learnings will be systematically gathered and disseminated at national level.
 - Germany appreciates that the PIF draws on findings from IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report regarding climate change impacts in the South Pacific. However, it is recommended to update this information according to IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report, which has recently been published.

✓ USA's Comments

- The United States welcomes this project concept. We recognize that strengthening the resilience of fisheries and the aquaculture sector to climate change is of crucial importance to Chilean coastal communities. As the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) prepares the final project document for CEO endorsement, we request that it provide more information on:
 - The projected impacts from climate change on fisheries and the aquaculture sector in Chile, drawing from updated information in the recently released IPCC Fifth Assessment Report instead of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report which was used in the Project Identification Form (PIF);
 - The structure and development of the proposed *Task Force on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector* (TACC_F&A), including the expected membership of TACC_F&A beyond the coordinators of the local task forces in charge of the seven pilot projects; and,
 - A description of the national climate change monitoring program mentioned in Component 1.
- In addition, we expect that FAO in the development of its full proposal will:
 - Expand on how local and indigenous knowledge will be incorporated into the project;
 - Provide more information on how beneficiaries, including women, have been involved in the development of the project proposal and will benefit from this project; and,
 - Expand on how the implementing agency and its partners will ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation education for decision-makers at the national and local level.

2. Costa Rica: Strengthening Capacities of Rural Aqueduct Associations' (ASADAS) to Address Climate Change Risks in Water Stressed Communities of Northern Costa Rica - UNDP - GEF ID = 6945

✓ 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 proposal:

- Germany appreciates that the PIF refers to the currently developed Third National Communication to the UNFCCC. Nevertheless, the proposal does not make any reference to the national development plan (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2015-2018), which prioritises adaptation in the water sector, nor to the newly established national Adaptation Fund. Furthermore, the national climate change secretariat seems to be unaware of the project proposal. Germany therefore asks to consider these highly relevant national policy processes as well as to coordinate the proposal with the national climate change secretariat and with the new leadership of the MINAE.

- Germany appreciates that the project aims to establish financial incentives and builds upon the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programme FONAFIFO. We believe it is very important to work on the demand side of water use since Ecosystem-based Adaptation approaches alone are unlikely to resolve the projected water scarcity. Germany therefore welcomes the investments in metering systems and recommends that the project further promotes water saving and water efficiency measures.
- Germany welcomes the significant amount of co-funding from government agencies. Part C of the PIF also lists a grant from GIZ over USD 5,000,000 for the Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM). However, this project and the stated amount are determined for eight countries in the region and therefore cannot be fully attributed to activities in Costa Rica. Germany therefore requests to correct the stated co-funding accordingly to approximately USD 500,000 (i.e. 10% of the previous amount).
- Similar projects on ecosystem-based adaptation and water funded by Germany are currently being implemented in Costa Rica and the region and could provide valuable experiences and lessons learned. Germany therefore recommends integrating knowledge generated in these initiatives in the design and implementation of the project.

✓ *USA's Comments*

- The United States welcomes this project concept on building climate change adaptive capacity into water management policy in Costa Rica. We request the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as it prepares the final project document for CEO endorsement, to:
 - Clarify how it plans to promote coordination between relevant stakeholders and national and local governments, throughout the development and implementation of this project; and,
 - Explain the role of the Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Indices outlined in paragraph 12. Please provide greater detail on how these indicators will be collected and used during the implementation of the project.
- In addition, we expect that UNDP in the development of its full proposal will:
 - Provide more information on how beneficiaries, including women, have been involved in the development of the project proposal and will benefit from this project;
 - Expand on how the implementing agency and its partners will ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation education for decision makers at the national and local level; and,
 - Clarify how the implementing agency and its partners will communicate results, lessons learned and best practices identified throughout the project to the various stakeholders both during and after the project.

3. Egypt: Integrated Management and Innovation in Rural Settlements - IFAD - GEF ID = 6927

✓ 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 how the proposal builds on findings and key recommendations of the first and Second National Communications to the UNFCCC and addresses the concerns and strategies outlined in the National Strategy for Agricultural Development (SADS). However, the proposal is lacking a clear focus as it seeks to address a variety different aspects at the same time, e.g. enterprise development, rural development, farm management and natural resources management. In addition, it is unclear from the proposal how the three project components, ranging from strategic planning to accessible energy, are connected to each other. From this perspective, the current proposal may appear overambitious and does not present a coherently structured way to bring about the intended changes in this complex environment. Germany therefore asks to clarify the focus of the proposal and to structure it more clearly and thus present a coherent approach to achieving the intended outcomes under the given budget. Furthermore, Germany would like to refer to the STAP report which recommends significant improvements to the project design.
- Whilst Germany appreciates taking an integrative approach to addressing sustainable development and climate change as well as considering the water-energy nexus, parts of the proposal seem not to be directly related to adaptation to climate change. For example, the proposal states that the “SCCF project would assist farmer associations in scaling-up marketing ventures on behalf of its members to increase their links with markets and involve them in new enterprises”. Germany therefore requests that the proposal specifies how each of its components contribute to adaptation to climate change in order to align with the objectives of the SCCF-A.
- Germany appreciates the intention to mainstream climate change considerations into policies and planning. Whilst the proposal mentions “adaptive strategic planning” several times, it is not clear how climate change would be integrated into what policy and which planning processes. Germany therefore asks to provide further details on how and which planning processes shall be made “adaptive”.
- Some of the reclaimed areas are lacking basic infrastructure and access to service provision including sanitation. Increasing water availability for agriculture might therefore jeopardise other development objectives, e.g. improved human health through an increase of sanitation in rural areas. Given the intense water stresses described in the proposal, Germany asks to take these diverse needs for water (agriculture, human use etc.) into account.

✓ USA's Comments

- The United States understands the need to incorporate resilience to climate change into resettlement activities in Egypt. However, due to the structure of the PIF, we find it difficult to fully distinguish between actions taken as a part of the baseline project and the additional actions taken under the alternative scenario with SCCF funding. We highly encourage the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to incorporate the guidance of the Science and Technology Advisory Panel into its final project document. In addition, with a view toward strengthening the final project document before CEO endorsement, we urge IFAD to:
 - Provide clear descriptions of each component of the project and list specific actions taken under each component to improve the climate resilience of the communities, including outlining specific indicators to be used to measure progress;
 - Expand on how IFAD will ensure coordination with and participation by the Egyptian Authorities at the local and national levels, including how the project will integrate into current and planned climate and development policies; and,
 - Clarify how investments in low-carbon energy sources referred to in Component 2 will improve the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of the resettlement communities.
- In addition, we expect that IFAD in the development of its full proposal will:
 - Expand on how the implementing agency and its partners will ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation education for decision-makers at the national and local level; and,
 - Engage local stakeholders, including community-based organizations and environmental non-governmental organizations, in both the development and implementation of the program.

4. Morocco: Enhancing the climate resilience of the Moroccan ports sector - EBRD - GEF ID = 6951

✓ 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 proposal:

- Germany welcomes the coherent project structure outlined in the PIF and in particular appreciates how the described project addresses the important problem of climate change impacts on coastal infrastructure. The components are well outlined and provide clear perspectives on the intentions of this project. Germany very much appreciates the project's intent to not only consider adaptation, but also monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures for continuous feedback and improvements. Germany offers the following suggestions:

- Germany suggests that GEF's contribution through the SCCF will at least partly be moved to component 1, as this component portrays more features directly relevant to the SCCF's objectives; adaptive capacity development and technology transfers rather than structural development.
- Germany highly recommends considering not only structural adaptation measures under component 2 (further outlined in Annex A), but also measures that strengthen institutional capacities such as Early Warning Systems and emergency plans. Enhanced support for institutional capacities could contribute to the development of an overall Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategy. This would constitute a potential point for upscaling, moreover since this is also highlighted in the PIF as a barrier to climate resilience.

✓ **USA's Comments**

- The United States welcomes this innovative project concept addressing the Moroccan port sector. We recognize the significance of building the resilience of such an economically significant sector in all countries. We request that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), as it prepares the final project document for CEO endorsement, to:
 - Consider how the pilot investments in the 2 to 3 ports selected under Component 2 may catalyze, particularly within the private sector, broader adoption of climate resilience measures at other ports; and,
 - Provide more information on how EBRD plans to promote coordination between the National Port Authority (ANP), Moroccan Government Ministries and multiple key stakeholders.
- In addition, we expect that EBRD in the development of its full proposal will:
 - Provide more information on how beneficiaries, including women, have been involved in the development of the project proposal and will benefit from this project;
 - Engage local stakeholders, including community-based organizations and environmental non-governmental organizations in both the development and implementation of the program;
 - Expand on how the implementing agency and its partners will ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation education for decision-makers at the national and local level; and,
 - Clarify on how the implementing agency and its partners will communicate results, lessons learned and best practices identified throughout the project to the various stakeholders both during and after the project.

5. Tanzania: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience - UNEP - GEF ID = 5695

✓ *No comments were received for this project.*

6. Turkmenistan: Supporting Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Agricultural Communities in Drought-prone Areas - UNDP- GEF ID = 6960

✓ 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 proposal:

- Germany highly welcomes that the PIF includes pilot applications of no-regret adaptation measures in remote rural areas targeting water-efficient agricultural practices (component 1). However, some of the proposed measures such as “supplying smallholders with drip irrigation kits and small tunnels for self-installation” seem to require complementary awareness raising activities and user trainings in order to be successful. Moreover, the sustainability of these technologies critically depends on the availability of maintenance services after the installation. Germany therefore suggests including more detailed information on how the uptake and sustainability of the technology-based adaptation measures will be ensured.
- The PIF mentions that the immediate replication potential of the pilot applications comprises “at least half a million people in other remote areas as well as in some of the other agricultural areas”. This number seems rather optimistic, given that no explicit replication strategy is outlined how to realise this potential. In particular, it remains somewhat unclear how the lessons learnt from the pilot applications will be systematically gathered and disseminated, which represents an important prerequisite for successful replication. Against this backdrop, Germany suggests strengthening the knowledge management activities under component 1 and describing how the stated replication potential could be realised.
- Germany appreciates that the PIF foresees taking into account lessons from the German-supported “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme”, implemented by GIZ. We would like to emphasise the importance of close collaboration with this programme before it finishes in December 2014, in order to make use of relevant learnings.

✓ USA's Comments

- The LDCF/SCCF Council Member representing the United States of America, in light of United States policies for certain development projects, abstains from participating in the decision on the following project: “*Supporting climate resilient livelihoods in agriculture communities in drought-prone areas of Turkmenistan.*”

7. Vietnam: Promoting Climate Resilience in Viet Nam Cities - ADB - GEF ID = 6924

✓ 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 proposal:

- Germany supports this project but kindly requests further elaboration on the establishment of target cities under the ICCIM. Germany would appreciate some clarification on this matter as according to the proposal, the focus is only on cities under the ICCIM and SCDP Green Cities in the initial phase. Moreover, only the upscaling phase in cities with less adaptive capacity will be targeted since the cities with less adaptive capacity are usually the most vulnerable and thus need the most assistance in establishing adaptation mechanisms. Germany offers the following suggestion:
 - Germany suggests that the project aligns with some of the work of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) which is already mentioned as a development partner in this project. Germany suggests that the project encompasses activities on flood-proofing building on GIZ's efforts to make cities more resilient within the "Flood Proofing and Drainage for medium-sized coastal cities in Viet Nam Programme".
 - As the region most affected by climate change in Viet Nam is the Mekong Delta, Mekong Delta cities should receive special attention within the PIF. The activities in the Mekong delta should be aligned with GIZ's "Integrated Coastal Management Programme".

✓ *USA's Comments*

- The United States welcomes this project concept and appreciates the Asian Development Bank's (AsDB) aim to support Vietnam's local leaders in taking action to promote climate resilience in their communities. We laud Vietnam's efforts to mainstream adaptation into national and local level policies. As AsDB prepares the final project document for CEO endorsement, we would like to request that it provide more information on:
 - How the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will work with other government ministries such as the Ministry of Construction in its role as the government focal point in Component 1;
 - How local knowledge will be incorporated and utilized in each of the project's components; and,
 - The economic, environmental, and social connections between urban and rural areas as they relate to the project and its outcomes.
- In addition, we expect that AsDB in the development of its full proposal will:
 - Provide more information on how beneficiaries, including women, have been involved in the development of the project proposal and will benefit from this project;
 - Engage local stakeholders, including community-based organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations and the private sector in both the development and implementation of the program; and,
 - Expand on how the implementing agency and its partners will ensure the sustainability of climate change adaptation education for decision-makers at the national and local level.