



Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Coastal Resources and Communities

Country / Region: **Samoa** | Project Id: **XPCRWS053A** | Fund Name: **PPCR** |

Comment Type	Commenter Name	Commenter Profile	Comment	Date
Comment 1	Annette Windmeisser	Germany/Spain	<p>The Samoan government have already made good progress in mainstreaming climate change across various sectors of government, and the project proposed here recognises the important links between the PPCR and other major climate change programmes. The proposed project aims to strengthen the resilience of Samoa's coastal communities to climate change impacts, using an integrated approach beyond mere community infrastructure plans. We have no major objections to the implementation of the project. We however would like to see our recommendations (see bold highlights below) incorporated during project implementation. Individual Comments on the Proposed Project We welcome that the project recognises ecosystem-based adaptation and ridge to reef approaches as important elements of holistic approaches to reducing vulnerability. From our view, this holistic approach could be further strengthened by focusing next to 'technical solutions' (ecosystem or infrastructure based) more on multi-faceted aspects of vulnerability, including ability to access information, inclusive decision making processes etc. This would ensure that adaptation responses addressing these 'softer' but equally important aspects of enhancing adaptive capacity are considered. This will perhaps eventuate as civil society organisations are a key delivery partner but at present this does not come out strongly in the document. We recommend taking the above mentioned aspects of vulnerability (ability to access information, inclusive decision making processes) into account during project implementation, as appropriate. There is a strong link between Component 2 (Strengthened Climate Information Services) and Component 1 (Implementation of Priority Adaptation Measures to Manage Climate and Disaster-related Threats) in terms of using the information to inform the design of adaptation measures. We believe this could be brought out more clearly in the proposal. It will be important to consider sequencing of measures in both components appropriately to ensure that adaptation measures are informed by the best available information and communities' capacities are built to make well-informed decisions. From our view, it will also be essential to consider how communities (men, women, elders, youth, those with disabilities, children) access information currently and ensure that structures are put in place to address any existing barriers to accessing information. We recommend bringing out more strongly the existing link between Component 1 and 2 in a way that aims to exploit the existing potential for using the available climate information for effective adaptation decision-making. In Component 2, Sub-Component 2, more attention could be given to the resources that will need to be dedicated to information and knowledge management (e.g. the development and management of databases to ensure data and information is stored appropriately, the ability to understand user needs to ensure data and information is made available in appropriate formats etc.). Some of this is already implied in the proposal but it will be important to dedicate appropriate resourcing to these components. We therefore recommend exploring possibilities to dedicate resources to information and knowledge management as part of the additional resources proposed to be dedicated to Component 2, Sub-Component 2. In general, a strong alignment with existing community governance structures and planning processes is recommended to ensure that plans are owned by the communities. With regard to coordination with other relevant activities, it is good to see that support (Component 3) is foreseen for enhanced coordination across government in managing climate change and disaster risk management projects. We also welcome the expectation that the Program Coordination Unit could be expanded to play a larger role in this space. It would be useful to have those discussions early during implementation to avoid duplication of structures and perhaps increase the ambition to ensure that this happens. We therefore recommend (1) taking into account existing community governance structures and planning processes and (2) starting the activities aiming for enhanced coordination across government early on during project</p>	Sep 30, 2013



implementation. Given that a social science specialist is not foreseen as part of the expertise being hired for the project, it would be useful to include in the terms of reference of all the positions, and perhaps in criteria for selection, that social science expertise should be an important skill set for the positions. We therefore recommend considering social science as an essential skill for hiring expertise for the project. Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues - Participation and Learning-In the monitoring and evaluation aspects the link between community level tracking of resilience and national level reporting is mentioned. We consider this an area that warrants specific attention when planning the community level participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks. Lessons could be drawn on from Vanuatu where consortia of NGOs (led by Oxfam) have supported communities to develop a 'Framework of Resilience' with a number of key pillars which the government are considering using in their national M&E frameworks. See link for more details http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/learning_in_vanuatu_labau.pdf.

Gender - We appreciate that a gender analysis has been conducted to enable gender-sensitive project design. However, we feel that some of the findings may not have been translated to the indicators of the proposal. In the indicators of beneficiaries a target of 45,000 people (30% being women) is given. Given that women make up around 50% of the population, and as many of the projects will be civil society organisations focussed and are likely to involve women's groups, this target should be at least 50%. We therefore recommend raising the target of female project beneficiaries to at least 50 %.

Comment 2	Anna Bobin	United Kingdom	The UK welcomes this project, which we are content to endorse subject to the concerns raised on involuntary resettlement being better addressed. We have the following comments: 'A strength is that the project supports national priorities for example, the Government of Samoa's Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2012-2016, which focuses on strengthening economic resilience and encouraging inclusive growth.' We are concerned about the references in the project to involuntary resettlement and would like to see more details on this in the project document, why it is considered necessary, what the likelihood is, and a thorough assessment of what the risks and social and political implications are. At a minimum we would expect to see this issue included in the risk assessment and mitigating actions spelt out. We welcome the strong focus on lesson learning, with lessons drawn from a variety of other projects and initiatives as well as a recent evaluation of World Bank experience. Pleased that a gender impact assessment has been carried out and that a gender monitoring framework has been developed and will be used to track the gender impact of the project. Some indicators have also been disaggregated by gender. We also welcome the focus on community engagement which will no doubt contribute to the sustainability of the project. We would like clarification as to how the indicators will be measured, for example, it is not clear from the results framework exactly how the number of direct beneficiaries will be measured. The project appears well-coordinated with other programmes/ implementing partners.	Sep 27, 2013
Comment 3	Elizabeth Lien	United States	Colleagues, We appreciate the work that has gone into this proposal and support it moving forward. We especially appreciate the focus on participatory prioritization that integrates stakeholder engagement and experiences into a centralized planning process. The overall scope of the proposal is good and we appreciate that it incorporates needs identified from Cyclone Evan last year as well as priorities addressed over a longer term. We would like more detail on the results monitoring and evaluation section (page 14)—specifically more about what the PCU will measure and how it will be measured, and how this data will be used to assess ongoing efforts. It is unclear how the following indicator's results measures will be measured. Please clarify how the evaluation will occur and the non-qualitative measures used: Evidence of strengthened government capacity and coordination mechanism to mainstream climate resilience. Thanks, Elizabeth Lien	Sep 30, 2013
Comment 4	Kate Sangster	Australia	Dear Andrea, Thank you for your prompt reply and for the clarification. We acknowledge that the project has been approved and appreciate the offer of feedback on our comments despite missing the deadline. In particular, as my colleague Karen Lummis outlined in her email, we are interested in the justification for the use of LiDAR across Samoa, considering its expense and the possibility of raising expectations in other Pacific states. Kind regards, Kate Sangster	Oct 04, 2013