



German regional technical cooperation program

COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND REGION (CCCPİR)

Background

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are among the countries most vulnerable to climate change globally. The limited land area in some countries and low profile of atolls (many less than 3 meters above sea level) exacerbate the vulnerability of these locations, and capacities and resources to cope with the adverse effects of climate change are limited. Changing rainfall patterns, increased drought periods, increased cyclone intensity and rising sea level are likely to affect all communities and key economic sectors like agriculture, fisheries and tourism. Ensuring the energy supply in a sustainable manner with special focus on enhancing renewable energy is another critical issue for PICs to develop their fragile economies. Addressing climate change issues through adaptation and mitigation measures is a high priority of many PICs as expressed recently in the Copenhagen climate change negotiations.

In this context, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has extended its commitment to support Pacific Island Countries to cope with the effects of climate change. It has allocated another 10 Mio. € to the already ongoing SPC/GTZ regional program “Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region” extending the overall financial envelope to 14.2 Mio. €.

Current German support

Since January 2009, BMZ supports a regional program of technical cooperation on adaptation to climate change, implemented by GTZ together with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The program assists the partner governments in Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji and the regional organization SPC in their efforts to integrate climate change into their advisory services, strategies and policies related to agriculture, forestry and land use planning and their subsequent implementation.

With the support of the program, **SPC** develops its climate change expertise and integrates climate change adaptation into its advisory services with member countries. The support has a significant outreach to the whole region, for instance through a regional media training or through SPC’s homepage and networks. The regional component is a critical element for long term sustainable development especially given the limited human and financial resources in SPC’s member countries.



At national level, the technical cooperation supports concrete adaptation activities. In **Tonga**, with support from the program, climate change concerns have been mainstreamed into the new forest policy which was approved by the cabinet in late 2009. Climate-sensitive land use planning is introduced in pilot communities. The development of a national climate change database and a national adaptation strategy for land based natural resources is underway in Tonga, Fiji and Vanuatu. In **Fiji**, the program supports the development of REDD approaches (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). A first step was to develop a REDD policy with a wide range of stakeholders. The cabinet has approved the results and endorsed the process to fully develop REDD options for the country. In **Vanuatu**, pilot sites for pilot projects on adaptation to climate change have been identified with implementation to be commencing shortly. The process for developing a national adaptation strategy as well as a climate change database has started.

Status of extending the German support

On the occasion of an invitation of all independent Pacific Island Countries PICs to the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) in Berlin in December 2010, the extension of the program was officially announced by BMZ.

A GTZ appraisal mission took place in March 2010 investigating the options for extending the program regionally and thematically and discussing with delegations from all relevant regional organizations and the 12 independent PICs (Federate States of Micronesia, Republic of the Fiji Islands, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and the Republic of Vanuatu. The overall findings of the mission were approved by BMZ in late April, and the exchange of notes is scheduled to take place in June 2010.

The **multilevel approach** working at regional, national and local level will be continued. As a result of the institutional analysis it was proposed that the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (**SPC**) continues to be the implementing agency and main executing agency, incorporating SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environment Program) and other regional organizations into the program by cooperation agreements.

All 12 independent member states will be part of the extended program with components being implemented in every country at national and local level. The regional coverage should not be uniform across the countries or with predetermined budget allocations but rather demand driven and according to the priorities set by the countries themselves and coordinated with the actions and initiatives of other donors. Partner institutions at the national level will be relevant climate change coordinating bodies and units and relevant ministries. At sub-national level provincial and community public entities as well as NGOs



will be partners for project implementation. For the tourism component partners will include the business organizations of the tourism industry as well as tourism operators.

Widening the thematic scope and considering different institutional partners and beneficiaries have led to distinguish six different project **components**:

- (1) Capacity Development at Regional Level;
- (2) Mainstreaming and Developing Adaptation Strategies;
- (3) Implementing Adaptation Measures (Natural Resources) at National and Community Level;
- (4) Sustainable Tourism and Climate Change;
- (5) Sustainable Energy Management and;
- (6) REDD.

The following **priorities** were identified during the mission.

- Given the strong demand for adaptation across all countries, it is recommended that **each country** benefits from advice on adaptation mainstreaming and strategy development at policy level or implementation activities at national and community level related to land and marine based natural resources, whereas most of the **Small Island States** are likely to benefit from both.
- The tourism component will focus on the four main tourist destinations: **Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa** and potentially **Palau**
- The Energy Component intends to include mainly a limited number of small Island countries, among them **Tuvalu, Kiribati, Nauru, Vanuatu** and **Tonga**.
- REDD concentrates currently exclusively on **Fiji**.

In preparing and implementing the full program, the dialogue and negotiations with the partners will be continued to align the interventions to partner priorities and create maximum ownership and we invite the above mentioned PIC to stay engaged in this process.