

May 7, 2012

## Comments from Germany on the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience for the Caribbean Program – Regional Track

### General Comments

We would like to congratulate the *Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)* for presenting a very elaborate SPCR document.

Since the kick-off in late 2009 the Caribbean Regional Track has been developed in a way that in its actual stage the different components are addressing priority adaptation needs at the regional level. Its components are mostly complementary to the national approaches in the region's six PPCR-pilot countries (Annex 4 being a good example for comparing national SPCR approaches with the action lines of the regional SPCR).

We also welcome the care taken to avoid duplication of efforts with regards to other initiatives like for instance the EU-CARIFORUM *Global Climate Change Adaptation Initiative*. Furthermore, the views and most important stakeholders at the regional level seem to have been incorporated in the design of the regional program.

However, there is a strong need to work out the relationship with the national programs and national government entities at least in the pilot countries in greater detail. Facing the biggest challenge – the replication of PPCR-initiatives in non-PPCR-pilot-countries – would, if done properly, even require efforts to analyze the national programs of these non-PPCR-pilot-countries and their capacity to incorporate the PPCR experiences.

In summary, we have no major objections. However, we have some comments and suggestions (see **bold** highlights below) for the upcoming stages of implementing the regional track and the activities and studies carried out under the preparation grant.

The document gives a good overview of the development of adaptation policies and strategies in the region (page 8 f) and of the historic evolution of adaptation work in the region. The effort to show coherence with the *Implementation Plan of the Caribbean Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change* is acknowledged, although ongoing activities should be analyzed in a more detailed manner to assure an added value of the regional track. Also, **we consider it of utmost importance to define complementarities with national strategies and actions during the next stages of preparation.** In general, the regional track should concentrate its activities on dissemination of best practices/lessons learnt and their scaling up, and on designing and implementing regional capacity development and training programs.

Regarding the implications on natural ecosystems and the role of ecosystem services in strengthening the resilience of human development in the region, the document remains quite superficial. It might be worthwhile to pay more attention to the aspects of maintaining ecosystem functions and linking the data collection also to information available about the status of natural habitats and ecosystems. This is also important for component 4 on applied adaptation initiatives.

## Comments on Individual Components / Projects / Measures

### Component 1: Improving Geospatial Data and Management for Adaptation Planning, Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Impact Analysis

The sub-components are well chosen. However, at least training as well as knowledge/information sharing activities should not be limited to PPCR-pilot countries only but already be envisaged to be open for all Caribbean countries. The cooperation among the regional organisations is of utmost importance and needs more efforts than only defining their roles and competences (see sub-section f. on risk). **We would welcome a more specific analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of regional, sub-regional and national institutions to contribute to geospatial data and their management for planning during the next steps of designing this component.**

### Component 2: Consolidating and Expanding the Regional Climate Monitoring Network and Global Platform Linkages

In general this is a very crucial action line through which the regional track could add significant value. However, looking at the specific objectives and the expected outputs and outcomes of this component the investment costs are fairly low. **It would be recommendable to explain how this component will be linked to the other supporting initiatives** (such as the instance the EU-CARIFORUM Global Climate Change Adaptation Initiative), **and how it will help to build up a more comprehensive assessment on how to strengthen the performance of national and regional climate centres in the region.** The described “climate products and services for community, national and regional socio-economic sectors” should take into account the broader concept of ecosystem services.

### Component 3: Downscaling and Expanding Climate Projection Models and High Resolution Maps

The expected result of this component, i.e. to support the *Caribbean Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change* of the CCCCC, is highly welcomed. It should be born in mind that this support implies creating an added value for the whole region, **and we therefore recommend explaining in greater detail how benefits would be generated also for non-PPCR-pilot-countries in the region.**

### Component 4: Applied adaptation initiatives

The priority sectors (agriculture, marine ecosystems and water resources), which will be addressed by the proposed interventions, are well selected. However, this component requires a very close coordination with national efforts in the realm of the SPCRs to avoid duplication of efforts. The investment should incorporate more activities on disseminating and scaling up best practices and lessons learned. So far it remains unclear how knowledge management and scaling up will be operationally implemented. **During the upcoming work to further design this component, we would welcome to see a more detailed strategy on scaling up results and lessons learned in this field being elaborated, including more detailed planning on how the implementation of this strategy will be financed.**

## Program management and communication

Crucial aspects for the regional track will be the coordination with other regional initiatives and achieving complementarities with national SPCRs. The proposed governance arrangements in Annex 5 and the proposed coordination costs of 1.1 million US\$ (contrasting with only 0.22 million US\$ for communication in 4 years) still do not provide a fully

satisfactory clarification on how these challenges will be addressed. For instance, it remains unclear why only four countries are selected for the *Program Steering Committee (PSC)*, and what the criteria for rotating will be. The implementation of the SPCR should avoid creating new and parallel structures to existing coordination entities. Instead, it should be analysed how CCCCC and other regional institutions can be supported in implementing the existing strategies. **In this regard we recommend creating an overview on existing steering and advisory boards on adaptation policies in the region, and deliberating how synergies can be created with their functions. Once again, more emphasis is needed to elaborate a roll out strategy for non-PPCR-pilot-countries.**

## Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

### Participation

In order to ensure that concerns of vulnerable groups in the region are sufficiently considered, it should be guaranteed that they will be actively involved in shaping the components of the regional program. So far there is no explanation how this will be done, **and we recommend paying increased attention to this matter.**

### Gender

Until now the remarks on gender (as well as on vulnerable groups) measures are rather general and vague statements (see section 2.i of the Investment Plan). We highly welcome that gender issues and vulnerable groups will be addressed through a special study during the preparatory process for the investment plan (see preparation grant request). **We are looking forward to the results of this study and how its recommendations will be reflected within the SPCR's components later on.**

### Learning

Statements of intent to share knowledge and scale up activities can be found all over the program. However, so far the SPCR document provides little clarity about the envisaged knowledge management and scaling up processes. Since learning activities are a central pillar of the regional program and could be its key added value, **we recommend that issues of knowledge management and learning, and concrete steps for their implementation, should receive adequate attention during the next stages of further designing the components. We also recommend discussing at greater depth how existing mechanisms (like the *Clearinghouse Facility* of CCCCC) can be used or strengthened in this context.**

## Synergies with German Climate Change Related Engagement in the Country / Region

Recently, two German development cooperation project in the Caribbean region have been planned: *Management of coastal marine areas in the Caribbean* (approved in late 2011) and *Adaptation to climate change in the Caribbean for the protection of natural resources and diversification in agriculture and forestry* (approval planned during 2012). Both are regional projects, which were designed together with the CARICOM Secretariat, specialised regional organisations and national authorities of selected countries. So far, they have not been taken into account in the design of the SPCR. **We recommend considering these projects during the upcoming steps to design the components of the SPCR, and to identify and make use of potential synergies, particularly with regard to components 2 and 4 of the regional program.**