

April 8, 2011

**Comments from Canada on the Approval by mail: Proposal for funding of the
PPCR Phase 1 activities in Dominica**

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to share our comments on the draft proposal for Phase 1 activities in the Dominica with others, but note that the original mailing list was limited to the CIF Admin Unit, and we could not use the "reply to all" function. We would appreciate if the CIF Admin Unit could ensure that Canada's comments are forwarded to the appropriate contacts in the PPCR mailing list, especially other Sub-Committee members, and relevant staff at the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank.

We are pleased to see the development of the Phase One proposal by Dominica. It builds on a extensive amount of work within the country and across the region over the last 10 years.

Elements of the proposal point to what could be the development of a strong SPCR. Focusing on key sectors and efforts at capacity building and public awareness are important. The material on how the country team aims to go about conducting a risk mapping exercise is very innovative and will no doubt reinforce decision making. The specific intervention on conducting a "critical review" of the existing (2002) climate change adaptation policy is also an important exercise. Such a review process should in fact be expanded to the extensive work/programming that has been undertaken over the last 10 years. These include, but not limited to, the country level outcomes of the Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean (ACCC), Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC), Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) and the Special Pilot for Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC). Capturing the learning from these programs will be important to ensure that the PPCR is not starting from scratch, but truly playing an integrating role. The proposal also rightly points to the need to ensure that existing plans, in particular the "Organic Dominica" initiative, are considered and reflected in the development of the SPCR.

The integration of the Caribbean PPCR Regional Track program – physically within the actual Dominica proposal – points to important strong linkages between the Regional and the Country proposals. This is commendable.

Dominica has put forward an ambitious Phase One. Including a timeline in the document is helpful. Unfortunately there are conflicting dates/milestones within the document that should be corrected. More importantly, given the reliance on employing international and regional consultants (4) which clearly takes time to appoint, the country team should reconsider the feasibility of the current planning. The number of external consultants in and of itself should also be reconsidered.

There is little evidence of any consultation with NGOs, civil society and most importantly, the large indigenous peoples of the country. This is regretful, particularly as the proposal rightly notes that public consultation and incorporating indigenous knowledge are essential. As such, it should not be only an

outcome of this proposal, but it should have been an important consideration going into the development of the Phase One proposal.

Most discouraging of all, is that the proposal is gender blind. Of the 66 pages, there is only a reference to gender in one brief paragraph on page 28: *"It is worth noting that issues of gender, youth, children, poverty, and education, training and public awareness are recognised as being important."* To date, there has been extensive discussion and guidance on the imperative of ensuring that the PPCR integrates gender into its programs, both during the PPCR Sub-committee meetings, and in written comments on Phase 1 and 2 proposals. Without adequately mainstreaming gender in the program, the transformational objective of the PPCR will not be achieved. It is disappointing that the Dominica proposal has not benefitted from these discussions.

Therefore, while we do not object that this proposal should move forward, we would request that these concerns be addressed appropriately.

Regards,

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