

October 16, 2012

Comments from Germany on the Approval by Mail: PPCR Samoa: Enhancing Climate Resilience for West Coast Road Project (IBRD)

Dear colleagues,
please find enclosed our comments on the above named project.
Thank you very much
kind regards

Ina von Frantzius
Referentin / Policy Advisor

Comments on proposed project:

Samoa

ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR WEST COAST ROAD PROJECT

Summary

We would like to commend all involved parties for submitting a well prepared proposal. The proposed project is a temporary solution while the complex recommendation to move the West Coast Road further inland can be addressed. The West Coast Road is an important transportation link between the capital city, Apia, the Faleolo airport and the Mulifanua inter-island ferry wharf, which provides access to another important Samoan island, Savai'i. Running parallel to the coastline, this vital transportation link is susceptible to increased rainfall, resulting in flooding and damage to the road itself. Of particular importance is that on the eastern end, the water table is already high, resulting in direct damage to the road pavement and sub-surface as a result of high precipitation events. Given the strategic importance of the road for the country's economy, we fully support the objective of enhancing the resilience of the road network to climate change in Samoa. We do however have some questions and concerns regarding the projects indicators, which are too much input-oriented, and fail to measure whether the project is actually achieving its objectives, and whether it does make a measurable contribution to building climate resilience. We would like to suggest, that our recommendations (see **bold** highlights below) be incorporated during project implementation.

Individual Comments on the Proposed Project

There is little disclosure about the science or the assumptions used to assess how the hazards to the West Coast Road may be exacerbated by climate change and whether these road treatments are a match for the impacts expected due to climate change. There is mention of international standards, however no discussion to assess whether they are an improvement and if so, adequate for Samoa's needs. **We would appreciate the proposal being more explicit about the context.**

In the interest of sustainability and given the high dependency on the West Coast Road, **it would be beneficial for Samoa to also integrate adaptation efforts related to electricity distribution, telephone, and water services etc. that depend on the West Coast Road in some form for the delivery of their services.**

As for safety – visibility is a major safety consideration during rain events, whereby painted lines, reflecting surfaces, lighting would greatly improve drivability and safety.

Comments on Cross-Cutting Issues

Participation

The proposal does not mention the consultation with the local population regarding land acquisition, easements and impacts to residents. **Therefore we recommend including clarification on the participatory process and if not done, directly involving the local communities in the planning and implementation of the project.**

Gender

This is a rather conventional infrastructure investment project and it may be difficult to address gender aspects in such a project. However, in our view the project document does not yet elaborate sufficiently how (negative) impacts to women and young children due to the disruption of services during construction are identified and treated. **We therefore recommend that greater attention be paid to gender aspects and to ensure that the local women's organisations are consulted about plans affecting them. Also, identify with Ministry of Health the potential health and hygiene benefits to residents as a result of better drainage.**

We seriously doubt that disclosing information on land acquisition and resettlement via the *Land Transport Authority's* website will actually reach the majority of the concerned population, and **recommend using alternative channels of communication in addition.**

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

To strengthen the capacities of Samoa and other Pacific islands to better cope with the predicted effects of climate change, the *Secretariat of the Pacific Community* (SPC) in cooperation with Germany started a regional programme in January 2009. The programme is funded by the *German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development* (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. Since 2011, the programme is called *Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region* (SPC/GIZ CCCPIR), operating with an increased budget of 17.2 million € in 12 countries. The project proposal does acknowledge already the BMZ funded CCCPIR in the region. The programme is developing the national, overarching implementation strategy and plan for climate change adaptation in Samoa, in order to align the plans/frameworks and take advantage of synergies with other sectors. **As the proposed project aims to develop a national framework for the road network and adaptation to climate change, it would be beneficial to work together with CCCPIR-Samoa.**