

January 22, 2014

Comments from Spain and Germany—Approval by mail: Endorsement of concept note: Grenada: Additional financing to the Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Program (RDVRP)(PPCR) IBRD

There are **no** objections to the proposed project concept note from our point of view.

We have a few comments, however, which we would like to see considered during project preparation for the additional finance (see **bold** highlights below).

We understand that the former “Investment Project 2: Forest Rehabilitation” (as outlined in the SPCR) will now become part of the “Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project (RDVRP)”, which was approved in May 2011 by the PPCR Sub-Committee under the name “Disaster Vulnerability and Climate Risk Reduction Project in Grenada”, and which had been proposed in the SPCR as “Investment Project 1”. Already at the time of approval of the latter project, some of its key results (and indicators) were related to the forestry sector, without there being a component or activities, however, explicitly designed to deliver these results. (We had commented on this at the time of project approval in May 2011.) **As part of or accompanying the project proposal for the use of the additional financing, we would appreciate a rationale being provided for combining the previously separate investment projects 1 and 2 into one overall project.**

The project concept note mentions that the largest part of the additional financing (USD 8.2 million) would “would support reforestation activities that would reduce vulnerability to climate change through the restoration and preservation of valuable forest resource”, that parts of this amount would however “also support the development of hydrological assessments, design and construction of improved drainage and flood infrastructure in urban areas and river defense works”. The project concept note makes no statement about the relative proportions allocated to forest-related and construction works respectively. **Since the project concept note submitted outlines a forest rehabilitation project, we would expect the major share of the budget being allocated for forest-related investments.**

In our comments on the SPCR (of March 2011) as well as on the “Disaster Vulnerability and Climate Risk Reduction Project” (of May 2011) we pointed towards the importance of addressing gender issues in a results-oriented manner. **In the project proposal for the use of the additional financing, gender aspects should not only be discussed in the narrative, but should be explicitly addressed in the results framework and its indicators.**

Regarding synergies with climate change related engagement of Germany and other donors in the country, we would like to highlight that the German *Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety* (BMUB) is supporting Grenada with the development and implementation of a comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy through the “Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies” (ICCAS) project, which is jointly implemented by the *Environment Unit* of the *Grenadian Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries*

and the Environment, GIZ and UNDP. The project operates from 2013 to 2016. The activities a., e., g. and h. proposed for support by the additional finance under “Component 2: Regional Platforms for Hazard and Risk Evaluation...” at least partially overlap with activities planned under the ICCAS project, as follows:

a. Identification of all potential water sources in Grenada: The ICCAS project is already in the process of mapping all non-NAWASA (*National Water and Sewerage Authority*) water sources jointly with communities to ensure access to clean water in case of disasters.

e. Public education program on the importance of protecting and maintaining healthy watersheds: The ICCAS project is planning community education (particularly schools, youth) and public awareness programs etc., e.g. on water conservation and water resource use.

g. Select two watersheds for completing state of the environment (SOE) reports ...: The ICCAS project aims to develop drought and flooding plans for two to-be-selected key watersheds.

h. Review of water policy, recommendations and state of implementation: the ICCAS-Project provides specific support to the water sector in Grenada, with the review of the water policy according to climate change adaptation considerations being an important and integral part.

This short list very clearly demonstrates the need for close coordination with the ICCAS project, and we would expect such coordination to take place during the upcoming project preparation for the additional finance. For instance, the selection of priority watersheds needs to be complementary. In the absence of close coordination on the points listed above, duplication would be unavoidable, at a high cost to the small island nation of Grenada.