

EU-GIZ ACSE programme

1. Concept Note Cover Page

Country: Kingdom of Tonga

Location within the country: Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu

Concept focus:

Climate change adaptation

Project type:

Type 1 – 100,000 Euro maximum budget

Total requested budget: Euro 100,000

Duration of project: 36 Months

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Support for PDD development:

Yes, consultant(s) or organisation(s) to be engaged: To be inserted.....

No

Undecided

Concept Note

Project title:

Improve good governance for effective management, coordination, implementation and financing of climate change adaptation and disaster risk initiatives in Tonga

Background and Rationale

The Climate Change Division under the newly established *Ministry (Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Meteorology, Information and Communication, MEECCDMMIC)* manages, coordinates, and implements the majority of climate change adaptation projects in Tonga. As a result, there has been limited focus beyond MEECCDMMIC with respect to climate risk concerns in national and sector policy planning and budgetary processes or in the design and implementation of specific climate change projects across sector agencies. With the endorsement of Tonga's JNAP 2010-2015 and envisioned development of JNAP 2016-2020, there has been a stronger desire to stimulate a 'whole-of-country' approach in partnership with relevant national, regional, and international stakeholders, toward the implementation of climate change activities under Tonga's JNAP 2010-2015. These activities are to be mainstreamed, coordinated, and driven by the existing Climate Change Division staff, and the JNAP Task Force.

However, the current JNAP 2010-2015 programme is fast approaching the end of its timeframe, and the Climate Change Division is endeavouring to develop its successive programme JNAP Phase II 2016-2020, which is aimed at strengthening national capacities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change at the national, provincial and local/community levels. However, there is limited budget to meet even current priority development needs let alone the cost of adaptation and mitigation, and will necessitate an increase in efforts for accessing climate change finance through stronger partnerships with donors and development partners, and relevant stakeholders.

Given that there is a limited national budget for the implementation of Climate Change activities, and that activities are highly dependant on external sources of funding through piece-meal project-by-project approach. The Climate Change Division via the JNAP Secretariat has developed and established a national sustainable financing mechanism - National Climate Change Trust Fund. The Fund is a measure to provide a transitional pathway between donor/project exit strategies to a more long-term sustainable financing pathway. The good lessons learned from this fund can be replicated both in Tonga and the Pacific region. Climate Change Division is in the process for ensuring robust, effective, and efficient operational procedures of the Fund in its functions for both sourcing funds from proponents, and distribution of funds to recipients. However, this necessitates technical expertise that is currently lacking within the Climate Change Division so as to enhance and further ensure the effectiveness of the National Climate Change Fund.

The Government of Tonga wishes to strengthen Climate Change coordination and implementation to ensure that climate risk management is integrated holistically into policy, planning, and budgetary processes through coordinated efforts by the Climate Change Division to ensure vertical and horizontal planning, financing, and implementation of all climate change activities embedded in the current *Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management 2010-2015* (JNAP Phase I). The best practices and lessons learned from JNAP Phase I, will be documented and utilized toward the development of the JNAP Phase II.

The project aligns to regional and national climate change policy and regulatory framework:

- Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2011-2014
- Tonga Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management 2010-2015
- National Climate Change Policy 2006
- National Water Policy 2011
- Water Resources Act
- National Forestry Policy 2009
- National Land-Use Policy 2014 (Draft)
- PIFACC 2006-2015
- Millennium Development Goal 7
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Tonga National Climate Change Fund Act. 2014 (Draft)

Objective

The project aims to enhance the capacity and operations of the Climate Change Division to strengthen coordination, management, planning and financing for the effective implementation of adaptation and disaster risk activities in Tonga.

Expected Project Outcomes

Outcome 1: Increased support to develop JNAP Phase II

Outcome 2: Enhanced readiness of the Climate Change Division and Government of Tonga to access and sustainably manage the National Climate Change Fund.

Targeted Outcomes and Outputs

OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS
Outcome 1: Increased support to develop JNAP Phase II	Output 1.1: National Consultation Workshops with relevant stakeholders conducted
	Output 1.2: JNAP Phase II developed, reviewed and endorsed and Published
Outcome 2: Enhanced readiness of the Climate Change Division and Government of Tonga to access and sustainably manage the National Climate Change Fund.	Output 2.1: Funds to engage a Climate Finance Specialist to ensure and monitor the effectiveness of the Climate Finance Mechanism secured.
	Output 2.2: Financial Resource Mobilization Plan for National Climate Change Fund developed and implemented
	Output 2.3: Donor Roundtable conducted
	Output 2.4: Good practices on the effectiveness of the Fund documented and replicated both nationally and regionally

Beneficiaries

MEECCDMMIC: The capacity for effective management, coordination and implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk initiatives will be enhanced. The enhanced capacity derived may be extended across all agencies within the Ministry, so as to foster an enabling environment for heightened cross-sectoral collaboration in the development of future projects at all levels.

Local Communities: The project will encourage communities to take ownership and be responsible to manage future climate related impacts in their communities, and will allow for broader knowledge sharing and understanding of climate change and its impacts. It will also enhance community knowledge on eligibility and accessibility to the National Climate Change Fund.

NGOs: Implementation of the project necessitates partnership with relevant stakeholders. NGOs will benefit from the provision of technical and managerial expertise of the Climate Change Division, and will also attain knowledge on eligibility and accessibility to the National Climate Change Fund.

Gender: The consultation process will take into account and highlight the necessity and importance for involvement of both men and women in the decision-making process, awareness-raising, participation in meetings, and the implementation of current and future projects. This will promote gender inclusion as a key element that contributes to successful implementation of climate change activities.

Other Vulnerable Groups: Groups such as Women's Groups, Youth Groups, and the Disabled will also benefit from their inclusion and involvement in the decision-making process in developing the JNAP Phase II, as well as increased knowledge of their eligibility and accessibility to the National Climate Change Fund.

Indicative budget

Item	Indicative budget
Outcome 1: Increased support to develop JNAP Phase II	
Output 1.2: <i>National Consultation Workshops with relevant stakeholders conducted.</i>	€20.000
Output 1.3: <i>JNAP Phase II developed, reviewed, endorsed, and published</i>	€5.000
Outcome 2: Enhanced readiness of the Climate Change Division and Government of Tonga to access and sustainably manage the National Climate Change Fund.	
Output 2.1: <i>Funds to engage a Climate Finance Specialist to ensure and monitor The effectiveness of the Climate Finance Mechanism secured</i>	€25.000
Output 2.2: <i>Financial Resource Mobilization Plan for National Climate Change Fund developed and implemented</i>	€3.000
Output 2.3: <i>Donor Roundtable conducted</i>	€5.000
Output 2.4: <i>Good practices on the effectiveness of the Fund documented and replicated both nationally and regionally</i>	€5.000
Other budget items as required	
Project administration and management costs	€30.000
Contingency	€7.000
Monitoring and evaluation	
Communication and visibility	
Co-financing / In-kind contribution (optional)	
TOTAL	€100.000

Project management

The lead agency of the project will be the Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Meteorology, Information and Communication (MEECCDMMIC), and to be implemented by its Climate Change Division with reporting on the progress of the project to the Head of the Climate Change Division and CEO of the Ministry.

There will be a Letter of Agreement signed by EU- GIZ and the Government of Tonga for this Project. The Project will be implemented under the ambit of this Agreement. The Tongan signatories to the Letter of Agreement are the CEO for MEECCDMMIC and the Secretary for Ministry of Finance and National Planning.

The National Environment Coordinating Committee (NECC) will provide oversight and guidance on policy issues to the project implementation. The JNAP Task Force (Technical Team) will provide the technical support relating to the implementation of the project. NECC and JNAP Task Force comprise representatives from government Ministries, NGOs Private Sector, and statutory board.

Tonga Ministry of Finance and National Planning (Treasury Division) will provide financial accounting and reporting oversight, with an annual audit by the National Auditors Office. This Steering Structure mirrors the Current system under which all projects function such as the JNAP on CCADRM, EU-SPC Tonga Global Climate Change Alliance Project (EU-SPC: GCCA-PSIS), GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR), the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC), UNDP/GEF Tonga National Communication (SNC), ADB: Strategic Program for Climate (SPCR).

The JNAP Secretariat based in MEECCDMMIC will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of project activities and providing quarterly narrative and financial reports to the Oversight Committee and donor. A template for the quarterly report will be provided by the project to be used and followed accordingly.

Complementarity and replicability

This project complements and builds upon the AusAID (ICCAI): JNAP Secretariat Project in that capacity enhancement [expansion] and strengthening of the Climate Change Division to conduct activities pertaining to the review and development of JNAP Phase II, will essentially strengthen the Government of Tonga's capacity to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The development of JNAP Phase II 2016-2020 is a continuation of JNAP 2010-2015. The JNAP Secretariat is viewed by a majority of Donors, and Development Partners as the optimal entry point for all current and future climate related projects and programmes. This project will further facilitate the programmatic coordination of all Climate and Disaster related activities in Tonga until 2020 allowing sufficient time for the recruitment by Government of more specialised currently vacant Head of Section positions under the Adaptation, Mitigation, National Communications, and Disaster Risk Reduction themes. Taking into consideration the newly formed Ministry (MEECCDMMIC), the expanded tasks of the existing staff through this project may extended across all agencies within the Ministry, so as to foster an enabling environment for heightened cross-sectoral collaboration in the development of future projects, as well as sourcing and leveraging financial assistance. Good practices and lessons learned from this project can be replicated across all Government Ministries, NGO's, and also in the Pacific region.

PLANNED MEASURES and TIMELINE

PLANNED MEASURES	TIMELINE
Outcome 1: Increased Support to develop JNAP Phase II	
Output 1.1: National Consultation Workshops with relevant stakeholders conducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National workshops conducted second quarter 2015
Output 1.2: JNAP Phase II developed, reviewed and endorsed, and published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JNAP Phase II endorsed by quarter 2 of 2016
Outcome 2: Enhanced readiness of the Climate Change Division and Government of Tonga to access And sustainably manage the National Climate Change Fund.	
Output 2.1: Funds to engage a Climate Finance Specialist to ensure and monitor the effectiveness of the Climate Finance Mechanism secured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance specialist engaged twice annually from 2015-2017
Output 2.2: Financial Resource Mobilization Plan for National Climate Change Fund developed and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Mobilization Plan developed and implemented by 2016
Output 2.3: Donor Roundtable conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual donor Roundtables conducted once per year (2015-2017)
Output 2.4: Good practices on the effectiveness of the Fund documented and replicated both nationally and regionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study on Good Practices developed end of 2017

Sustainability and Risks

Risks and Mitigation Actions

Risk 1: Lack of support and commitment from Government and Donors to contribute to the National Climate Change Fund.

Mitigation Action:

1. Ensure regular dialogue with Government, politicians, policy makers, and decision-makers to obtain political support and commitment to the fund.
2. Constant dialogue with Donors and Development Partners through Donor Roundtables

Risk 2: Lack of Stakeholder engagement – Unclear coordination between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities on their roles in Development and implementation of the JNAP Phase II.

Mitigation Action:

1. Ensure existing committees take on an oversight role, and closely collaborate with all stakeholders and communities involved in the planning and design of JNAP Phase II

Stakeholder engagement in concept note development

Agencies consulted in preparation of this concept include Energy Division (MEECCDMMIC), JNAP Task Force, Ministry of Finance and National Planning.