



**ADAPTATION FUND**

AFB/PPRC.3/4  
December 10, 2010

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Adaptation Fund Board  
Project and Programme Review Committee  
Third Meeting  
Cancun, December 13, 2010

## **PROPOSAL FOR COOK ISLANDS**

## I. Background

1. The Operational Policies and Guidelines for Parties to Access Resources from the Adaptation Fund, adopted by the Adaptation Fund Board, state in paragraph 41 that regular adaptation project and programme proposals, i.e. those that request funding exceeding US\$ 1 million, would undergo either a one-step, or a two-step approval process. In case of the one-step process, the proponent would directly submit a fully-developed project proposal. In the two-step process, the proponent would first submit a brief project concept, which would be reviewed by the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and would have to receive the approval by the Board. In the second step, the fully-developed project/programme document would be reviewed by the PPRC, and would finally require Board's approval.

2. The Templates Approved by the Adaptation Fund Board (Operational Policies and Guidelines for Parties to Access Resources from the Adaptation Fund, Annex 3) do not include a separate template for project and programme concepts but provide that these are to be submitted using the project and programme proposal template. The section on Adaptation Fund Project Review Criteria states:

*For regular projects using the two-step approval process, only the first four criteria will be applied when reviewing the 1st step for regular project concept. In addition, the information provided in the 1st step approval process with respect to the review criteria for the regular project concept could be less detailed than the information in the request for approval template submitted at the 2nd step approval process. Furthermore, a final project document is required for regular projects for the 2nd step approval, in addition to the approval template.*

3. The first four criteria mentioned above are:

1. Country Eligibility,
2. Project Eligibility,
3. Resource Availability, and
4. Eligibility of NIE/MIE.

4. Based on the Adaptation Fund Board Decision B.9/2, the first call for project and programme proposals was issued and an invitation letter to eligible Parties to submit project and programme proposals to the Adaptation Fund was sent out on April 8, 2010.

5. According to the paragraph 41 of the operational policies and guidelines, a project or programme proposal needs to be received by the secretariat not less than seven weeks before a Board meeting, in order to be considered by the Board in that meeting.

6. The following project concept titled "Enhancing resilience of communities of Cook Islands through integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk management measures" was submitted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund. This is the first submission of this proposal. It was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the 12th Adaptation Fund Board meeting. The secretariat carried out a technical review of the project concept, assigned to it the diary number AFB/MIE/DRR/2010/2, and filled in a review sheet.

7. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Adaptation Fund Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with the UNDP, and offered it the

opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the Project and Programme Committee of the Adaptation Fund.

8. The secretariat is submitting to the Project and Programme Review Committee the summary of the project, prepared by the secretariat, in Annex 1. The secretariat is also submitting to the Committee the technical review sheet and the responses provided by the UNDP, as confidential documents.

## Project Summary

Cook Islands - Enhancing resilience of communities of Cook Islands through integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk management measures

Implementing Entity: *UNDP*

Project/Programme Execution cost: USD 500,000

Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 4,600,000

Implementing Fee: USD 391,000

Requested Financing: USD 4,991,000

### Project Background and Context

Like other countries that are influenced by South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ), the Cook Islands are subject to highly destructive cyclones, intense rainfall events, and devastating droughts<sup>1</sup>. The country has an extremely limited land area widely dispersed over a vast ocean space, with isolated populations that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including

- Increased frequency and intensity of rainfall and tropical storms
- Higher risk of coastal erosion and flooding as a result of rising and extreme sea levels and changing wind patterns
- Loss of water resources from hotter, drier weather and/or contamination of groundwater due to saltwater intrusion
- Resurgence of dengue fever and other tropical and water-borne diseases
- Reduced productivity of food crops due to soil degradation and increased salinity
- Loss of local biodiversity from habitat changes, extreme events, sea level rise, and ocean warming

The proposed programme by the Government of Cook Islands will strengthen the ability of all Cook Island communities and the public service to make informed decisions and manage likely climate change driven pressures in a pro-active, integrated and strategic manner. The programme will support, at the national, sectoral, and island levels, the preparation and implementation of the Joint National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation (DRM-CCA-NAP).

Component 1: Community-engagement in vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning and awareness (USD 500,000)

The expected outcome of this component is to strengthen awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at island and national levels.

Component 2: Integrated Community-based DRM-CCA measures (USD 3,200,000)

This component expects to increase adaptive capacity within agriculture, water, coastal and health sectors, through community-based adaptation measures implemented in at least 7 inhabited islands.

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<sup>1</sup> The *Cook Islands Second National Communication Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* [draft]

Component 3: Institutional strengthening to support climate resilient policy frameworks for the implementation of the national DRR-CCA-NAP (USD 400,000)

The expected outcome of component 3 is strengthen institutional capacity of government sectors to integrate climate and disaster risk and resilience into policy frameworks.

**(Original proposal for AFB12)**