

Adaptation Fund Board secretariat note: These CSO comments to the captioned project proposal were received by the secretariat on September 19, 2013. They were submitted by Mr. Sven Harmeling, Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator, CARE International, on behalf of CARE International office in Benin. The contact person in CARE International Benin/Togo is Mr. Bonaventure Nzavugambonyimana, Programs Director.

*“ADAPTATION OF COTONOU LAGOON ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN COMMUNITIES TO SEA LEVEL RISE AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS IMPACTS”.*

This proposal is addressing very critical issues related with adaptation to climate change.

However, there are some points to be reinforced with regards to:

- Water, hygiene and sanitation, Cotonou town planning policy and land settlement. This could be integrated in the overall town planning.
- Advocacy for the accountability of the local authorities in protecting the Cotonou lagoon from degradation.
- Considering the point of community based self-managed initiatives or mechanisms that could guarantee the sustainability of the actions. There may be a long term chart of the residents around the Cotonou lagoon for protecting it from degradation;
- Initiatives aiming at enhancing community empowerment and analytical capacity so that they could have a full picture about the Cotonou Lagoon place in the urban landscape and the vulnerability of the ecosystems and of the communities, and the threats due to climate change...

More specifically with regards to the referred Section B) Describe how the project / program provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and groups within communities, including gender considerations; and Section H) Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations.

The Cotonou lagoon is such a place which, if it were appropriately designed, can contribute to Cotonou City landscape that can offer attraction for the tourists and even be used in the recreation time for the riverside local residents. Just thinking about welfare and livelihoods.

This project would offer an opportunity to design such a place. Designing plots for housing, for commerce, for recreation...Paths with decorative trees...etc...There can be even be organization of the residents, and good conduct agreement in order to protect the lagoon against erosion, avoid pollution of water and guaranteeing good hygiene and sanitation practices with regards to the stretch of water and the paths around the lagoon... Waste management is a very critical issue in Cotonou.