

**Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) Meeting Minutes for the
“Strengthening Public Investment in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the
Eastern Caribbean”**

UN House, Christ Church Barbados
13 May 2013

The Chair welcomed persons to the meeting noting that this Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) was convened to review three projects including this World Bank GFDRR funded Strengthening Public Investment in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Project. The UNDP team was located in the internal conference room while partners from the Governments of Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines as well as Dominica joined the meeting via Skype. The PAC meeting for this project conversation started at 3:30pm and concluded at 4:00 pm.

It was noted that all beneficial countries do not have to be present at the PAC but after this meeting an update and the draft report would be shared with all beneficiaries so consensus in moving forward is achieved. Additionally it was advised that for these GFDRR projects only the independent countries can benefit and thus Anguilla, Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands would not be beneficiaries under this project. Further noted that these activities have been substantively agreed to by the donor agencies

Attendance

The list of attendees is included in Annex 1

Overview of Project

Mr. King noted that this project will ultimately inform an optimal portfolio of country risk management investments based on at least two specific hazards (hurricanes and earthquakes), considering the options of risk reduction, retention, and transfer. This would be realised through updating/revising a national database on hazard impacts to generate the information for risk estimation and to inform public investment and development planning systems including through the development of mechanism to track investment in disaster risk reduction.

It was noted that the basis of this project was garnered from the last Global Assessment Report where it was recognized that there was a need to get a very clear sense of natural hazard impacts in the region. The project follows the World Bank methodology to assess hazard risks and would be conducted in association with UNISDR which has been conducting work on quantifying hazards impacts.

Noted that the project contains four (4) project outputs specifically:

- Development of Natural Loss Accounting Systems. Advised that the DesInventar methodology would be the tool used in this case and would provide a structure for identifying what are the events and the amount of the losses. The first step would be to introduce the tool and to undertake back ground training
- Probabilistic risk assessment and risk management portfolio. Noted that through this output a tool can be built that the ministries of planning and finance uses to quantify losses. This methodology would allow persons to see losses in terms of value and would allow for the determination of the kind of losses that a country is experiencing at a given time
- Incorporating risk management into public investment planning and decision making. This output would identify existing investments in disaster risk reduction and would illustrate the best approaches to manage risk. What is not clear is the level of risk that is acceptable and how risk should be transferred. This project would seek to clarify this element
- Sharing of results at regional and global level

Noted that the two main focal points for this project will be the NEMOs and Ministries of finance planning. It is anticipated that through the project the respective ministries of finance would understand the importance of incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the development agenda and prioritizing the importance of DRR in national planning

Mr. King advised that there are challenges with finalising the agreement with World Bank which could cause a delay in implementing this project. As a result an agreement has been established with the United Nations international Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to fund output 1 so this can proceed.

Mr. King acknowledged that the Project Management arrangements are still to be finalized but that country representatives would be asked to form part of the Project Board on a rotational basis

Finally Mr. King informed that the total budget of the project is approximately US 780,000, would run for a period of three (3) years and would be implemented by UNDP.

Comments on Project Document

Noting the intended partnerships between the NEMOs and the Ministry of Finance in countries the Government of Barbados representative queried whether contact has already been made with these ministries in countries. The Meeting Chair advised that the Ministry has already received an overview of the project but detail discussions still need to occur. It was iterated that a meeting with the PS in Finance for Barbados has already been planned in this regard. Additionally it was advised that an initiation meeting in July is tentatively planned for this project as an add-on to the CDEMA meeting.

The Government of St. Vincent & Grenadines representative queried whether an assessment has been undertaken to determine what data is available for output 1. He further queried whether the acquisition of the data can be the first aspect. Mr. King iterated that there is an investment in local consultants to collect this data noting that collection of data is a key element.

It was reiterated that the Ministry of Finance in some cases already has the necessary data and it is imperative that this hurdle is covered beforehand before substantively proceeding. Ms. Thomas agreed noting that a lot of finance ministries do not believe they are integral to the disaster management process and they should be fully integrated in this regard. Mr. King advised that the premise of this project is that the Ministry of Finance should be integrated in the disaster management agenda and noted this as the reason the World Bank and CDB are involved because of their relationship with these ministries. Mr. Corriette agreed with Mr. King and advised that Mr. Parillion, economist in the Ministry of Finance and Planning in Dominica was invited to this meeting

Mr. Prince noted that the DesInventar methodology has been used extensively in the Latin America but has moved very slowly in the Caribbean and expressed his reservations about this methodology. Additionally Mr. Prince advised that collaboration with CCRIF is needed on this project to allow access to their database. He noted that CCRIF has been doing loss assessments previously and they have already been involved in this kind of data collection. In addition CCRIF is owned and operated by the Government of the Caribbean and it is important that this project does not seek to re-create activities which have already been undertaken by CCRIF. It is believed that involving CCRIF would avoid duplication and ensure that the Ministry of Finance is entirely involved in this process. Mr. King acknowledged these comments and noted that one of the strategies of the project is engaging the partners including CCRIF and working with them to allow project development and implementation.

Recommendations

- Beneficiary countries should be listed on the cover page of the Project Document
- Active engagement and cooperation of CCRIF in this project.
- UNDP to have discussions with the Ministries of Finance on this project

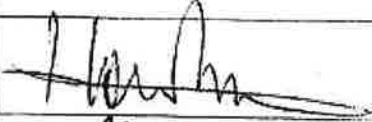

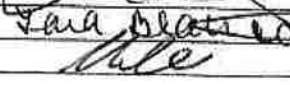


Approval

Country representatives indicated their approval of the Project Document pending some minor adjustments

Closing

The Chair thanked members for giving of their time to attend the PAC meeting

Annex 1

| Organisation | Name | Signature |
|---|---------------|--|
| Department of Emergency Management (Barbados) | Judy Thomas | |
| National Emergency Management Organisation (St. Vincent & the Grenadines) | Howie Prince |  |
| Office of Disaster Management (Dominica) | Don Corriette |  |
| UNDP | Ian King |  |
| UNDP (Chair) | Lara Blanco |  |
| UNDP | Marlon Clarke |  |