

## CONSOLIDATED RESPONSES TO THE PAC COMMENTS ON THE ARAB CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE PROJECT DOCUMENT

Comments	Responses
<p><b>1- Ensuring that the project is demand-driven with a proper planning of inception phase</b></p>	<p>Based on the lessons learned, RBAS drafted the ACRI project document following an extensive consultation process to ensure its demand-driven approach. RBAS has taken this into account the mobilization efforts and time needed for the inception and reflected that in a detailed work plan for the first year (see Annex II). The project will be implemented closely with the Countries Offices in the countries endorsing the project and will respond to the specific needs of the countries. The respective COs will also participate in the Project Board meetings</p>
<p><b>2- Benefiting from and building synergies with existing global and regional initiatives (including tools, guidelines, knowledge products, knowledge networks, etc.)</b></p>	<p>The project is built upon an extensive regional consultation which has crystalized the need for support in particular areas. The project will further benefit and build on existing knowledge products and tools being produced within the context of other global and regional initiatives. The PD text on pages 9 &amp; 15 do refer to this aspect in respective footnotes. The project team is also expected to review and take into account all the existing initiatives. Lessons learnt from AAP were key in developing ACRI and the AAP team participated in several consultation meetings to share their experience.</p> <p>For knowledge networks set-up, please refer to footnote on page 14. Centres of excellence will be identified over the course of the initiative. Exchange programmes could be exchange of faculty or facilitation of exchange of students for cooperative research projects. Examples of linkages between research institutes, international universities, centres of scientific excellence, agencies and other partners include <i>inter alia</i>: i) the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, which was developed in cooperation with the Massachusetts's Institute of Technology (MIT); ii) the DESERTEC University Network, a collaboration of 18 universities and research facilities from the MENA region (see <a href="http://www.desertec.org/en/">http://www.desertec.org/en/</a>); iii) the Gulf Research Centre in the UAE</p>

	that collaborates with the National Technical University of Athens; iv) the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology's Middle East Research Centre for Developing Efficient Energy Solutions; v) the Centre of Research Excellence in Renewable Energy at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals; and vi) the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
<b>3- Providing support at the local level</b>	The nature of the project as regional requires focusing on regional and nationally scalable type of activities. The project will address local level approaches building on the Moroccan experience (p13) given its pioneer nature and potential scalability. The local approaches were also subject to a regional consultation process spearheaded by Morocco.
<b>4- UNDO COs commitment and incentives</b>	From the start, COs have been incentivized through the participation in the consultation meetings and involvement of some of them in the process itself, a fact that helped in building a considerable level of ownership. The project will be implemented closely with the COs where the government have endorsed the project. The key incentive is addressing national priorities within a regional context and providing the opportunity for the CO to benefit from this technical expertise and knowledge platform which they will not get from other sources. In addition to the capacity development aspect, catalytic funding will be provided to some COs submitting sound proposals to support Governments in implementing national climate change resilience plans.
<b>5- Set-up of the project (location, management arrangements)</b>	The project will be based with the Regional Center in Cairo. In addition to the day-to-day management by a dedicated Project Manager and the close coordination and synergistic work with of the other practices, the project will benefit from the support of a Project assistant and Technical Support Group (TSG) specialized in the different disciplines of the project. The TSG will be a group of renowned resource persons contracted on a retainer basis to provide the necessary technical

	<p>support for the project and the COs throughout the project implementation. In addition to the TSG, the project will seek to build alliance with existing think tanks and research institutes for longer term support as part of the capacity building dimension.</p> <p>The Project Manager will coordinate closely with various technical facilities that have already been established, including the Regional Technical Advisors for Mitigation, Adaptation and Energy, Boots colleagues, AAP's Inter-Regional Technical Support Component (IRTSCT) and others. This will be reflected in the project document.</p> <p>A Project Support Unit (PSU) will assist the Project Team in the day-to-day implementation of the project, through the provision of all services of operational nature.</p>
<p><b>6- UNOPS as the Implementing Partner</b></p>	<p>Projects of the UNDP RBAS Regional Programme Division are currently implemented through UNOPS. There is already a Project Support Unit in place in Cairo that if fully operational and serves the regional HIV/AIDS Programme for Arab States (HARPAS) as well as the regional Water Governance Programme. The PSU in Cairo will be able to further support the implementation of the Arab Climate Resilience initiative without any delay or additional resources. In addition to RPD's on-going satisfaction with the performance of UNOPS services in the implementation of the regional projects, positive feedback was received from the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) on the efficiency and added value of UNOPS as Implementing partner on climate change projects.</p>
<p><b>7- Project Board set-up: suggestion to include BDP/EEG in the project board</b></p>	<p>BDP/EEG will be added to the in management arrangement scheme with the RCC practices as they will be regularly consulted for technical support and guidance when needed.</p>
<p><b>8- In the RRF, some targets are unclear and some may be too low in ambition. The need to factor the impact of other related initiatives operating in the region such as LECDRs was mentioned</b></p>	<p>Some of the indicators are intentionally put on the modest side of ambition given the low baseline difference in the state of advancement of climate change resilience work at the level of the countries.</p>

<p><b>9- Restructuring activities under the different outputs</b></p>	<p>The proposed adjustment on output 3 is noted and will be adjusted in text to read “knowledge management, advocacy and awareness in countries of the Arab region on climate change adaptation, mitigation and negotiations improved”. The activities under this output will include uploading all knowledge products on ACRI’s website and ensure a system for wide dissemination.</p> <p>Even though some of the KM activities are across the entire document, grouping them under output 3 will disrupt the flow of the document.</p>
<p><b>10- Mentioning of Qatar as the host of the 18th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention by the end of this year in the project document</b></p>	<p>This is noted and Qatar COP 18 will be mentioned namely for the preparatory event for negotiators planned during this year for this purpose. (see Activity 1.3.2)</p>
<p><b>11- Access to Finance options – sustainability issues?</b></p>	<p>ACRI is demand driven and the access to financing options was one of the needs raised by the different countries during the consultation process (see Annex IV). Unlike AAP, ACRI will not provide dedicated funding to countries from the start. It will rather focus on building capacities and knowledge as well as institutional strengthening. Access to financing modalities is one of the vehicles to support this process as well as fulfill national priorities. The respective COs will be involved to pursue the countries needs and follow-up with the implementation and sustainability aspects.</p>
<p><b>12- Adding training activities on Climate Fiscal Framework and Climate Public Expenditure &amp; Institutional Review (CPEIR)</b></p>	<p>Noted, it will be added as part of the support to mainstreaming climate change in national development planning (Output1- Activity 1.5)</p>
<p><b>13- Suggestion to include into the Activity Result 2.2, one bullet: "Initiate regional research Programme on data on adverse effects of climate change and impacts of response measures taken by developed countries"</b></p>	<p>Noted, the proposed will be added to Activity 2.2</p>