**CONCEPT IDEA NOTE FOR CLIMATE RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE FUNDABLE BY THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND AND OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES**

**Title of Concept OR Project Idea:**

Building the capacity to assess and implement incentive programs to increase private sector and communities participation in mitigation and adaptation actions

**Date of Submission:** 26th October 2018

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| **Indicate the areas for the Concept, which is based upon the CKI Country Program thematic areas** | Mitigation: Reduced emissions from:  Energy access and power generation  Low emission transport  Buildings, cities and industries and appliances  Forestry and land use  Adaptation: Increased resilience of:  Most vulnerable people and communities  Health and well-being, and food and water security  Infrastructure and built environment  Ecosystem and ecosystem services |
| **Indicative total project cost** | Amount: NZD \_\_\_1.0 million\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach of programme/project (max 100 words)**  *Brief summary of the problem statement and climate rationale, objective and selected implementation approach, including the executing entity(ies) and other implementing partners.*  Climate scientists are predicting a global future riddled with potential super cyclones and devastating climate events which the Cook Islands won’t be immune to. In order to prepare for these future catastrophes, it is imperative that the Cook Islands start preparing its workforce through training and capacity building as part of its preparation initiatives to strengthening resilience to climate change and importantly in its efforts to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.  The objective of this proposal is to investigate into training options, opportunities and incentives targeting the transport sector for the implementation of the next phase of the NDCs post 2020. The Cook Islands will be updating its NDCs in 2019 intended for submission to UNFCCC before 2020. The transport sector has already been identified where the Cook Islands can further reduce its emissions. Subsequently, training and capacity building in climate technologies is an area needing attention.  Ministry of Transport, Education and CITTI are identified as the relevant agencies to spearhead this initiative with support from the Climate Change office, private sector and relevant NGOs.  **Context and baseline (max. 2 pages)**  *Describe the climate vulnerabilities and impacts, GHG emissions profile, and mitigation and adaptation needs that the prospective intervention is envisaged to address.*  According to the IPCC emissions scenarios of low (B1), medium (A1B) and high (A2), for the years 2030, 2055 and 2090, the Cook Islands can expect more severe cyclones with less frequency. Increase in average maximum wind speed between 2% and 11% will severely devastate the fragile infrastructures and natural systems of these small islands. Global temperature increase under a high emissions scenario, ranging between 0.5-0.9 degrees Celsius in the north and 0.4-1.0 degrees Celsius in the southern Cook Islands will severely destroy the fragile coral reef systems of the whole of Cook Islands, given that the recent ocean warming in 2015/16 caused widespread coral bleaching across all of Cook Islands including clams in Manihiki and Penryhn. Frequency of such events will drastically reduce recovery rate of coral reef systems and exacerbate their vulnerability. Increasing air temperatures and high precipitation are ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes and expected to spike vector borne diseases besides water borne and heat related illnesses affecting mainly the elderly and younger children. Sea level rise predicted from 3-4mm per year will severely impact the livelihoods of low lying atoll communities. Scientists have also recorded the increased velocity of the easterlies within the last 20 years expected to generate stronger and higher wave actions. Already these communities are experiencing regular king tides and storm surge events causing crop damage, affecting drinking water holes, ecosystems, domestic dwellings and public infrastructures. Although the Cook Islands total global emissions is negligible at 00.00012%, the Cook Islands has taken great strides to do its fair share to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. According to the IPCC Report 2018, these events are predicted to exacerbate when global efforts to achieve the 1.5 temperature level fails.  The Cook Islands has a resident population of just over 14,000 (Census Report 2016) spread over 12 small islands with a land area of 236.7square kilometers and 1.8million square kilometers of the South Pacific ocean. Seventy five percent of the population is concentrated on mainland Rarotonga with the rest spread thinly across the other 11 inhabited islands. Livelihoods of the outer islands is very limited to small artisan activities for women, and family fishing and agriculture activities.  Given these conditions and with anticipated potential threats of super cyclones and severe climate events the abilities and capacities of the communities are inadequate to cope.  The globe is at an urgency state to seriously reduce its emissions according to the IPCC Report 2018, ‘Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5˚C with no or limited overshoot would require rapid and far-reaching transition in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems’.  Urgency demands a proactive approach to the situation even in small steps and as a small nation we must embrace opportunities to act. The mitigation initiative addresses the transport sector identified in the NDCs as the next highest emitter of ghg after electricity and innovative adaptation measures. There are two phases to this project.  **Phase I – Training and capacity building**  This project will enable the training and capacity building of the indigenous workforce in the transport sector by offering GCF funded auto technology training. It will also provide incentives to the transport sector through a subsidized scheme from GCF funds to convert to new technologies and provide opportunities for student’s career path by offering school leavers apprenticeship to train and upskill to climate auto technologies.  **Phase II – Climate technologies training and capacity building**  This phase will run in parallel with auto training, however, offering climate technologies training and capacity building to indigenous school leavers in the Pa Enua so those students who choose to remain on their respective islands are trained in an area of climate specific technology, such as solar energy, weather stations, agriculture, hydroponics, aquaculture, auto technologies and technologies for climate resilient practices.  Training and upskilling the workforce into climate technologies will also create confidence in the private sector to invest in climate technologies and diversify into this area.  *Please indicate how the project fits in with the country’s national priorities and its full ownership of the concept. Is the project/programme directly contributing to the country’s INDC/NDC or national climate strategies or other plans such as NAMAs, NAPs or equivalent? If so, please describe which priorities identified in these documents the proposed project is aiming to address and/or improve.*  The Cook Islands, National Vision articulated in Te Kaveinga Nui “*To enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people, and in harmony with our culture and environment”* with theNational Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016-2020 been set up pursuant to this vision. All sector and government agencies planning are aligned to the 16 goals of the NSDP which are the national priorities. Goals 6 ‘*To improve access to affordable, reliable, sustainable modern energy and transport’ and 13 ‘Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters’ both* directly links to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions of this concept note whilst the remaining goals are all interlinked.  Furthermore, the Climate Change National Policy 2018-2028 Goal 2 states ‘*To strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change through a coordinated, inclusive culturally appropriate adaptation and mitigation programme’* recognising inclusiveness of the vulnerable and adopting culturally appropriate climate actions mentioned in this concept note. Policy statement D also refers to ‘*build the resilience of socioeconomic ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources’.* Policy statement E also recognises that ‘*participation of the private sector and civil society as significant aspects of achieving national climate change goals and to seek ways to incentivise their participation’.* This proposal directly encourages private sector involvement through training and offering incentives to invest in climate technologies particularly the transport sector.  The Cook Islands Nationally Determined Contributions NDCs stresses the nation’s intentions to explore further adaptation actions subject to financing opportunities and to further reduce its emissions through the transport sector. This concept idea is starting the ball rolling in the implementation of the 2020 post NDCs.    The Cook Islands 2nd Joint National Action Plan 2016-2020, ‘Are We Resilient’ adheres to *Strengthen climate and disaster resilience to protect lives, livelihoods, economic infrastructure, cultural and environmental assets in a collaborative sectoral approach’* all areas this project intends to address particularly targeting the vulnerable communities.  The third goal of the NESAF is to increase resilience by strengthening national capacities to combat climate change, climate variability and adaptation and mitigation.  The relationship of this concept note to national frameworks and priorities clearly identifies the urgency to move on this in order to adequately prepare our green workforce for the green economy by building capacity and strengthening resilience besides reducing our overall global ghg emission.  *Describe the main root causes and barriers (social, gender, fiscal, regulatory, technological, financial, ecological, institutional, etc.) that need to be addressed.*  Social structures in the Cook Islands particularly of small island communities has largely changed since international travel became easily accessible to Cook Islanders. Mobility amongst the population contributed to depopulation of the islands and disrupted traditional family units that many elderly are left on their own or with grandchildren whilst the working age have moved away seeking job opportunities. Many women have outlived their partners and hence there is a trend of women lead households emerging in the whole of Cook Islands.  Climate technology is a new concept and still evolving as new technologies are introduced to the market, therefore awareness and education is required to introduce climate technologies to the population.  Changes in the social structures also creates financial strains on the new heads of the household as there is no alternative support system in the country. This project recognizes these trends and attempts to close the gaps although minimal, but hopefully it will transpire into a widespread solution.  *Where relevant, and particularly for private sector project/programme, please describe the key characteristics and dynamics of the sector or market in which the project/programme will operate.*  **Engagement among the NDA, AE, and/or other relevant stakeholders in the country (max ½ page)**  *Please describe how engagement among the NDA, AE and/or other relevant stakeholders in the country has taken place and what further engagement will be undertaken as the concept is developed into a funding proposal.*  NDA, AE, community and NGO engagement was fostered at appropriate stages of the process and intends to strengthen throughout the development stages when fully transformed into a full proposal.  **Sustainability and replicability of the project (exit strategy) (max. 1 page)**  *Please explain how the project/programme sustainability will be ensured in the long run and how this will be monitored, after the project/programme is implemented with support from the GCF and other sources.*  The project will be implemented through the Ministry of Education, Cook Islands Training and Trades Institute, Ministry of Transport, relevant NGOs, Chamber of Commerce, with technical support by Climate Change office and other relevant government agencies. The project will focus on training and upskilling indigenous Cook Islanders encouraging them to remain on their islands by building their capacity to better manage and deal with the day to day impacts of climate change. Grant assistance to the private sector will be for a limited time to be determined. Training and upskilling of Cook Islanders will contribute to the realization of the national vision mentioned earlier; “*To enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people, and in harmony with our culture and environment”*  Monitoring and reporting of the progress will be captured in the Ministry of Education annual report and CITTI and by the Chamber of Commerce.  *For non-grant instruments, explain how the capital invested will be repaid and over what duration of time.* | |
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**Assessed By and Date:**

**Recommendation:**