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

**This Concept Idea Note is based upon the GCF Concept Note. It is designed to prepare any Concepts or Project Ideas with GCF financing in mind, however, can also be applicable to other financial institutions. Once the Concept Idea Note is completed please send to the CCCI office (as the GCF National Focal Point), where an assessment will be undertaken as to whether the Concept could be eligible for funding under the GCF or other financial source, or both. CCCI will then communicate the result of the assessment back to the proponent, and outline what will next happen to the Concept Idea Note, such as require more information to make a clearer assessment, the submitted Concept is GCF eligible for funding and the next steps, or a determination that outlines the Concept is not eligible for GCF funding but may get funding from another source.**

**Title of Concept OR Project Idea:**

**Enhancing Action on Climate Change through Green Jobs Creation for a Just Transition.**

**Date of Submission:** preliminary CN (31 Oct 2018) – final CN (7 Nov 2018 after ILO workshop)

**Submitted by and Contact**

**Ministry of Internal Affairs**

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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 \_\_TBD\_\_ |
| **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.  The Ministry of Internal Affairs (INTAFF), together with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), aim to create and launch the first ever national program on the creation of Green Jobs for a Just transition, which will in effect enhance and support other national actions on Climate Change.  In order to transform our energy systems, buildings, industry, transportation and agriculture towards low-carbon and climate-resilient pathways, a capable workforce with the right skills is necessary. Without the massive scaling up of the number of solar technicians, energy auditors, reskilling of workers in agriculture, industry and construction, the current and growing skills shortages could hamper the rapid deployment of new technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Similarly, enterprises need to spearhead innovation that delivers greener products and services, improve business processes towards greater energy and material efficiency, and scale-up investments. In addition to enabling national climate change action, rapid entrepreneurship development in areas of mitigation and adaptation will generate employment co-benefits and contribute to poverty-reduction.  The Paris Agreement highlights as part of global action on climate change, “the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities.”  Working closely in partnership with ILO is essential as it holds a unique position to contribute to the goals of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and to support global action on climate change by leveraging its expertise in a range of areas of relevance to mitigation and adaptation and its distinctive feature as the one and only tripartite organization of the United Nations.  The proposed project on the Creation of Green Jobs for a Just Transition aims for a holistic approach as Climate change has too long been considered solely from an environmental perspective. In fact, it is also a very significant economic and social problem, and our most vulnerable communities are the ones who are unable to adapt to climate change and its effects. Focus on the workplace is essential as it is the one place where social, economic and environmental dimensions come together inseparably.  **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.*  *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.*  *Describe the main root causes and barriers (social, gender, fiscal, regulatory, technological, financial, ecological, institutional, etc.) that need to be addressed.*  *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.*  Green Decent Jobs are central to sustainable development and resource productivity, by creating economic opportunities, enhance resource efficiency and build low-carbon, sustainable societies. The first ever Cook Islands National Program on the Creation of Green Jobs for a Just Transition will outline a number of achievable, realistic and result-oriented actions to improve health, ecosystem vitality, climate change and resilience to weather disasters, through green decent job creation and contribute effectively to the transition towards a green and innovative economy.  Based on the most recent official statistics for the Cook Islands (2011), the labour force participation rate was 71% and the employment-to-population ratio was 55.2%, with men topping by 10 percentage points to women. Total unemployment was 8.2% and youth unemployment was 15.5% with gender parity. Employment is heavily reliant on services (84%). Until the latest data from Census 2016 is released, this % of the labour force can be considered as the main beneficiaries to the project, with a special focus on gender  According to a 2010 Report from Central Policy and Planning Office, the Cook Islands is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as extreme rainfall, drought, sea level rising, strong winds, extreme high air temperatures and increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones.  Because of lack of data, there is no renewable energy sector employment data available. As per an ILO analysis (ILO Country Fact sheet), improvement in utilities can potentially provide benefits on three fronts: community health, environmental health, and the economic development with increased employment opportunities. With the push for increasing reliance on renewable energy, there will be greater potential for decent job opportunities in the future. By developing preventive measure to limit infrastructure and property damage and increase institutional capacity, both in the private and public sphere to respond effectively to climate events, is a potential source of decent green job creation while building resilience, especially for the most vulnerable of our society.  Project Outline and Description  The proposed project has three major outputs with detailed actions under each output.  OUTPUT 1: Mitigation and adaptation of climate change through skills building and upgrading, training, education and entrepreneurship development.  Promotion of green entrepreneurship by providing skills for entrepreneurs and access to finance, including targeted training for youth and women. Emphasis on capacity building, training, education and skills development concerning energy efficiency, renewable energy, infrastructure and agriculture are increasingly in demand in the labour market and relevant to climate mitigation and adaptation (in country). Focus on youth and women employment. Creation and support of well-managed labour mobility pathways that provide an important source of remittances, knowledge, skills and investment in climate vulnerable regions (out of country).  Actions:  1) Training of solar technicians for the Outer Islands  2) Institutionalizing a training curriculum at the Cook Islands Tertiary Institute on green job skills (focusing on renewable energy, agriculture, construction)  3) Set up of a start-up funding kit for emerging Small and Medium enterprises interested in entering and developing green innovative market services and products.  OUTPUT 2: Adaption to climate change through social protection, resilience, public employment programs.  Both natural and slow-onset impacts of climate change create risks that need to be managed through proactive planning and research on potential destination areas than can provide decent work avenues, at the individual or community level. Green works include a range of different infrastructure and environmental activities such as flood control and draining in both rural and urban areas to deal with more and more intense rainfall (refer to recent flooding in Rarotonga), increased water volumes and increased flooding (risk and frequency). Climate change impacts and will continue to impact the most vulnerable members of our community. The ongoing review of our Workers compensation would need to be further expanded on to include floors of minimum level of social protection. The ILO’s Just transition Guidelines provide that Government should promote and establish adequate social protection systems providing healthcare, income security and social services, with a view to increase resilience and safeguarding populations against the impacts of economic and environmental vulnerabilities.  Actions :  1) Developing a Green Jobs Program for Cook Islands  2) Research and Analysis on how to incorporate the ILO Just Transition Guidelines to our national priorities  3) Social Protection minimum coverage (welfare division of INTAFF)  OUTPUT 3: Tripartism and social dialogue to foster consensus building  Social dialogue, including the practice of tripartism and collective bargaining, is instrumental for effective decision-making in the area of climate change. Environmental and sustainable developments related policies- when discussed and implemented with the participation and agreement of social partners, the government and civil society actors- are better informed, easier to implement and more beneficial for workers, businesses, and a larger proportion of the society.  Actions:  1) Training and capacity building for the Tripartite  2) Greener Business project for young entrepreneurs from the Outer Islands  **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.*  INTAFF has been engaged with both the OPM and MFEM in trying to establish a link between employment, social welfare and climate change.  INTAFF also works very closely with ILO on a number of other projects and the ongoing collaboration will continue to strengthen if given the opportunity to work together in this new area.  INTAFF has a tripartite process which enshrines the participation and consultation with social partners (employer and worker representatives).  **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.*  *For non-grant instruments, explain how the capital invested will be repaid and over what duration of time.*  INTAFF needs to support of the ILO to complete this part, and will submit response after the ILO workshop 7-9th November 2018. | |
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**Assessed By and Date:**

**Recommendation:**