



TERMS OF REFERENCE

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY WORKING GROUP

Background

The Adaptation Fund (AF) was established to finance concrete adaptation programs in developing countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol and are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The Cook Islands fits into this category. Access to the fund is available through Multi-lateral Implementing Entities (MIE) through agencies like the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) or directly through gaining accreditation as an NIE. Due to the requirements involved, NIE status has been very difficult to attain for Pacific island countries.

In 2011, the Cook Islands had a 5 million USD program (SRIC) in jeopardy because the MIE partner UNDP had issues around its own status with the Adaptation Board. Additionally, funding is segmented to MIE and NIE projects and due to difficulties in attaining NIE status, more funds remain accessible through NIE while the MIE fund is almost exhausted. These limitations, along with the Cook Islands firm desire for more ownership and accountability in Development Assistance is why MFEM are applying for NIE status.

With funding from EU-GCCA-PSIS, the Cook Islands have secured six months technical support from the Frankfurt School of Business and Management to partner with the Cook Islands in the path to AF accreditation. The joint work between the Frankfurt School of Business and Management and Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) will also seek to improve the Cook Island Governments level of 'readiness' to directly access other global climate funds such as the pending Green Climate fund and also mobilize and scale up finance in-country.

The Cook Islands Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation and the recent Climate and Disaster Compatible Development Policy all clearly articulate Cook Island priorities and plans in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation, and direct access is important to efficiently fund and deliver these plans.

Purpose

The Purpose of the Working Group is to coordinate and action areas of the NIE application (including closing gaps) across government to enable a successful NIE application. Members of the working group will be required to collate information, action items (either themselves or via their teams) and report progress.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Frankfurt School of Business and Management is as follows:

- Identification, compilation and analysis of all existing resources including relevant documentation as outlined in the AF accreditation toolkit;
- If any gaps are identified in the documentation and/or capacity, then work with the MFEM to fill the gaps;
- Collaborate with the MFEM to submit a full application to the AF;
- Provide training to MFEM so that they have the capacity to persist with the application to the AF until it is successful and that they are well equipped to deliver to NIE modality over the short and medium term;

The Working Group exists to support this work. Specifically the working group will:

- Collate information required to submit the application
- Identify capacity gaps to be included in Frankfurt's capacity plan
- Progress the NIE roadmap
- Report on progress and highlight issues every 2 weeks
- Assist in removing barriers to achieving roadmap

Members

Due to the cross functional nature of the disciplines involved, the group requires participation from a number of agencies including:

- Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM, Secretariat) includes: Development Coordination Division, Procurement, Treasury,
- Budget
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (MFAI)
- Climate Change Cook Islands, Office of the Prime Minister
- Public Service Commission
- Audit
- Ombudsman Office
- PERCA
- Akairo Consulting

Meetings

Meetings will occur every 2 weeks and will have an agenda and minutes outlining action items.

Members will be required to update each meeting on their/their teams outstanding action items.

Members will be required to send a delegate if they are unable to attend.

Secretariat

MFEM will be secretariat and will share this role between divisions every month on a rotating basis.

Media

All information is to be made public via the MFEM/Development website and media articles should be approved by the Financial Secretary.

Focus areas

