GEF

Least Developed Countries Fund

Global Environment Facility

INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

CAPE VERDE

BUILDING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WATER SECTOR

LDCF project grant: $3,500,000

Co-financing: $7,000,000

NAPA completion date: December, 2007

Inclusion into LDCF Work Program: May, 2008

CEO endorsement date: January, 2009 (expected)

Implementation start: April, 2009 (expected)

As a small island state with limited rainfall, Cape Verde is already experiencing constraints in its access to fresh water resources. The Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC by Cape Verde (1999) identified four sectors as particularly vulnerable to climate change: water, agriculture, forestry and coastal development. The INC further identified limitation on water resources as a result of climate change as one of the main constraints to economic development in Cape Verde. Models of future climate change suggest that temperature increases of up to 4°C can be expected by 2100, and decreases in rainfall by up to 20%. In the more immediate planning horizon (next 10-20 years), climate induced changes include seasonal water shortages at an increasing number of economically important sites and year round shortages at other sites. In addition, climate variability is predicted to increase, with more storms, floods and droughts and a shorter rainy season. Clearly, climate change and variability in Cape Verde is a possible threat to the entire development process and to all the island's communities.

Over the past two decades, the Government of Cape Verde has been relatively successful in introducing economic reforms, maintaining economic stability and generating GDP growth. The government has established poverty alleviation programmes as part of its socio-economic development strategy and progress toward achieving MDG targets has been encouraging. The problem, however, is that the gains achieved and expected are under additional threat from the impacts of climate change.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED IMPACTS

This project addresses priorities identified in Cape Verde's NAPA and lays the foundation for a sustainable use and management of water resources under conditions of climate change. The project ensures that, in selected local municipalities, water resources continue to be sufficient under conditions of climate change, thereby providing a basic resource for livelihoods, agriculture and local industries. At the national level, the project ensures that there is capacity to provide the services, that the national water supply is in line with growing demands, and that water is not a constraint to development, tourism and poverty reduction.

Several small-scale investments is presently taking place to increase water management capacity

locally. However, these are insufficient to manage climate change associated risks. In addition, many highly vulnerable sites do not benefit from these investments. This LDCF project, therefore, builds on these existing investments to include larger or more sophisticated investments in water capture, storage and distribution. In addition, a series of investments to increase water resources availability is undertaken in highly vulnerable sites – in order to increase the resilience of local development against climate change and variability. The investments, where possible, will build upon traditional water management practices and technologies. These small-scale investments do not only demonstrate appropriate approaches, they also bring direct relief to some marginal and vulnerable communities in Cape Verde. Finally, field knowledge and expertise on how to adapt to climate change will be greatly increased through a series of demonstration and action-research projects.

At the national level the project builds the adaptive capacity of institutions and individuals involved in managing the water sector. For example, the project will assure access to improved information and improved climate change models, notably at sub-national levels. In addition, communities, municipalities and national stakeholders will gain a thorough understanding of climate change, its implications for Cape Verde, and of alternative approaches. Tools for integrating climate change and increasing climate change resilience are made available at national level and in selected municipalities. These tools address risk management, capacity to plan for climate change, and capacity to introduce alternative (i.e. climate change resilient) development scenarios. With this capacity, stakeholders are enabled to ensure that water provides a foundation for economic development and poverty alleviation, rather than being a major constraint, as it would become in the baseline.

SYNERGIES AND COORDINATION

This project has been conceived to complement several other projects, programmes and initiatives within the water and related sectors in Cape Verde. The national investment budget includes a series of programmes and projects related to integrated water resources management, with an allocation of almost $14 million for 2007/2008. These projects address sustainable water management, watershed management, information collection and monitoring, construction of small scale water harvesting and enhancing the management infrastructure. In addition, many international agencies are engaging in related investments, including a) an EU project supporting water distribution and sewage treatment; b) a French project supporting natural resources management and the development of tourism in rural areas; c) a Japanese project supporting the establishment of bore holes; and d) A German project supporting water supply.

Furthermore, the project is coordinated with the UNDP/GEF SPA project *"Responding to Coastline Change and Its Human Dimensions in West Africa through Integrated Coastal Area Management"*, in which Cape Verde also participates. This project, starting in 2008, aims to pave the way for adaptation measures that deal with coastal zones issues through regional collaboration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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