

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)  
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC30707

<b>Project Name</b>	STRENGTHENING DRR COORDINATION, PLANNING AND POLICY ADVISORY CAPACITY OF ECOWAS
<b>Region</b>	AFRICA
<b>Country</b>	Africa
<b>Sector(s)</b>	General public administration sector (50%), Other social services (22%), Flood protection (28%)
<b>Theme(s)</b>	Natural disaster management (100%)
<b>Lending Instrument</b>	Lending Instrument
<b>Project ID</b>	P156774
<b>Borrower Name</b>	ECOWAS Commission
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	ECOWAS Commission, Humanitarian Affairs Directorate
<b>Environment Category</b>	C - Not Required
<b>Date PID Prepared</b>	12-Aug-2015
<b>Estimated Date of Approval</b>	02-Nov-2015
<b>Initiation Note Review Decision</b>	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

## **I. Introduction and Context**

### **Country Context**

Africa is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly meteorological and hydrological hazards such as droughts, floods, storms, and excessive temperatures. The incidence and severity of these events in the region have been increasing in recent years, resulting in increased economic, social and environmental damages and losses at national, local and community levels. There are concerns that climate change could exacerbate the intensity of meteorological and hydrological hazards in many parts of Africa in the future. Vulnerabilities to natural hazards are compounded by rapidly evolving economic, social, and environmental processes.

West Africa is particularly vulnerable to natural hazards due to its pronounced location in the African monsoon and low lying, densely populated coastal areas. Several major rivers, such as the Niger, Volta, Senegal or Gambia rivers cross West Africa, while the Sahel and Savannah zones are particularly vulnerable to droughts.

### **Sectoral and Institutional Context**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is mandated to promote regional cooperation and integration of 15 West African Member States (MS), covering a population around 320 million inhabitants. It has the mandate and convening power to lead the general political dialogue on DRR and humanitarian affairs in those countries. At ECOWAS the DRR program is housed at the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs in the Social Affairs and Gender Department. The ECOWAS heads of states adopted in 2007 the regional policy for DRR with a

plan of action covering the years 2010 to 2015. ECOWAS has since then stepped up efforts on strengthening knowledge on risk identification, sharing data and information between member states, providing guidance to national platforms and established an emergency humanitarian relief mechanism, which was used in 2009 and 2010. Despite the progress made, ECOWAS still faces a number of challenges notably with regard to harmonized early warning information, harmonized civil protection mechanism, mainstreaming DRR in sector policies, and capacities to support post disaster recovery and reconstruction.

African governments, under the aegis of the African Union Commission (AUC) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), adopted in 2004 the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR and in 2005 the Extended Program of Action (PoA) for its implementation, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action. The strategy, in its goal to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development and poverty eradication through substantial reduction of social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters, sets out strategic areas of intervention, offers policy guidance at regional level and the PoA describes major areas of activities, expected results, measurable indicators and mechanisms for coordination and support. ECOWAS has since developed DRR policies and/or strategies based on the priorities for action of both the HFA and the PoA: Despite this engagement at regional, sub-regional and national levels, prevention, mitigation and preparedness to deal with natural hazards, in a developmental and comprehensive approach, are still emerging issues in the policy agenda of many African governments.

The ECOWAS Plan of Action 2010 – 2015 is the central strategic document, which guides the implementation of the global, continental and sub-regional policy framework for DRR in ECOWAS. An update of the 2010 – 2015 Plan of Action is currently being conducted, which will involve a broad consultation and validation process in West Africa. The policy objectives are to:

- Provide an inter-governmental framework for collaboration and partnership for ECOWAS Member States in Disaster Risk Management
- Promote integration of disaster risk reduction into ECOWAS Member States National Development Policies, Plans and Programs;
- Facilitate ECOWAS Member States to develop and strengthen institutions, mechanisms and capacities for building resilience to hazards;
- Promote incorporation of risk approaches in emergency preparedness, rehabilitation and recovery programs of ECOWAS Member States;
- Enhance the contribution of disaster reduction to peace security and sustainable development of the sub region.

#### **Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF**

The project relates to the World Bank Africa Strategy “Africa’s future and the world Bank’s support to it”, which addresses vulnerability and resilience. The strategy emphasizes building resilience to the negative effects of climate change and natural disasters. It further identifies the need for “enhancing the ability of African countries to cope with current climate variability.” This response is centered around having better understanding of risks and vulnerability, strengthening the capacity for managing disaster risks, improving preparedness and early warning system, mainstreaming risk reduction across all aspects of development and establishing effective risk financing strategies.

## **II. Project Development Objective(s) Proposed Development Objective(s)**

The development objective is to strengthen the disaster resilience of West African states through regional collaboration and improved coordination, planning, policy advisory and knowledge dissemination capacity of ECOWAS.

The project will accelerate the effective implementation of an African Comprehensive disaster risk reduction and risk management framework in the ECOWAS region.

### **Key Results**

The project expects to achieve the following results:

- (1) DRR policies, strategies and institutions of ECOWAS and its member states are re-enforced, operational and aligned with the new global (Sendai) and regional frameworks.
- (2) The regional flood management capacity of ECOWAS is strengthened.
- (3) Regional post-disaster recovery planning capacity is enhanced.
- (4) The coordination and DRR project management capacity of ECOWAS is strengthened;

## **III. Preliminary Description**

### **Concept Description**

The program for strengthening the DRR capacity of ECOWAS will be implemented in a combination of Bank Executed (BE) and Recipient Executed (RE) projects in three phases. This project paper describes the Recipient Executed activities of phase 1. ECOWAS implemented (RE) activities will allow ECOWAS to hire additional consultants for implementing the DRR program in West Africa as well as deepening the engagement on flood forecasting, policy implementation and post disaster recovery planning. RE implementation will also allow ECOWAS to acquire some of the urgently required equipment, such as network servers.

The project will consist of four components:

i. Strengthen DRM policies and institutions at national and regional level. The project will support ECOWAS and its member states in the first year to validate and adopt the Plan of Action 2015 – 2020 for DRR through a regional consultation workshop, which will translate lessons learnt from the WCDRR in Sendai in March 2015 to the ECOWAS context. This component will furthermore provide support for developing a strategy and institutional framework for national disaster management agencies and test the framework in at least two member countries.

Intermediate results indicators for this component include:

- The ECOWAS DRR Strategy and Plan of Action (2015 – 2030) is consulted, validated and adopted by member states;

- A regional common, operational framework for national disaster management / civil protection organizations is drafted and tested in at least two member states;

ii. Strengthen regional flood management capacity. This component will support identifying a harmonized framework for flood forecasting in West Africa over the entire four-year period of the project. In the first phase the project will review and update the 2010 study on impacts of transnational floods in West Africa and initiate the consultation with RBOs, technical and scientific institutions as well as NGO. In the second year a feasibility study on a regional flood forecasting mechanism will be launched, while piloting it in the second phase. It will help thinking through the necessary institutional arrangements, ensure stakeholder participation in the process and mainstream the results in sector policies.

The intermediate results indicators for this component include:

- The institutional and policy framework for flood management in West Africa is formulated and consulted with member states and stakeholder;

- A feasibility study for a regional flood forecasting mechanism is drafted and reviewed;

- A regional flood forecasting mechanism is tested in at least one trans boundary basin;

– The institutional capacity of ECOWAS to receive, process and disseminate flood and other disaster related information is strengthened;

iii. Enhance regional post disaster recovery planning. The project will provide comprehensive support to ECOWAS for better managing post disaster needs assessments and recovery planning, investing in capacity building, building regional (ECOWAS) guidance notes on recovery planning and assisting member states in establishing base line data for economic impact assessments and recovery planning.

The intermediate results indicators for this component include:

- At least two regional trainings (in English and French) on post disaster needs assessments are conducted;

- A roster of recovery experts is established;

iv. Capacity strengthening and coordination. The project will support ECOWAS with two technical specialists / project officers providing guidance and support to ECOWAS on disaster risk reduction. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be supported with (i) Office running costs and local travel; (ii) Procurement and financial management software and training; (iii) Project assistant; (iv) Launch workshop; (v) Completion report and dissemination workshop; (vi) Specialized consultants and (vii) Renovating office space.

The intermediate results indicators for this component include:

- At least two senior DRM specialists are hired during the project implementation period;

#### IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

#### V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	1.285	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery			1.285

#### VI. Contact point

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