

"FICHE CONTRADICTOIRE"
Evaluation of the Commission's support to the ACP Pacific region

Recommendations:	Responses of Commission Services:	Follow-up (one year later):
<p>1) Partner institutions' and authorities' awareness of the overarching objectives of Commission cooperation should be raised through strengthened policy dialogue. In particular awareness of poverty reduction issues and interventions should be developed.</p>	<p>The recommendation, which refers to primarily to the regional level, has generally been accepted. It has been decided to have from 2008 onwards an Enhanced EU-Pacific Islands Forum Political Dialogue (at senior officials and Ministerial level) through an annual regional political dialogue, including a Ministerial every 3 years. The first meeting will be in May 2008 at Senior Officials level and at Ministerial level in October 2008. Regional cooperation and integration will be approached as primarily a vector for providing a conducive environment for poverty reduction at the national level.</p> <p>Technical assistance at national level will strengthen further institutional capacities.</p> <p>However, it is underlined that poverty is perceived differently (defined as 'poverty of opportunity') in the region</p>	
<p>2) The Commission should pursue, intensify and improve its efforts to help the Pacific region address the issues of environment and natural resources management. Its approach in addressing these issues both as local priority problems and at the same time in a context of global governance of common public goods should be pursued.</p>	<p>The recommendation is fully accepted. Environment as a local concern is both directly addressed and mainstreamed in EC regional development programmes. It is now being put into the context of global governance through the <i>Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)</i> launched at the 2007 Post -Forum Dialogue. The 10th EDF Regional Indicative Programme will combine Sustainable Development (i.e.: the environment and natural resource management) with Economic Growth as two equally important focal sectors of a single development strategy. The GCCA will be a key item on the SOM and Ministerial political dialogue agenda.</p> <p>At national level, the objectives will be mainstreamed in the context of rural</p>	

	development/rural economic growth programmes and focus on the renewable energy and water sector. Attention will be attached as much as possible that commitments by certain Governments will be translated into practical terms, which is the proof of genuine commitment to support effective environmental monitoring and management.	
<p>3) The Commission must improve the linkages between regional and national strategies, ideally in a subsidiary study, early during programming. Regional activities in the RIP that need to be taken over by individual countries should be clearly identified and allocated to the country. National activities in the NIPs that need to be supported by the relevant regional activities should be clearly identified and the envisaged activity in the RIP programmed;</p>	<p>Services agree in principle with the thrust of the recommendation, but question the practical feasibility at this point in time as programming is finalized (national programmes) or close to (regional programme). Services underline that the choice of focal sectors is often based on complementarity between regional and national strategies. Services also underline the importance of ownership by governments concerning the regional programmes, as well division of labour among donors present in the region.</p>	
<p>3.1) Templates for programme and project documents should include sections requiring definition of the linkages and of the measures to be undertaken.</p>	<p>Section 1.3 ("Lessons learnt and complementarity") of the template of the Technical Administrative Provisions will allow explaining the possible linkages between regional and national programmes, whenever relevant (see comments above on the issue of "complementarity of programmes"). Also this point could be examined in the checklists when submitting projects or programmes to internal quality support.</p>	
<p>4) To foster ownership and impact, multi-country or regional programmes should ideally be developed if and when PACP States commit specifically and positively to participate and play a positive role both in a regional programme and in national level counterpart activity.</p>	<p>Services agree with this recommendation. In order to foster ownership and impact, though, regional organisations should intensify efforts to involve national administrations already at the design phase. There are presently two multi-country programmes running and a third one is under preparation.</p> <p>It is seen as an important point that should be pursued notably through policy dialogue. The question could be systematically raised in Regional Political Dialogue under the 'Development Cooperation' point. Services call to all participants</p>	

	to make efforts to get and stay involved.	
5) The mainstreaming of poverty reduction should be enhanced and the interventions in different sectors carefully interconnected.	Services subscribe to poverty reduction as overarching goal in the EC cooperation, but note that it is perceived differently (defined as 'poverty of opportunity') in the region. The joint strategy is sustainable economic growth through an improved trade and development linkage to create jobs and thus reduce poverty.	
5.1) Trade: The Commission's interventions in the area of trade have to provide the support most appropriate to accompanying the region's opening to trade, with a view to ensuring that progress does not exacerbate income distribution inequalities but rather effectively benefits the poorest segment of the local populations. It is understood that income distribution effects are explicitly taken into account in the future PACP-EU EPA, but this objective should also be mainstreamed into all Commission's Trade and TRA programmes.	Services fully accept the recommendation and underline that regional integration and trade will be at the core of the Regional Strategic Paper (RSP) and the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) whose final goal is the reduction of poverty. The regional programme being finalised, as appropriate, will specifically target the need to reduce income disparities notably by supporting jobcreation aiming at the poorest segment of the population, including women.	
5.2) Private Sector Development: Trade development strongly rests on the quality of growth stemming from development of the private sector. Support to private sector development is important and it must be carefully oriented towards a contribution to poverty reduction. The development of the private sector driven by trade comprises the danger that the growth mainly benefits the upper income brackets.	Under the 10 th EDF various NIPs refer to rural growth (PNG, Solomon, Vanuatu). In this area there will be scope to examine the role of the private sector and more generally the role of Government in fostering an enabling environment, e.g. through improved legislation. Some Pacific countries (e.g. Vanuatu) have also highlighted the potential role of CDE in this area.	
5.3) Human Resource Development: Trade-oriented and high-value-added activities can only develop in parallel with the general education level of the population. Basic education received by the poorest segment of the population has to be sufficient. (i) A careful balance between interventions at basic and tertiary education levels and (ii) strong coherence between HRD interventions and income earning activities are necessary.	Services agree generally to this recommendation and underline that this is already the case with the 9 th EDF RIP focussing on sector-wide planning in <i>basic education</i> . Country specificities are covered in the NIPs where basic education in PICs is perceived as generally good. Broad-based at the moment, training is linked to income earning activities. Under the 10 th EDF RIP, HRD will be stepped up and focused even more on vocational skills/trades, ideally in conjunction with the EPA. With regard to country-level interventions, only in the case of PNG the 10 th EDF NIP envisages	

<p>5.4) Fisheries and other Natural Resources (NR): The Commission should foster the sustainable and inclusive growth potential of all NR sectors. The sectors have to offer strong economic growth potential, show the potential participation by the poor and be conditioned by a sound regulatory and incentive framework.</p>	<p>education and training as a focal area.</p> <p>Services agree generally to this recommendation and underline that this is currently being done on a development project basis but is expected to expand as result of EPA and concomitant 10th EDF productive natural resources funding. The target is NR development with job creation as one key objective. Fisheries have emerging as a key issue following the negative FVO inspections in PNG, Solomon and Fiji in 2007. The EC is currently examining the possibility to provide additional support in this area.</p> <p>More generally, as noted above, the role of natural resources for rural growth is duly considered in several 10th EDF National Indicative Programmes. It remains to be seen if and how this area will be included in the RIP.</p>	
<p>6) Contribution Agreements (conventions with international organisations to (co-) finance activities) should be better linked to results and their follow-up and monitoring improved.</p>	<p>Services agree entirely to this recommendation and announce that it is envisaged to tackle this issues through various approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in the context of each specific agreement to be negotiated with regional organisations - to improve results-oriented monitoring (allowing a better coverage of activities at national level) notably through the definition of adapted indicators and their follow-up. - through an improved dissemination of reports prepared by regional organisations 	