

CSO Comments on FP052 ADB Nauru (BM18, October 2017)

(not delivered but submitted to GCF Secretariat)

Sustainable and climate-resilient connectivity for Nauru

- This appears to be a long-standing ADB-backed port development project (dating back to 2009) which initially claimed no connection to climate change. It has important and undoubted potential economic benefits for the island. But climate financing seems to have been sought as an afterthought.
- We are concerned that the Secretariat and ITAP assessments score the project as “high” for country ownership, whilst misrepresenting the National Determined Contribution (NDC) that Nauru submitted to the UNFCCC. The ITAP misrepresents the port project as part of a “focal programme” and “priority action” of the country’s NDC, but that document makes no mention of either the port or transport infrastructure as priorities.
- Having said all of this, we want to recognize the distinct situation of Nauru being the smallest island nation, among the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change, and having a unique reliance on an unreliable and inefficient system for unloading shipping. With all this in mind, we do agree with the assessment of the economic importance of the project for the country. We are also in full support of this being a grant-based project given the status of Nauru as a small island developing state.
- Finally, we wish to clarify that, should this project be approved, it should not in any way set a precedent for the GCF financing large infrastructure projects in other areas/countries, or for positive ITAP assessments of similar proposals.