

Global Project for the Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification:
Advancing global thinking and knowledge sharing on inclusive and sustainable development in drylands
and other fragile ecosystems

Substantive Revision PAC Minutes, 4 July 2016

Participants:

The following bureaus were invited to send comments and recommendations on the substantive revision of the project document for the Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification: *Advancing global thinking and knowledge sharing on inclusive and sustainable development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems*: BPPS, RBA, RBAP, RBLAC, RBAS, RBEC, BERA, CRU and BOM.

Substantive revision justification:

The substantive revision under review was necessitated by the need for the incorporation of an additional output to the project to cater for the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) initiative under the Global Policy Centre main project. This came as a result of resources mobilized from the Government of Germany for the full implementation of BES-Net in support of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and UNDP's work on the science-policy-practice interface in development programmes. The elaboration of the BES-Net initiative activities, at country level, was done in consultation with the Regional Bureaux - Africa, Asia, Europe & Central Asia and Latin America & The Caribbean.

Key areas of amendment:

The overall project objectives and priorities remain unchanged. The changes to the project therefore reflect changes to the structure of the project to one of an award with two main outputs as listed below:

- 1) Global thinking and knowledge sharing on inclusive and sustainable development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems advanced
- 2) Capacities to address science-policy issues related to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services management and utilization developed (BES-Net)

The substantive revision of the originally approved project document is reflected by changes in sections II. Strategy - which now reflects the creation of a dedicated output for BES-Net; III. Integrated Results and Resources Framework - which elaborates on the two outputs and their milestones; IV. Annual Workplan for the BES-Net initiative and Budget - which incorporates the additional funds for BES-Net.

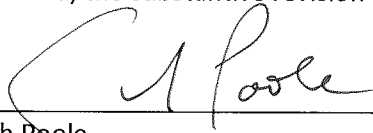
PAC comments and responses

The substantive revision and its justification were circulated on 20 June 2016 for a virtual PAC with a deadline of 27 June 2016. Comments received on the revision were as follows:

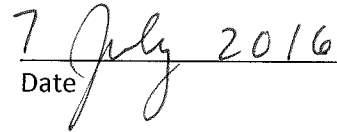
- Regarding the selected countries where the BES-Net activities were to take place, clarification was sought on including these countries, from the proposal document, in the main project document. **Response:** As agreement on firming up these countries was under discussion and since projected activities in these countries are to take place in the future, it was advisable to leave these countries mentioned, indicatively, in the proposal in case these are adjusted at the time of implementation.

- Inclusion of the Regional Bureaux in the Project Board. **Response:** The Regional Bureaux can be included to be part of the BES-Net Technical Advisory Committee (as part of the UNDP membership on this committee), which feeds directly to the Project Board. Depending on the location of the Technical Advisory Committee meeting, the project will invite the relevant Regional Bureau in the region where the meeting is being convened. However, information on the agenda and key discussion points will be circulated to all RBx ahead of the meetings for their inputs and comments and a summary of the deliberations will be circulated for information and further action.

There being no other comments and recommendations and the ones put forward being adequately addressed, the substantive revision is recommended for approval.



Sarah Poole
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Bureau for Policy and Programme Support



Date