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Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting on the GCF Project

Project Title: Building Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Agricultural Livelihoods in Southern Zimbabwe

Date of Meeting: Monday 6th July 2020

Time: 1530 -1645hrs

Venue: Zoom Link <https://undp.zoom.us/j/91900423754>

Participants

Name	Institution
John Basera	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement, Meeting Chair
Georges van Montfort	UNDP Resident Representative, Meeting Co-Chair
Washington Zhakata	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
Tirivanhu Muhwati	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
Jeremiah Mushosho	UNDP Zimbabwe
Anne Madzara	UNDP Minuting
Tina Sibanda	UNDP Zimbabwe
Alleta Nyahuye	WW ZimbabweF
Loretta Marembo	Young Volunteers for the Environment
Brighton Shayanewako	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Andre van Rooyen	ICRISAT
Archieford Chemhere	Action 24
Becky Manzou	Meteorological Services Department
Bezzel Chitsungo	Department of Irrigation
Busie Gomez	Netherlands Embassy
Byron Zamasiya	Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association
Tatenda Michael Chigamba	
Tatenda Mutasa	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
Tendai Dominic	DR&SS. Matopos Research Institute, Bulawayo
Elizabeth Gulugulu	African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)
Urara Higuchi	Embassy of Japan
Verity Johnson	CAFOD
Waddilove Sansole	Welthungerhilfe (ZAKIS)
William Zirebwa	Technoserve
Lawrence Mashungu	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
Sabine Homann-Kee Tui	ICRISAT
Sylvia Shekede	Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ)

Justice Nhidza	Young Volunteers for the Environment
Lewis Makurumure	Rural Electrification Fund
Martin Moyo	ICRISAT
Mudhefi Assah	Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement- Agritex
Natalia Perez	UNDP Zimbabwe
Clayton Mafuratidze	ZRBF
Gerald Mundondwa	Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement.
Diana Tapedzanyika	Young Volunteers for the Environment
Doreen Tsitsi Tirivanhu	University of Zimbabwe, IES
Edzai Chinakidzwa	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Enia Rugare	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
George Mapuvire	Bio-Hub Trust
Geraldine Muswe	Young Volunteers for the Environment
Givious Sisito	DR&SS-Matopos Research Institute
Hapson Mushoriwa	Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre
Daniel Chakwasha	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Dralee Katsaruware	International Rescue Committee
Elisha Moyo	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
Elson Chuzu	
Jyothi Bylappa	World Food Programme
Kudzai Nyengerai	Kudzai Nyengerai Welthungerhilfe (ZRBF-MELANA)
Linia Gopo	Meteorological Services Department
Mike Maketho	Hivos
Mr Mbiba	ELJV
Nqobizita Ndhlovu	Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association
Leonard Magara	CRIDF
Tirivanhu Muhwati	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
Pirikisie	Plan International
Yvonne Chingarande	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
Tafadzwa Dhlakama	UNDP Zimbabwe
Tendai Dominic Matekenya	DR&SS. Matopos Research Institute, Bulawayo
Grace Tambo	DR&SS. Matopos Research Institute, Bulawayo
Givious Sisito	DR&SS. Matopos Research Institute, Bulawayo
Sarah Feresu	Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Zimbabwe
Doreen Tirivanhu,	Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Zimbabwe
William Zirebwa	TechnoServe
Diana Tapedzanyika	Toxiconsol /BCSD
Joseph Muroiwa	ZRBF -ECRAS Project
Nhongonhema Rutendo	AGRITEX
Sophia Nyagwande	Embassy of Sweden
Waddilove Sansole	Welthungerhilfe (ZAKIS)
Chrispen Maseva	Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ)
Nyashadzashe Viriri	Zimbabwe National Water Authority(ZINWA)
Kudzai Nyengerai	Welthungerhilfe (ZRBF-MELANA)
Rodger Mpande	ZERO Regional Environment Organization
Busie Gomez	Netherlands Embassy
Desire Nemashakwe	Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.
Verity Johnson	CAFOD
Tsungai Mavambe	CRIDF

Agenda

1. Welcome Remarks and Introductions - Ministry of LAWRR and the Resident Representative, UNDP
2. Presentation of Project – UNDP and MLAWRR
3. Questions, discussions and recommendations
4. Next Steps
5. Closing Remarks – Ministry of LAWRR, NDA, and the Resident Representative, UNDP

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

(i) Opening Remarks by Dr Bhasera:

The Co-Chair, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands Agriculture, Water and Rural Resources, representing the Executing Entity of the project welcomed all participants to the online meeting and introduced his co-chair Georges van Montfort, the UNDP Zimbabwe Resident Representative, to the meeting. He went on to advise the participants that this meeting was important as it marked the initial step towards operationalising the project funded by the GCF and supported by UNDP the MLAWRR the Implementing Partner. He appreciated all institutions that had supported the development and setting up of the project.

He emphasised on the following:

- The importance of the project to resilience building, the benefits to women rural farmers and the good timing of the roll out of this project in light of the major climate change induced events such as Cyclone Idai and the recent incidences of drought impacting on food security and agricultural growth.
- He referred to the government *Pfumvudza* initiative where 1.8 million households were set to benefit from standard input package – noting that the inputs package had CSA package across the board. The project is important to sustain food and nutrition security and leverages on the objective of *Pfumvudza*.
- He reiterated that the objective of the proposed project to strengthen resilience of agricultural livelihoods of vulnerable communities, particularly women, in southern Zimbabwe in the face of increasing climate risks and impacts contributes immensely to the Zimbabwe's Agricultural Resilience and Adaptation Programmes, other government agricultural recovery initiatives, the Irrigation Masterplan and the national Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) objectives. He took note of the ongoing UNDP, FAO, IFAD and WFP supported projects which this GCF project would also build on. He called for strong synergies between these development partners initiatives.
- He appreciated the geographic focus of the project to Southern Zimbabwe noting that it was important due to poverty prevalence across the Southern provinces and the limited access to irrigation – noting that only about 10,000 ha out of the 180,000 ha of irrigated land in southern Zimbabwe are found on communal lands. He noted that the remaining farmers are dependent on rain-fed agriculture and that the increasing growth and strength of climate hazards have had significant implications for household food security and income in already vulnerable communities in southern Zimbabwe making the project very relevant.

He committed the MLAWRR mentioning that the Ministry stood ready to lead the implementation of the project as the Implementing Partner. He specifically committed his various departments to this project.

Dr Bhasera handed over to his co-chair Georges van Montfort, for his opening remarks.

(ii) Opening Remarks Georges van Montfort:

In his remarks, the UNDP co-chair welcomed everyone and called all to continue to register their presence on-

organisations, private sector, technical specialists and research institutions. He also made special mention of the development partners who participated in several meetings. He made reference to the immense support of the project received from the various embassies who provided favourable technical comments for input into the GCF Secretariat review process. He further acknowledged the co-financing from government and the expected contribution in kind from the local beneficiaries.

The co-chair mentioned the importance of the project in responding to the climate shocks, access to water and to contribute to the wider resilience building efforts by other initiatives including to the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund being implemented by the same ministry.

He mentioned that this was one of the first and largest so far of the GCF funded project which comes in addition to the WFP supported project on climate information systems. Already effort has been made during project development for the two projects to strongly coordinate.

The co-chair briefly mentioned the process of the project development highlighting that it took a little over 2.5 years to develop the project through multi-stakeholder consultations from concept and full proposal stage. He referred to the in-depth feasibility was supported by other detailed thematic sub assessments noting that the design process made strong reference to lessons from past and ongoing initiatives.

He went on to advise the meeting of the purpose of the LPAC meeting which was to update stakeholders on the project and to seek endorsement of the project before the project is cleared and signed by UNDP and the Executing Entity. On the agenda of the meeting the co-chair emphasised that the link to the project proposal and the presentation had been shared with the invitation and that, a few elements, apart from the project document, needed to be specifically endorsed. He indicated that there had been no changes in the design of the project from the design in the proposal approved by the GCF in March 2020, as shared in the link, except for a few new minor operational elements that the meeting will be specifically requested to endorse.

Lastly, he emphasized the critical timelines and the importance adhering to the schedule in the Funded Activity Agreement following the project effectiveness date of the 1st June 2020. This date was noted as the is the date which the Fund Approved for Zimbabwe was considered operational. He mentioned that the request for the first disbursement was due within 90 days. i.e. Friday 29th Aug 2020 and that this LPAC and Project document (prodoc) clearance and signature had to be done in the first month of effectiveness date. He also mentioned the need for having formal agreement with/assignment of the Responsible Parties, the setup of the Project Management Unit (PMU), and submission of the inception report within 6-months after the inception workshop scheduled for November 2020 or earlier.

He then invited the MLAWRR, MECTHI and the UNDP technical persons to make the presentation of the project.

Agenda Item 2: Presentation of the Project

The project was presented jointly by MECTHI and UNDP. The presenters went over the project rationale, theory of change, design of the project, multiyear budget and co-funding arrangements and the implementation arrangements.

The highlights of the presentation were that:

- The project was developed through a consultative process and approved in March 2020.
- In-depth feasibility study was conducted supported by several sub-assessments including Irrigation, CSA, Value Chain Analysis, Gender Assessment and Action Plan, Climate Information systems, Financial and Economic Viability; Inclusive Finance and Risk Assessment, Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement and Grievance Plan including strong reference to lessons on past and ongoing initiatives.
- The project was designed to address a number of barriers to building resilience with a focus on access to water which included: limited institutional support capacities and technical knowledge for farmers to adapt their production practices to climate-driven drought and mid-season dry spells; inadequate financial and technical capacity for climate-proofed irrigation investments and O&M; limited access to knowledge, markets and value-chains to shift away from subsistence to climate-resilient agricultural

- The ward selection criteria consisting of 9 elements below needed to be endorsed: Existence of selected irrigation schemes, proximity to the Irrigation schemes: which other wards, climate change vulnerability, potential of application of CSA packages, value chain assessment and feasibility of other dry land crops, potential for synergies, ownership and commitment by beneficiaries and possibility of clustering Interventions.
- The total project budget is US\$ 47,818,387 with US\$26,547,567 being GCF contribution, US\$20,038,820 being government co-financing in cash and kind and US\$1,200,00 being UNDP cash co-financing.

The presentation on implementation arrangements included a detailed presentation of the TORs and the proposed composition of the steering committee. This needed endorsement.

The power-point presentation made in the LPAC is attached.

Agenda Item 3: Questions, discussions and recommendations

The co-chair invited participants for questions, comments and clarifications. The participants were encouraged to either raise hands and wait for a turn to speak or to write comments in the meeting chat box.

The following points and recommendations were raised:

On the steering committee: It was recommended that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development should be on the steering committee.

On the role of Civil Society: A question was raised on the role of civil society in the implementation arrangements. It was pointed out that NGOs would be invited to partner with responsible parties as service providers. The Involvement of NANGO in the Steering Committee might be critical to enhance community participation. The meeting however noted that several NGOs who would be responsible parties would take part in the implementation including participating in the proposed steering committee. On the same it was noted that the ZRBF arrangements has set precedence and there was need for the project to check how was the ZRBF operated, vis a vis the involvement of NANGO and the NGO lead consortia modality.

On the coordination with ZRBF: it was noted that the aspect of back to back meetings has been discussed and there was a need to further deliberate on how this would be coordinated given that the meetings normally take time to prepare and attend. The ZRBF project team would share with the GCF team the deliberations from the recent ZRBF meeting on the coordination of meetings.

On the role of WFP as a service provider: there would be bilateral meetings between UNDP and WFP and with MSD on the role of WFP.

On the wards selection criteria: there was need to consider resource endowment of the wards. The project needed to make sure that some wards do not end up with more support than the others. The co-chair noted the point and sought further clarification from the technical team if this had been or could be considered. The meeting was advised that one of the criteria relating to synergies could be revised to include resource endowment of the wards. However, it was also cautioned that the levels of vulnerability of each ward would determine the level of support was required, noting that other wards were more vulnerable to climate impacts and needed more support than the others. It was emphasised that the selection criteria were not to be considered in isolation and also noted that the selection of groups could be finer details for targeting within wards.

There were no further questions. After these deliberations the co-chair called for the endorsement of the below:

- The project document – endorsed
- Selection Criteria of the wards – endorsed with the proposed consideration of the point raised on resource endowment.
- Implementation arrangements - endorsed
- PSC Committee and TORs – endorsed with proposed amendment to include the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

- Minutes of LPAC Signed – UNDP and MLAWRR by 12th July
- Generate Multi-year-Work-plan by 13 July: Country office generates the multi-year, Annual Work Plan (AWP) and AWP from Atlas. This is to be reviewed and approved by the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor
- Project Document (prodoc) Package clearance 13 July. Final technical and financial clearance of LPAC approved Prodoc package
- Appointment of the Project National Executive/National Director to oversee the project - MLAWRR by 15 July
- Responsible Party (RP) Agreements signed by MLAWRR and RPs – MLAWRR by 15 July
- Co-Financing Schedule Discussions (UNDP, MLAWRR, MoFED, MECTHI) by 20 July
- Delegation of Authority to Country Office 27 July. This is to be issued by UNDP HQ and signed by UNDP Executive Director. Country Office to prepare draft Delegation of Authority (DOA) before hand and submit as part of the Prodoc package
- Prodoc package signed 15 August and LPAC approved prodoc package to be signed by UNDP RR and MLAWRR Permanent Secretary
- Conditions to be full-filled before 1st disbursement - Before 15 August 2020, Submit final wards eligibility criteria approved by the Executing Entity MLAWRR
- Submit Request first disbursement before 29th Aug 2020. This is a hard deadline to be met within 90 days of FAA effectiveness
- Conclude setting up of the PMU – UNDP by October 2020
- Conduct inception workshop before 1 Nov 2020. The project should have the PMU on board by this time.
- Project Inception Workshop – UNDP, MLAWRR by October End
- Submit Inception report before 1st Dec 2020. This is a hard deadline to be met within one month of conducting the workshop

Agenda item 5: Closing Remarks

A youth representative, the National Designated Authority (NDA) represented by Mr Zhakata from MECTHI, and the co-chairs presented closing remarks.

(i) The Youth in Climate Change representative commented the good project and congratulated UNDP and the government on behalf of the youths. She emphasized on the need to include youths and urged the UNDP and government and all partners to make youth considerations during implementation of the project.

(ii) NDA closing Remarks:

The NDA indicated they were ready to support fully the entire cycle of implementation of this project nothing that the NDA will provide all the requisite endorsements letters timely. He went further to advise the meeting that it was NDA's requirement to conduct independent monitoring and evaluation of the project to ensure that the project continues along the lines of the project document and that it continues to address the national priorities as stipulated in and guided by the National Climate Change Response Strategy as we report to the GCF. The NDA called for synergies of this resilience project with other projects such as the WFP/GCF project, GCF Readiness project, the NAP project, etc in order to avoid duplication and encourage complementarity. He pointed to the need to draw up a clear sustainability plan for the existence of the project after the GCF funding, with particular reference to the irrigation system, meteorological equipment maintenance, and other fragile components of the project that can easily be neglected and destroy the momentum of the project.

Regarding monitoring and reporting, he advised that, the project will be reported to the UNFCCC through the National Communication and the Adaptation Communication Framework. In view of the renewable energy to be used in the project, he further advised that the components of the project deliverables will be reported under the Mitigation component of the Biennial Update Reports and the subsequent Biennial Reports of the Enhanced Transparency Framework

(iii) Closing Remarks by the co-chair Ministry of Lands Agriculture Water and Rural Resettlement

The MLAWRR co-chair thanked all participants for attending and once again expressed commitment of the Ministry to the project to ensure its successful implementation.

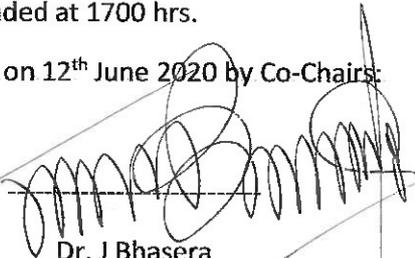
(iv) Closing Remarks by the UNDP co-chair

In closing the UNDP Resident Representative thanked all participants for attending the meeting and the comments received. He went on to emphasise the important role of each stakeholder and in particular the active involvement youth and women and pledged UNDP's commitment towards ensuring that the youth needs and priorities are addressed in the project

The meeting ended at 1700 hrs.

Minutes signed on 12th June 2020 by Co-Chairs:

Signed:

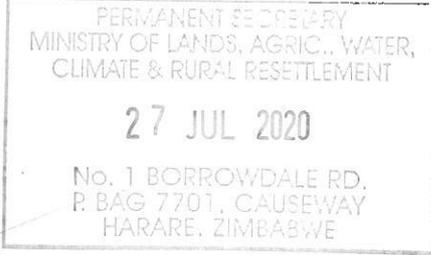


Dr. J Bhasera

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Lands Agriculture Water and Rural Resettlement

Date:



Signed:



Georges van Montfort
Resident Representative

United Nations Development Programme

Date:

29-Jul-2020