



**Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management in PNG
Project Board meeting
4 April 2017, Lamana Hotel, Port Moresby**

MEETING MINUTES

Members present: CEPA Delegate NPD Ms. Kumaras Kalim, East New Britain Provincial Advisor Mr. Blaise Magaga and Ms. Florence Paisparea, West New Britain Environment Officer Mr. Desmond Vaghelo, NGO representative from FORCERT Ms. Pamela Avusi, and UNDP Environment and Energy Programme Analyst Ms. Gwen Maru

Apology: Private Sector representative Sime Darby/New Britain Palm Oil Mr. Ian Orrell

Secretariat: CEPA Manager Mr. James Sabi; PMU Ms. Emily Fajardo, Mr. Kepa Kumilgo, Mr. Ben Ngava, Ms. Ovin Wafewa, Mr. Thomas Waika and Ms. Melinda Waipo.

Approved Agenda:

1. Review and endorsement of last meeting minutes, and matters arising from the last meeting
2. Presentation of project progress to date
3. Presentation and endorsement of key recommendations from the Mid Term Review (MTR)
4. Presentation and approval of Annual Work Plan for 2017

Welcome and Introduction:

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Maru and Mr. Sabi. Proposed agenda was accepted by the board members. Two new project staff were asked to introduce themselves to the board. Mr. Ngava is based in Pomio and serves as the coordinator for East New Britain and Ms. Waipo is the incumbent Accounting and Procurement Officer for the new GEF5 Protected Area project.

AGENDA 1 – Previous Meeting Minutes and Matters Arising

After review of meeting minutes, the minutes was accepted by the Board as final. **The Board directed** the Project Team to prepare minutes in 2 weeks' time to be circulated to board members for review.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. The Memorandum of Agreement was approved by the Provincial Executive Council of East New Britain province in 2014 however signing has been deferred twice. MOA for West New Britain province has been endorsed by the Provincial Management Team to PEC for formal endorsement. Both documents needed to be reviewed and updated to incorporate planned activities for 2017 onwards that will be co-financed by the provinces. **The Board agreed** that the next partners' meeting will be a back-to-back event with the signing of MOA between CEPA and the two provinces in May 2017.
- ii. The Board remarked that meetings were not regularly convened in 2016, noting of a special board meeting in July 2015 to present the key findings of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) option study for New Britain held in Kokopo in conjunction with the partners' meeting. **The Board agreed** that the next board meeting will be held in October 2017.

- iii. On project board membership, Forcert has been invited to be part of the project board per recommendation of the Mid-Term Review. **The Board endorsed** MTR recommendation to re-establish Forcert as CSO representative, making the total of the board with six members.
- iv. Board member Ms. Avusi inquired on the reasons behind the delays in the project. Ms. Fajardo responded by presenting the current staffing of 4 to implement all of the existing GEF projects: i) GEF4 Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management, ii) GEF5 Protected Area, iii) Cross-cutting Capacity Development, and iv) Formulation of GEF6 Sustainable Financing on Protected Area. She highlighted proposed changes in the organigram to the Board that creates 2 new positions (Project Management Specialist and the Sogeri/Varirata Coordinator) to manage the day-to-day implementation of the GEF5 Protected Area project – based from the consultation and feedback from the Inception Workshops on GEF5 project. **The Board noted and supported** the changes in the new structure.

AGENDA 2 – Presentation of Overall Project Progress

Ms. Fajardo on overall progress as of February 2017 (see Annex A) which showed progress in the Outcome areas relating to i) national enabling environment on protected areas, ii) Community-Conservation Area Planning. Ms. Fajardo underscored that the project will focus more on delivering results of other Outcome areas of the project, namely on CCA identified and established in Owen Stanley Range and New Britain and Capacity development and support for the implementation of CCA Management Plans.

Noting that result of the National Priority Exercise on Conservation identified 8 provinces (East New Britain, West New Britain, East Sepik, West Sepik, Morobe, Madang, Northern and Central provinces) in the next 5 years. A couple of the sites coincides with the piloting exercise of CCDAs REDD+ in Madang and East New Britain.

The Board requested the PMU give an update on the progress of all NGOs/CBOs engaged through the microgrants.

The PMU was also informed of a new initiative by UNDP's REDD+ Readiness Project that has East New Britain Province as the pilot site for the implementation of the PNG's National REDD+ Strategy (2017).

AGENDA 3 – Presentation of Mid-Term Review Recommendations

Ms. Fajardo presented the key recommendations of the Mid Term Review as presented by the independent consultant Dr. Stuart Williams during the full debriefing to CEPA and UNDP that also attended by partners (see Annex B). The draft report will be expected by mid-April and circulated as soon as it becomes available.

- Adjustments in the project results framework. The MTR observed inconsistencies with the design of the project and recommended to **adjust** the one million hectares added as the end-of Project target (Output 2.1) and to **drop** the following Outputs:
 - Improved whole-of-government approach (Outputs 1.1)
 - Medium-term Development Plan explicitly recognize development of National PA system (Outputs 1.2)
 - National Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainable agriculture, & PA Financing (Outputs 1.3)
 - PA financing meets min. requirement for gazetted CCAs (Outputs 1.4)
- Proposal for a no-cost extension of the project until end December 2019. On the third year of project implementation, the MTR validated the strong progress particularly with national enabling activities (Outcome 1) and reiterated that the second half of project implementation will be geared towards consolidation and refocusing to sustain gains in pilot Community Conservation Areas.

- Below are key discussion points in relation to the sustainability issues of Community Conservation Areas:
 - Application of the PA Bill in pilot sites to ensure protection against illegal land acquisition;
 - Due to limitation of time and resources, the MTR recommended for the project will not to go into new sites but to focus on the current pilot areas;
 - The Board supported the proposal to consolidate the management plans for presentation to development partners and private sector for support. Proposed Project coordinators were tasked by the Board to collate copied of the management plans for review later in the year for existing WMAs and new CCAs. Sustainability issues, for example of Tavolo WMA, to be reviewed.
 - ENB representative remarked that the environment committee established before needed to be reviewed and activated as well as LLGs involvement in capacity building process since the province will be moving to create Environment and climate Change officer positions at LLG level;
 - On Land Use, the Board suggested that the National Land Use Policy should be supported as a priority under Component 1 and the land-use planning exercises in both provinces led by TNC need to contribute towards National Land Use plan. Query was also made on the link of biodiversity survey to land use plans.
- Support for Owen Stanley Range with a reasonable resource to support activities that are achievable within a 2-year timeline.
- MTR also noted that project needs to improve on gender mainstreaming. Board to anticipate specific recommendations in this area discussed and put forward example that young women and youth be included in community trainings on environmental monitoring and ranger certification.
- MTR also observed that improvements can be made in communication, and monitoring and evaluation to systematically collate info to better manage the project, e.g. project map, roadmap of project interventions, regularly updating of baseline.

AGENDA 4. Annual Work Plan for Year 2017

Emily presented the draft AWP (Annex C) which has been a result of planning workshops in East and West New Britain. All members discussed and **moved the motion to approve the AWP.**

AGENDA 5. AOB

1. MOA signing between CEPA and the 2 provinces, East and West New Britain, tentatively on 18th May, venue either at Baia Resort or POM
2. Partners meeting on 23-24th May 2017 to be held in Kimbe
3. Review of Mid Term Review draft report through a workshop on 25-26 May in Kokopo
4. Next Partners meeting to visit Tol and ARM project sites on 4-5th July
5. Board meeting on 12 June at Baia Resort
6. Cross Visits to Madang (Wanang and Middle Ramu) and Goroka (Hogave) on 3-10th August to promote community volunteerism

ENDORSEMENT or CLEARANCE FOR THE MEETING MINUTES

Signature: 

Date: 14/04/17

Mr. James Sabi
Meeting Chairperson & Manager-TEM, SEP, CEPA

Signature: 

Date: 14/04/17

Ms. Gwen Maru
Environment Analyst, Environment Portfolio UNDP Country Office