



**Project: REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO SOLAR PV POWER GENERATION IN MAURITIUS,
RODRIGUES AND OUTER ISLANDS**

**STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

06 June 2014

Held at the Fort Victoria Power Station at Cassis

Were present:

Name of Participant	Organization	Designation
S.Mukoon	Central Electricity Board	Corporate Planning and Research Manager /National Project Director
V. Jhummon	Central Electricity Board	NUG Manager
A. Rujbally	Central Electricity Board	Project Manager -Ag. Sr. Engineer
I. Dreepaul	Central Electricity Board	Project Assistant - Ag. Sr. Load Forecast Analyst
Ghurburrun Ravin Kumar	Outer Island Development Corporation	Development Officer
Rucha Gupta	Ministry of Finance & Economic Development	Analyst
Seenarain Neermala	Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development	Environment Officer
Stenny Emilien	Rodrigues Regional Assembly	Ag Sr. Analyst
Krishna Sooprayen	Rodrigues Regional Assembly	STM Intern
Balgobin Devika	Statistics Mauritius	Statistician
Satyajeet Ramchurn	United Nation Development Programme	Environment Programme Officer
Y. Servansingh	Mauritius Institute of Training & Development	Divisional Manager
Raj Booneeady	Mauritius Meteorological Services	Divisional Meteorologist
Preetam Chaundee	Ministry of Energy & Public Utilities (MEPU)	Senior Electrical Engineer
Balram Cunniah	Mauritius Standards Bureau	Manager
S. Ramdin	National Development Unit	Project manager
T. Somaroo	National Development Unit	Project Assistant
D. Dookee	Ministry of Local Government & Outer Islands	Senior Project Analyst
A.K. Yearoo	MID Commission	Analyst

1. Introduction

The National Project Director (NPD) welcomed all committee members and introduced the CEB's Project Team that will be responsible for the execution of the project.

The NPD recalled that the Project was signed in 2011 between the Government of Mauritius and the UNDP and recapped on the history of the project to date. The project was planned for completion over a period of 4 years. However, following lack of success in the recruitment of the project manager position by MEPU after 4 failed attempts, discussions were started in December 2013 on entrusting project execution to the CEB.

The CEB took up the matter in the Board meeting December 2013, whereby the delegation of the implementing agency of the project by the MEPU to the CEB was approved. In 2014, as per the MEPU's letter dated 17 February 2014, the Ministry delegated the project to the CEB. The latter, as per letter dated 30 May 2014 addressed to the UNDP Resident Representative and copied to the Acting Permanent Secretary of the MEPU, had accepted to take over the execution of the project. The NPD noted that the CEB will need to complete the 4 years project in a very tight period and requested the committee members to provide their full support to enable the smooth implementation of the project within this time frame.

The UNDP representative stated that the project received an unsatisfactory rating in 2013 and that any extension of the deadline for the project beyond 2015 will not be possible if another unsatisfactory rating is received. He outlined the main goals of the Power Steering Committee, one of which is to ensure that all expenses carried out for the project are in line with the GEF and UNDP rules. He expressed his appreciation to the CEB team for organizing the Inception Workshop within 3 months after having been designated as the executing agency by the MEPU.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting

Reporting on the status of the project, which consists of the following, shall be done on a quarterly basis, as per the UNDP National Implementation Modality rules.

- a) Financial Report
- b) Quarterly Progress Report
- c) Quarterly Work Plan

In addition, the project is required to follow the Monitoring and Evaluation plan in the project document and as per GEF guidelines. This includes:

- 1) Annual Project implementation Report to the GEF
- 2) Mid-term evaluation
- 3) Final evaluation

The UNDP representative informed the committee that the project management team will have to ensure that the PIR, and the mid-term and final evaluations be filled in time so as to meet the project's schedule. He signaled that fillings of documents are mandatory requirements in the execution of GEF funded project. To accomplish these tasks effectively, he suggested that the project management team keeps close track of activities and ensure proper documentations.

3. Presentation of the Project Manager

The Project Manager made a presentation covering the following:

1. Project Details
2. Project Rationale
3. The **FIVE** Components of the project namely (Legal/Regulatory Framework, Develop Capacity for Economic and Financial Evaluation, Technical Capacity Building, Support Feed-In-Tariff and Promotional Activities)
4. Project Budget for Four Years as illustrated in the project document of 2011

4. Inception Workshop and Report

The NPD provided a brief recap to the committee members on the two-day Inception Workshop, which was organized jointly by the CEB and the UNDP, held on 10 and 11 April 2014 at La Plantation Hotel. The purpose of the inception workshop:

- a) To explain the objectives and activities of the project „*Removal of Barriers to Solar PV Power Generation in Mauritius and the outer islands*“ to stakeholders.
- b) To explain the implementation modalities and responsibilities, including reporting and monitoring, as agreed by parties.
- c) To convey to stakeholders the expected outcomes and outputs of the present project and update the risk matrix which was defined in 2011;
- d) To update information on previously identified major challenges, as more fully described in the Project Document (Prodoc);
- e) To collect new intelligence on the sector's condition so as to review the project activities and update the project Log Frame, and, if necessary ,reformulate the implementation strategy; and
- f) To develop the new Annual Work Plan based on the foregoing.

The Project Assistant presented the draft Inception Report and informed the committee members that the final report will be circulated for comments shortly. The UNDP representative pointed out that three days will be provided for comments on the draft report, given the time constraint for the project.

5. Signatories

There are 3 signatories, approved by the UNDP, from the CEB for the disbursement of fund. They are the NPD, the General Manager and Acting Chief Finance Officer, as shown in the table below:

Mr. Mohammad Shamshir Mukoon	National Project Director, Corporate Planning & Research Manager, CEB
Mr. Shiam Krisht Thannoo	General Manager, CEB
Mr. Bye Pharad Kurreemun	Acting Chief Finance Officer, CEB

6. Recruitment of Consultant to prepare MSDG Grid Code and review of SSDG under SIDSDOCK co-financing

The Project Manager informed the committee members that a Spanish Consultant has been recruited by CEB on 12th May 2014 to perform the study "*Determination of the Grid Absorption Capacity of Mauritius and Preparation of a Grid Code, Feed-In-Tariffs and Model ESPA for Renewable Energy Systems between 50kW to 2MW*". The project is being co-financed by the World Bank and UNDP following prior agreement to this effect at the level of MEPU in 2012. The initial agreement was for the GEF funded project supported by UNDP to provide USD 80,000 to the SIDSDOCK funded project supported by the World Bank.

Following the tender exercise, it was found that consultancy services would cost USD \$ 251,993. The UNDP was to contribute USD \$80,000 for this contract.

Review of the SSDG Scheme

Moreover, following a review on the history of the SSDG scheme by the NPD, the committee was also informed that, as the review of the present SSDG scheme is an output of the UNDP/GEF project and given the fact that the above Spanish consultant has been purposely engaged to execute the study on distributed generation for capacity greater than 50 kW, the consultant had been requested to increase the scope of the initial work so as to cover also the reviewing of the SSDG Grid Code. This request was formulated during the consultant's 4 days kick-off mission in May 2014.

The committee agreed for this extension of the work based on the fact that starting afresh for the recruitment of another consultant to perform this review would be a time consuming process, especially taking into account the tight schedule of this project. The UNDP already gave a preliminary agreement for this extension on 21 May 2014 and the World Bank provided its no-objection on 05 June 2014. The approval of the Steering Committee was

sought so that with this extension the contribution of the GEF funded project for this project will finally amount to USD \$ 102, 301.

The Project Manager requested the approval of the committee to increase the scope of work of the Spanish Consultant AF-Mercados so as to also cover the reviewing of the SSDG Scheme and thus avoid another procurement process. The final report is expected by mid-August.

The Steering Committee approved the increase in co-financing from 80,000 USD to 102,301 USD.

7. Planned Consultancy Services for 2014 and working groups

In accordance with information gathered at the inception workshop, six different consultancy services have been planned for the year 2014.

- Development of a Solar Map for the Republic of Mauritius
- Development of a Methodology for the Economic and Financial Appraisal of Solar PV Power Generation Investments including Capacity Building
- Development of a Road Map for a Smart Grid
- Development of an appropriate framework to regulate grid-connected Solar PV-Systems
- Recommendation for the Setting up of a One-Stop Shop to Facilitate Diffusion of Solar PV Power Generation.
- Demonstration PV System in Rodrigues

In order to prepare the various terms of reference, it was proposed to set up working groups for each RFP. In addition, OIIC and RRA would carry out their own procurement based on the technical guidance of the CEB.

8. PV System in Rodrigues

The Rodrigues Regional Assembly Representatives reiterated the request for support to Rodrigues. that the proposed demonstration PV Farm on the RRA building needs to be co-financed in order to benefit from this fund. In this respect, they confirmed that they will do the necessary and shall revert back soon.

Mr. Y. Servansingh from the MITD requested funding for a PV project on Le Chou Multipurpose Training Centre for the training of technicians. Similar to the RRA Building's project proposal and co-financing details have to be submitted.

9. Agalega PV Project

The OIDC representative requested for funding for the PV project in Agalega. He informed that there is already co-financing from the MID Fund to the tune of Rs 5 M. He was requested by the NPD to submit his project proposal and co-financing details for analysis before a decision is made as any such modification to the budget would be constrained by budget management rules of UNDP and GEF.

10. Approval of the Steering Committee

The following were approved by the Steering Committee:

- a) Communication to be initiated to the setting up of a mechanism for the allocation of **\$1.3 M USD** to cater for the topping up of the Feed-In-Tariff to cater for the price difference for the upcoming competitively procured 5 x 2 MW Solar PV farms. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needs to be signed between CEB and UNDP once MOFED gives its clearance.
- b) Increasing the co-Financing to the project *“Determination of the Grid Absorption Capacity of Mauritius and Preparation of a Grid Code, Feed-In-Tariffs and Model ESPA for Renewable Energy Systems between 50kW to 2MW”* including the extension of the scope of work so as to cover a review of the SSDG Scheme, from 80,000 USD to **\$102,301 USD for a new total contract amount of USD 302,301.**
- c) Project to co-finance PV system of OIDC, RRA, training center at Le Chou subject to co-financing and budget limits.
- d) Submission of Inception report to the UNDP RTA for approval
- e) Setting up of Working groups for the various planned consultancies

11. Closing of the Meeting

The NPD thanked all the members for their presence. The meeting was closed at 12:00 hrs. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for end September 2014.