

RECORD OF THE PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON PROMOTING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITY-BASED REGENERATION OF INDIGENOUS FORESTS IN ZAMBIA'S CENTRAL PROVINCE PROJECT HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2015 IN THE UN CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Welcome Remarks

The Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meeting on Promoting Climate Resilient Community-Based Regeneration of Indigenous Forests in Zambia's Central Province Project was chaired by Mr Martim Faria e Maya. Mr Maya welcomed participants to the meeting and requested for self-introductions from members present (See Annex 1). He outlined the objective of the PAC meeting as being to avail the stakeholder with a final opportunity to review the project document. Members were then informed of the consultative process which had been undertaken in the development of the project document which included; (a) an Inception workshop that was held in August 2014, (b) a validation workshop held in October 2014, with key Government stakeholders including representatives from all the province, Development Partners, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). This was further strengthened with field studies in all the districts in central province as well as bilateral meetings with various stakeholders. In reviewing the document, Mr Maya guided the meeting to focus their discussions on the following as per the invitation letter:

- **Relevance:** whether or not there was consensus on the problem to be addressed and the expected results intended to be produced in line with Government priorities development agenda and UNDP's strategic plan of 2014-2017.
- **Feasibility:** whether the proposed project strategy presented a credible approach towards achievement of intended results
- **Commitment:** whether the selected key implementing partners would be committed to the implementation of the project work plan and the selected implementing partner was the best choice for the work to be done.
- **Accountability:** whether the proposed management and implementation arrangements clearly articulated the accountabilities, roles and responsibilities.

After the articulation of the above issues, Mr Maya requested Mr Makumba, Director of Forestry Department as the head of the key implementing partner and host institution to make a brief presentation of the project.

2. Brief Presentation on the project document

In making the presentation on the project document, Mr Makumba highlighted the following: background to the development of the project; objective, expected outcomes, risks involved and project implementation arrangements.

For the background Mr. Makumba mentioned that Zambia's forests were under tremendous pressure with deforestation rate of 250-300,000 ha/yr. He emphasized on the importance of forests as being environmental and economic resources with a majority of the Zambian rural poor relying on them. . He added that deforestation resulted in loss of income estimated at US\$ 14 Million. He stated that the project was supported by various national policies such as the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS), the National Policy on Environment (NPE, 2007), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) , Revised National Forestry Policy (NFP, 2014) and the National Decentralization Policy (2002).

In terms of objectives and components of the project, Mr Makumba highlighted that the goal of the project is reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global levels and promote transfer and adoption of adaptation technology. The project has three components focussing on piloting of community-based climate adaptive Agroforestry and Assisted Natural Regeneration, integrated climate resilient fire management and increasing knowledge about the uptake of appropriate supply-side, biomass energy production technologies. The implementation of the project would result into improved carbon stocks in selected areas, increased resource availability and improved livelihood to communities and enhanced contribution of the forestry sector to national GDP.

Some of the identified risks to be managed while implementing the project were highlighted as; decentralization authority a new concept to be implemented in the backdrop of existing statutory and customary laws; resource assessment challenges in the midst of lack of information; ecosystem approach to management of the complex woodlands; fast growing exotic species versus indigenous and technology transfer and adoption challenges (improved kiln, energy saving utilities). To mitigate the above risks, the project would engage a multi-sectoral approach, integrated planning, strengthened advocacy, establishment of long-term collaboration across sectors and improve the efficiency of resource use through modern technologies.

In terms of project implementation arrangements, the Forestry Department will be the lead agency and other specialised activities such as resource management and conservation farming will be led by NGO's such as Kasanka Trust and COMACO respectively.

3. Summary of the discussions

The meeting noted that the project was relevant to the Government's development priorities in promoting forest regeneration and climate-resilient adaptation practices. The project would also contribute to the implementation of the NAPA, REDD Strategy and the National Policy on Environment. Further, the project would pilot innovative approaches to the empowerment of communities through resource protection and promoting conservation farming. The involvement of key stakeholders such as NGO's in the project implementation was also an appropriate approach for implementing not only downstream activities but also multi-sectoral and complex projects.

The following issues were raised:

- **Selection criteria:** clarification was sought regarding the selection criteria and stakeholders' consultations on Serenje District as the project site. It was explained that a multi-criteria selection coupled with field work in all the districts were used to inform the site selection. The meeting was also informed that there were a number of ongoing initiatives from which the project could benefit from such as the greenhouse gases (GHG) monitoring which was being led by The Copperbelt University. The GHG inventories will be critical for carbon stock assessment. If there were no activities on GHG monitoring in the project site the project would have to hire this service and incur costs. Further, it was mentioned that the project activities will be undertaken in both open and local forests. **Multi sectoral approach:** The meeting noted and endorsed the project innovation on the use of multi-sectoral and integrated approach in implementing the project. This would ensure long-term collaboration across sectors; improve the efficiency of resource use; and maximize the available technical expertise and resources. However, the meeting cautioned on the complexity in implementing this approach as currently most of the institutions were working in silos. It was explained that under the Decentralization Policy, multi-sectoral and integrated planning were encouraged. The Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection was listed for Phase II of the implementation of decentralization and devolution of power to the Districts which would commence in 2016. Thus the project approach was in sync with the Government aspiration and implementation of this approach would be through learning by doing as well as incorporating useful experiences learnt from elsewhere in the region as well as those that have worked within the country. This issue was resolved by encouraging the project to learn from ongoing activities.
- **Sustainability:** The issue of project sustainability was raised by the stakeholders. It was explained that the extensive consultation with stakeholders at both national and local levels took into account the concerns in the project design as well as risks. In addition, the approach of community empowerment would ensure that the project activities were sustainable at the local level. At the national level, the issues were mainstreamed in the revised National Forestry Policy which had been just approved. Further, the use of local actors and building on ongoing activities would also contribute to project sustainability. The meeting was also informed that Forestry Department was committed to including some of the project activities within the subsequent annual budgetary processes in line with the policy provisions. With these provisions, the meeting felt that the provisions adequately addressed the issue of sustainability and would further make the project successful in achieving its desired goals.
- **Incentives and benefit sharing:** It was noted that communities were reluctant to participate in natural resources management activities due to lack of incentives. It was explained that the Strategy on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation which was being developed by the Forestry Department would lay down some modalities on benefit sharing which would benefit the project. **Availability of data:** Concerns were raised over not having sufficient data. It was later explained that a lot of data had already been generated by the Integrated Land Use Assessment (ILUA) and was currently being analysed. Data on the Forestry Livelihood Economic Survey was being collected in collaboration with the Central Statistics Office as part

of the living conditions surveys. Other statistics such as Green House Gases Inventories were being generated in collaboration with the Zambia Environmental Management Agency and would be reported in the National Communication Reports on Climate Change.

- **Operationalizing Village Action Groups (VAG):** concerns were raised over the length of time it took to form VAGs. The meeting was informed that the Forests Act would now recognize the VAGs under the Community Based Natural Resources Management Systems (CBNRM). It was also noted that the Wildlife Sector had a lot of success with implementation of CBNRM using VAGs. Further, the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs (MoCTA) was also reorganizing and revamping the VAG System. Thus the project would work with the MoCTA to strengthen the VAGs.
- **Relevance of the project:** It was agreed that the project was relevant because it would contribute to effective forest management and reduction in the rate of deforestation and maintenance of the ecosystem.
- **Feasibility:** The meeting agreed that though the project was complex, it was feasible because of the experience in implementing similar project that was supported by USAID in Eastern Province. The project would draw lessons from the USAID supported project and adapt practical solutions to Central Province. This would avoid the project repeating unworkable actions and direct efforts to practical solutions, especially on the fire management.
- **Role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under MLNREP in the Project:** The meeting noted that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was the GEF Focal Point and was also responsible among other things for monitoring the implementation of GEF supported projects in the country. In this regard, this role is to be reflected in the project document.
- **Role of other stakeholders:** The meeting noted that as the project had a multi-sectoral approach, other stakeholders such as the National Remote Sensing Centre could play a role in Geographical Information System (GIS). The meeting was informed that the Centre could provide training to communities in the use of community participatory GIS and others like ZEMA could collaborate to develop maps on fire occurrence. However, its concrete participation to the project could be through consultancy when there was a call for such service to be rendered. In this regard, not every stakeholder has been listed in the project document.

4. Recommendation and way forward

Given, that all the issues that were raised were clearly addressed and agreed upon, the meeting endorsed the project for approval. The meeting also authorised UNDP to finalise the document to include the role of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Project monitoring and submit the document to GEF for approval.

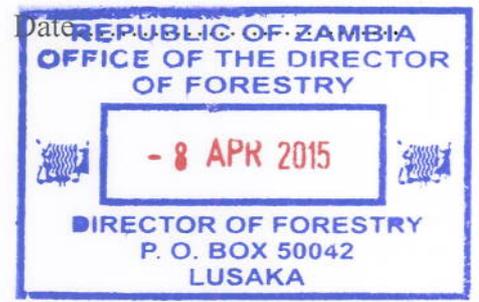
Signature.....*Martim Faria e Maya*

Martim Faria e Maya
UNDP Country Director (PAC Chair)

Date.....*9 April 2015*

Signature.....*Ignatius Makumba*

Ignatius Makumba
Director Forest Department (key
Implementing Partner)



**ANNEX 1 :LIST OF PARTICIPANTS PAC ON MEETING ON PROMOTING CLIMATE RESILIENT
COMMUNITY –BASED REGENERATION OF INDIGENOUS FORESTS IN ZAMBIA’S CENTRAL PROVINCE
PROJECT HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2015 IN THE UN CONFERENCE ROOM**

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