**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT: JANUARY TO MARCH 2013**

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| Ghana (Phase 2) |

**Area**: Public

**Scope**: GHG NIS, NAMAs, LEDS, MRV

**Sectors**: Energy

**National Implementing Agency**: Directorate for Environment, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and Innovation (MESTI)

**Summary Update**

The project document was submitted to the Steering Committee on 29 January and approved on 14 February, subject to consideration of comments from BMU. These comments mainly centred on the need to seek synergies between the LECB project and the ICI-funded GIZ project, *Information Matters*, which focuses on the Biennial Update Report and capacity building for reporting and verification. A response to the Steering Committee comments was officially submitted in March.

The Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting was held on 14 March, in order to validate the project document prior to implementation. The meeting was chaired by the Executive Director of the Environment Protection Agency (the main Responsible Partner) and had representatives from UNDP, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, and the Energy Commission. The project background, objectives, activities, work plan and management structure were outlined and discussed. LPAC comments largely centred on ensuring buy-in from key line Ministries such as Energy, Trade and Finance and reviewing the institutional arrangements to maximize productive contributions and strategic value, as well as ensuring engagement of civil society and private sector. The LPAC approved the project document and agreed on the following next steps: 1) incorporate LPAC comments into the project document; 2) brief the newly appointed Ministers for environment and energy on the project; 3) MESTI to officially write to the institutions that will be part of the Steering Committee regarding the status of the project. The project document is expected to be signed in April.

Once implementation starts, active steps will be taken to ensure synergies with the UNEP-Risoe FIRM project (not yet under implementation although a detailed workplan has been prepared and submitted by national counterparts to Risoe) and the GIZ Information Matters project (not yet under implementation although a Letter of Intent has been submitted to GIZ as part of the approval process).

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