



Environmentally Sustainable Production Practices in Cocoa Landscapes Phase II

Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Minutes of Meeting

22nd September 2016

Cocoa House, Accra



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MEETING AGENDA — ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION PRACTICES IN COCOA LANDSCAPES PHASE II

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: [22-09-2016]

Ave, Accra]

Time: [10:00AM-12:10PM]

Location: [Boardroom, COCOBOD-Cocoa House, Kwame Nkrumah

Meeting Type: [Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting]

AGENDA

Description	Person	Time
Opening Remarks	Mr. Dominic Sam, Country Director, UNDP Country Office	10:00am-10:15am
	Dr. Francis Oppong, Deputy Chief Executive Director, Agronomy & Quality Control, COCOBOD	10:15am- 10:10:30am
Presentation on the project document	Mr. Simon Crown, COCOBOD & Mr. Atsu Tsitiati, Project Coordinator, Project Management Unit	10:15am- 11:00am
Discussions and feedback on the project document	Dr. Augustus Asamoah, Forestry Management & Conservation Specialist, PMU	11:00am-12:00pm
Summary of key conclusions and recommendations		
Closing Remarks	UNDP	12:00pm-12:10pm



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ESP Phase II Proposal

Review of Project Scope and Approach by Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 22nd September, 2016

The review meeting was purposely called to review the ESP Phase II project document by selected officials from COCOBOD and other allied agencies and departments constituting the LPAC. The review meeting forms part of the Secondary Decision Point – Defining a Project as per the UNDP guidelines for project development. The key considerations for the appraisal meeting include: Relevance, Feasibility, Commitment, Accountability, Cost Effectiveness, Sustainability, Environmental and Social Impacts, Risk Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and the Project Board’s Composition and Membership.

The meeting started at 10:17am with a prayer by Mr. Kwadwo Kissiedu Kwapong (Deputy Director, Research COCOBOD) who initially was elected to chair the meeting in the absence of Dr. Francis Oppong (Deputy Chief Executive - Agronomy and Quality Control, COCOBOD). He welcomed all the committee members to Cocoa House, venue for the meeting and hoped for a fruitful deliberation which at the end would help to improve the project document. He thanked Mondelez for the phase II funding and looked forward to a rewarding partnership with the UNDP to implement the project under phase II.

Mr. Emmanuel Opoku (Acting Director, Research COCOBOD) later took over as Chairman of the meeting at a point.

The Country Director of UNDP – Mr. Dominic Sam in his opening remarks said that he was very happy to be in Cocoa House – for the first time. He stressed the importance of embracing inclusive business that brings people who are the bottom of the pyramid into the value chain. In his opinion, ESP can play a major role and be more efficient by bringing in the cocoa farmers to the value chain. According to him, the sustainability issues to be addressed by ESP II are in line with the UNDP agenda to contribute to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and look forward to working with COCOBOD to ensure Ghana’s cocoa is produced in a more sustainable way.



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After the opening remarks, Mr. Atsu Titiati, Project Coordinator, ESP was called to present the project document for ESP II on behalf of the UNDP. His presentation was categorized into two main sessions – an over view of phase I and a summary of activities proposed for phase II.

1. OVERVIEW OF ESP PHASE I

The actual implementation of the project started from July 2013 and ended in September 2016 - 4 years and 5 months - instead of the original 3 years it was estimated to last. It was funded by Mondelez International with in-kind/additional cash contribution from COCOBOD & GoG. For instance, COCOBOD is housing the Project Management Unit (PMU) and occasionally hosts project related meetings. It has also nominated a project Focal Person to work with the PMU at no cost to the project.

ESP phase I had six outcome areas as follows:

OUTCOME 1: Policies and institutions strengthened

OUTCOME 2: Cocoa landscapes rehabilitated

OUTCOME 3: Forests conserved

OUTCOME 4: Cocoa Institutions and farmers knowledgeable on environmental best practices

OUTCOME 5: Incentive based mechanisms to promote the adoption of environmental best practices

OUTCOME 6: Public private sector coordination – Ghana Cocoa Platform the Ghana Cocoa Platform is actually the sixth outcome which was eventually made into a standalone project.

Note: There were several realignments/adaptive management actions during implementation to bring planned activities in line with field level realities

❖ Accomplishments of ESP Phase I

1. Policies strengthened – ESP I worked on the following policy issues:

- Land Tenure
- Tree Tenure and registration



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Two separate studies were commissioned by the project to assess the current land and tree tenure situations in Ghana. Both studies came out with appropriate recommendations to address the issues – some of which are incorporated into planned activities for ESP II.

2. Climate change education was carried out in 17 Junior High Schools in the Asunafo North area to sensitize the youth on the science behind climate change with the view of getting them in the position to make the right decisions and choices on adaptations in the future. Each of 17 schools was equipped with tools for their model farming activities as well as other environmental activities in their schools. Club members were also given branded T-shirts and exercise books to incentivize them to engage good environmental activities. The clubs had an inter schools completion on the environmental to assess their level of knowledge on climate change and environmental issues.

3. A Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) was developed in Asunafo called the Ayum-Asuokow CREMA, to help strengthen community management of natural resources and ecosystems within the Asunafo North Pilot Landscape.

4. About 800,000 economic tree seedlings were procured and supplied to farmers for planting within cocoa to increase tree and carbon stock in cocoa landscapes.

5. Mainstream/Capacity building on environmental sustainability practices (using the trainer of trainer's concept): The following training materials been developed, printed and used in the training of CHED CEAs:

- 500 copies of 80 page supplementary trainers' manual on selected climate smart cocoa production practices

- 4,000 copies of a one-pager training handout for farmers

- 500 copies of a 12 page flipchart

- 200 CEAs from 7 districts trained

6. Sensitization & Education campaign on forestry regulations and policies to create awareness on farmers' rights & responsibilities under the law: Campaign Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Materials developed include:

- Training Manual on some of Ghana's forest laws, regulations and policies

- Posters on protected birds and animals



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-Brochures & Posters summarizing key information on the forestry laws and regulations

- 1,500 famers from and over 300 CEAs and other frontline staff from 7 Districts trained on the use of the manuals

1. OVERVIEW OF ESP PHASE II PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

ESP activities are determined by the demands and requirements of the Cocoa Life pillar 5; the environmental pillar to which ESP answers. Under phase II, ESP will cover 330 Cocoa Life communities in 14 Cocoa Districts spread over the Brong Ahafo, Ashanti, and Western, Central and Eastern regions of Ghana.

ESP II is designed to build on results and lessons learned from phase I and to scale-up Pillar-V (Environmental Sustainability) activities to cover all Cocoa Life Ghana communities in Cohorts 1, 2 & 3. It aims to help farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable and climate change resilient cocoa production practices, conserve ecosystems and natural resources in cocoa landscapes. It is designed to meet the dual goals of environmental sustainability and improvement of farmers' welfare through the adoption of sustainable production practices.

The project aims to meet two broad **Objectives**, which are:

- Farmers in the Cocoa Life program adopt environmentally sustainable and climate change resilient cocoa production practices on their farms
- Cocoa production landscapes in the Cocoa Life communities and districts are managed sustainably to conserve ecosystems and natural resources

1.1 Implementation Framework/Strategy

Phase II is designed to scale up Pillar V activities to cover 330 CL communities in 14 districts via three key strategies.

- ❖ Mainstreaming of environmentally sustainable production practices into farmer & extension staff training
- ❖ Ensuring long-term ecosystem protection at the district to community levels by establishing 3 new CREMAs in selected districts to govern local resources and ecosystem management in cocoa landscapes
- ❖ Policy engagement with government on land and tree tenure rights



2.3 Project Outcomes & Outputs

- *Outcome 1: Mainstreaming environmentally sustainable production practices into farmer level practices*

-Output 1.1. Farmers trained and equipped in environmentally sustainable production practices

-Output 1.2. Farmers enhance trees and carbon stocks on cocoa farms

-Output 1.3. Tree registration and tenure policies as an incentive for the adoption of environmentally sustainable cocoa production practices improved

- *Outcome 2: Natural resources and ecosystems management in cocoa production landscapes*

-Output 2.1. Three new CREMAs established

-Output 2.2. Three community fire prevention volunteer brigades established – preferably in the CREMAs

-Output 2.3. Capacities of traditional authorities and community opinion leaders to enable them enforce traditional conservation practices to conserve biodiversity build

- *Outcome 3: Funding Mechanisms*

-Output 3.1. Additional funding mechanisms investigated and new funding proposals developed

-Output 3.2. Donor dialogues in Ghana and globally with the support of UNDP Global Commodities Programme to explored for other funding opportunities

2.4 Monitoring & Evaluation

The following monitoring activities will be performed:

- Track results & progress
- Monitor and Manage Risk



- Learn & share
- Annual Project Quality Assurance
- Review and Make Course Corrections
- Project Reports
- Project Review (Project Board)
- Mid-Term & Final Evaluations

2.5 Project Sustainability

Sustainability will be achieved through:

- Mainstreaming of environmentally sustainable production practices into farmer training models as well as extension training curriculum
- Ensuring long-term ecosystem protection at the district to community levels by establishing CREMAs in the selected landscapes
- Policy engagement with government on land and tree tenure rights to serve as incentives for farmer adoption

2.6 Governance & Management Arrangements

❖ *Project Assurance*

- UNDP CO & COCOBOD will support the steering committee and PMU via independent project oversight and monitoring functions
- Ensure appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed

❖ **Project Management Unit**

Key Officials include:

- Project Coordinator
- Agro-Forestry & Conservation Specialist
- Finance and Administrative Assistant



- 2 Drivers
- 5 Project Facilitators/ Field Officers
- ❖ **Administration & Technical Support**
- UNDP direct implementation framework
- Funds disbursed based on payment request from PMU & authorized by COCOBOD (*Research Unit*)
- Technical support/partnership with CHED & CRIG
- Additional Technical backstopping – UNDP CO &GCP

2.7 Partnerships

- Cocoa Farmers & their various cooperatives
- COCOBOD – Research, CHED, SPD, CRIG, Bunso Cocoa College, Cocoa Platform
- Other CL IPs – CARE, VSO, WV, Abantu, Dept of Cooperatives, Olam/AgroEco etc.
- MOFA, MoF, FC, Lands Commission, Administrator of Stool Lands
- Other civil society groups and cocoa sector projects

2.8 Funding & Budget

- Project Duration – October 2016 to December 2020
- Estimated Budget - \$1,850,004.24 (Actual funding to be determined annually subject to available funding from CL Ghana)

3.0 QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATION ON PRESENTATION

Q. Mr. Emmanuel Opoku had a few concerns about the survival rate of the economic tree seedlings supplied to farmers for planting. He wanted to know if there were records to show where the trees have been planted and also how the estimated 85% survival rate was arrived at.

Ans: The 85% survival rate was arrived at based on an initial monitoring assessment in parts of the district where seedlings have been supplied and planted. The project coordinator also added that the actual survival rate would be determined during the tree registration exercise which is



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soon to be carried out. He added that a tree registration form has been designed by the Forestry Commission in close collaboration with ESP. The form is currently awaiting approval by the Chief Executive of FC after internal checks at the FC.

Q. Mr. Charles Sarpong Duah from the Climate Change Unit, FC want to know how the the ESP plans to handle farmers who are holding on to the notion that cocoa farms with no overhead canopy has higher yield than those with overhead canopy.

Ans: The notion by some cocoa farmers that shadeless cocoa has higher yield was debunked. The ESP Project Coordinator supported by the Chairman referred to the demonstration farms at CRIG that shows that cocoa farms with the right amount of overhead shade has a better and more sustainable yield. A lot of research work by CRIG has shown that cocoa without shade has shorter production life but cocoa with the right amount of shade has a longer life span, more healthier trees, minimal insect infestations and high yield. It is expected that the registration of trees planted in cocoa landscapes will help increase trees on farms as the farmer will be guaranteed ownership right. The registration is also expected to encourage farmers to plant more trees.

In his contribution to the question, Mr. Edward Obiaw, the Director of the Resource Management Support Centre of the FC, stressed the need for farmers to register the trees they plant as the registration guarantees their ownership of the tree. He further stressed that all registered trees will not form part of any future timber allocation. Mr. Obiaw used the opportunity to urge farmers to desist from illegal farm encroachments into forest reserves. He stressed that the forest cover must be protected at all times for the good of the cocoa industry.

Dr. Francis Baah- Executive Director of Cocoa Health & Extension Division (CHED) of COCOBOD said that there are cases where some cocoa farms have existed illegally in forest reserves for more than 48 years in some cases and COCOBOD is often not too sure whether to continue giving such farmers technical assistance including inputs – since they are illegally located. He stressed on the need for the FC to diligently perform their enforcement responsibilities in order to curtail such situations and the blame game between the FC and COCOBOD.

Q. Mr. Abebe of The World Bank was of the opinion that there should be more synergy between the World Bank and the UNDP concerning the REDD element in the Forest Investment Project (FIP) for example. He also wanted to know whether it is a good idea to expand project coverage



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to 14 districts rather than focusing on few areas in view of the relatively small amount of funds available.

Ans. Mr. Jephthah Mensah, the Environment and Extension Manager of the Mondelez Cocoa Life Program, responded that there are already interventions in those 14 districts for farmers in relation to other Cocoa Life Pillars - Farming, Livelihood, Youth, Community Development and the Environment – which is the mandate of the ESP. He added that Cocoa Life targets communities where there are no existing projects but conceded that it is important to get additional funding to deepen our efforts.

Q. Mr. Opoku expressed serious concern about galamsey mining that is destroying cocoa farms and arable lands to an extent that farmers are losing their livelihoods including their lands and asked how the situation be solved?

Ans: In his response the Project Coordinator said that due to land tenure issues, it might not be easy to intervene as the land owner has the final say. He can decide to give his land for Galamsey because it pays more than farming Cocoa.

The attention of the meeting was drawn the study on illegal mining and its effect on cocoa farming commissioned by the Ghana Cocoa Platform. Unfortunately, the report is inconclusive and more work is being done on it to get the expected output. Once the report is out and it becomes very clear that Galamsey is destroying farmlands and the environment then organizations like COCOBOD can take it up.

The discussion on the galamsey menace and its impact on cocoa farms and the environment in general was discussed at length at the meeting and since it falls outside the current scope of ESP II, the meeting strongly recommended it should be included in the project document. There was also a recommendation for climate change education to be included in the ESP II activities.

Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting for the Environmentally Sustainable Production Practices in Cocoa Landscapes Project
22 September, 2016 from 10:00am-12:30pm
BOARDROOM- COCOA HOUSE, GHANA COCOA BOARD

S.N	Name of Official	Organization	Email	Telephone	Signature
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14	Mr. Dominic Sam	Country Director, UNDP			
15	Mr. Louis Kuupen	Head of Programmes, UNDP			
16	Mr. Paolo Dalla Stella	Head of Sustainable Development Cluster, UNDP			
17	Ms. Rita Effah	Programme Officer, UNDP			
18	Ms. Abigail N. Adjekai Ankamah	Programme Assistant, UNDP			
19	Mr. Atsu Tsiatsi	Project Coordinator, UNDP-COCOBOD			

20	Augustus Asamoah	Agroforestry Specialist, UNDP-COCOBOD			
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