



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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## CLOSED UNDP/GEF COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECT: EXIT STRATEGY MEETING - Key Conclusions

1. **Venue:** NEA Board Room

2. **Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

### 3. **Agenda:**

- i. Update on post-Project works at Dasilami and Illiasa
- ii. Update on coastal protection works
- iii. Formal transfer of ownership to beneficiaries of Project's support to livelihoods
- iv. Mode of NEA-Beneficiaries post-Project partnership
- v. A. o. b.

### 4. **Attendance:**

- i. Almany Camara Programme Specialist UNDP
- ii. Aissata De UNDP Resident Representative (RR)
- iii. Abass Kinteh Programme Associate, UNDP
- iv. Dodou Trawally Director, Intersectoral Network NEA (DISN)
- v. Momodou J. Suwareh Executive Director NEA (ED)
- vi. Dawda Badjie Director Technical Services Network NEA (DTSN)
- vii. Aruna Jobe Senior Programme Officer NEA
- viii. Fatoumatta Sanyang, Programme Analyst, UNDP

### 5. **Proceedings**

#### 5.1 **Secretariat**

Chairperson: Momodou J. Suwareh

Secretary: Aruna Jobe

#### 5.1 **Introductory remarks**

Following the traditional address of welcome, the ED used the opportunity to welcome the UNDP RR to NEA noting that her earlier visit had found him out of the country; he assured her of NEA's readiness to better the already strong mutual relationship between the two institutions. At this point, DISN was allowed to give the reminder that the meeting was purposely intended to discuss furtherance of the partnership during the implementation of the Project into the post-Project period; that the meeting will also provide opportunity to remind on matters of relevance to the post-Project as in agenda 'ii' and 'iii'.

#### 5.2 **Update on post-Project works at Dasilami and Illiasa (by DISN)**

Meeting was reminded of the transfer of GMD2.6m to NEA, by UNDP, as cost of unfinished work at Dasilami and Illiasa that NEA should complete; that the bulk of the cost is on the salt ponds at Dasilami. Further reminder was made of the fact the works do not include the fish ponds, which the Board agreed, at its meeting of 19/12/19, to accept as failures. The





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works were reported to be largely completed except for two condensation ponds subcontracted to members of the community for a proper build; the works are suspended till after the Ramadan. The UNDP was reminded that it needs to purchase a salt-iodiser for Dasilami from project funds that were not transferred to NEA.

### 5.3 Update on the coastal protection works (by UNDP)

The meeting was informed that the works were substantially completed in November 2018 when it was also agreed to issue the *certificate of substantial completion* to the *Contractor*. That the installation is currently in its *defects liability period* that shall expire in June 2023 when the works will be certified for *final completion* and formally handed-over to government (NEA). During this period, however, the NEA is supposed to fulfill its mandate towards ensuring a normal functioning of the installations. Not the least, meeting was also reminded that UNDP will continue to pay the services of the supervising consultant during the DLP.

This opportunity was used to inform the meeting of the finally-completed works at Tendaba. That even though a problem was encountered with the proprietor of Tendaba Camp who illegally put up a fence on the polder that threatened the stability of the latter, the issue is now resolved and the fence was allowed but in a manner that poses no threat to the structure and with knowledge of the proprietor that the facility remains public property. Meeting was further reminded of the banking issue surrounding money donated to the community of Tendaba by the contractor that built the polder.

That the money, meant to assist in the future maintenance of the structure, is lodged at the *Ecobank* and managed by NEA and the Alkalo of Tendaba. The *bank account* was, however, mistakenly opened as a *current* account that saw monthly withdrawals of GMD2300 by the Bank for over a year. It was concluded for NEA to make further enquiries to ensure that the withdrawals have not only stopped in September 2018 but reimbursed into the account as requested by the latter; if failure in either, the NEA should close the account and move the funds to another bank such as the *Arab Gambia Islamic Bank*.

### 5.4 Formal transfer of ownership to beneficiaries

The purpose of this point was to agree on period to visit communities that benefited from livelihoods support for a formal handing-over of the Project's interventions in those areas. Meeting was reminded that there is no question about the communities' ownership of the interventions but that the events are necessary to inform the beneficiaries that, henceforth, they would be largely responsible for sustaining those benefits.

The period 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was tentatively agreed for the visit to all the sites in NBR, LRR and WCR. Further agreements were:

- NEA will be largely responsible for funding the trip and should prepare separate budgets; one that involves the entire Project Board and the other that involves only the core partners of OP, MECCNAR, NEA and UNDP. NEA should share the budgets with UNDP for the latter's possible contribution





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- Engage the services of a video production team at *Mbollo*, trained by the UNDP, for documenting the visits
- NEA to confirm the dates above with UNDP in the second week of June 2019

### 5.5 Mode of NEA-beneficiaries post-Project partnership

This agenda item was intended to brainstorm on the form of partnership that should exist between NEA and beneficiaries of support to livelihoods. It was finally agreed that the partnership should exist within an MoU where NEA's role will be largely supportive and supplementary to the efforts of the beneficiaries. The MoU should also emphasise, among others:

1. training of the beneficiaries in assets management
2. training of the beneficiaries on managing finances
3. cross-community visits as learning environment

The UNDP also agreed to assist the NEA in this engagements, especially with the cross-community visits.

### 5.6 A. O. B.

The discussions related much to the disposal of project assets and the implementation of recommendations that emanated from the 2018 NIM audit and the terminal evaluation of the Project. The key conclusions were as follows:

- the UNDP will donate the assets to NEA including the two vehicles and two motorcycles; this will follow an assets verification by the UNDP
- for now the UNDP number plates on the vehicles and motorcycles should be replaced by government number plates; the removed plates should be returned to UNDP
- the NIM audit recommendations will be followed-up by the auditors in 2019 and NEA will be required to provide answers

The possibilities of NEA and UNDP partnering with CBOs, especially youths, in initiatives such as establishing greens areas within communities was also discussed briefly; it was, however, agreed that such initiatives are better done with the municipal council since it requires the acquisition of space.