



## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

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# **Minutes of Local Project Appraisal Committee for (LPAC) PCBs and U-POPs project**

**Project Title:** Capacity Building for PCBs and U-POPs in The Gambia

**Meeting Title:** Project Appraisal Minutes

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**VENUE:** NEA DOCUMENTATION CENTER

### **Attendance:**

1. Dr. Dawda Badgie- Ag. Director Technical Services Network -NEA
2. Dr. Almamy Camara-UNDP
3. Mr. Lamin Jaiteh-Programme officer- Lab Analyst -NEA
4. Mr. Omar S. Bah- Registrar of Pesticides - NEA
5. Mr. Lamin Sanyang- Ag. Director Technical Services -KMC
6. Mr. Bai Bittaye - Programme officer- Lab Analyst –NEA
7. Mr. Lamin B.J. Samateh- Programme officer – Environmental Legislation - NEA
8. Mr. Malick Bah- Senior Programme Officer - Environmental Impact Assessment -NEA
9. Mr. Lamin Camara- Senior Programme Officer Environmental Impact Assessment -NEA

### **Meeting Proceedings**

The project appraisal was chaired by Mr Lamin Jaiteh, Programme Officer Laboratory Analyst at the National Environment Agency. The meeting was graced by the Ag. Director, Technical Services Network Dr. Dawda Badgie who presided over the meeting on behalf of the Executive Director - NEA. He welcomes participants to meeting and gave brief introduction of the project starting with the four components of the project.

Dr. Almamy Camara of UNDP also gave brief statement about the project, its objectives, components and their respective outputs. In his statement he alluded the UNDP will give its full commitment during the execution of the project.

The Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC) was represented by the Ag. Director, Technical Services Mr Lamin Sanyang as legal beneficiary to the project. There was no representation from NAWEC who beneficiary to the project are also. The focal person for the project at NAWEC was out of the country.

The project document was then projected and reviewed on a page by page basis by the participants. The following comments were gathered during the review for considerations.

- Component 1 on Strengthening of legal frameworks, administrative processes and technical preparedness was extensively discussed. The feasibility of having a specific legislation for PCBs should be looked into because there is already a Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides Control and Management Act 1994 which is currently being reviewed. Stockholm Convention is incorporated into the Bill with an additional provision on the management of PCBs can be used as a parent Act to develop a specific regulation for the management and enforcement of PCBs in the country.
- In addition to component 1, U-POPs, they are mainly generated through open burning of waste which also constitute about 98% of total U-POPs releases in the Gambia. There is currently a Waste Bill being developed by National Environment Agency. U-POPs have comprehensively addressed in the bill which will make it the best suited Act to extract a U-POPs regulation from. If the project could help to finalize the Waste Bill to an Act, then the Act on the release of U-POPS could be enforced and activities that lead to their release could be minimize.
- The need to prioritize between the activities is also very important as it will enable activities to be implemented based on the needs of the country. There may also be activities under the project which other institutions like NEA is already doing and therefore the funds allocated for those activities can be moved to cover for other activities within the budget line of the project. Complementarity should be encouraged, and duplication of efforts discouraged. This idea was highlighted by Dr. Camara during the review.
- In the project document, certain funds were allocated for hiring of international consultants; it is believed that in some cases international consultants will not be needed because the expertise is available in the country for example the in component 1. Cases like this participants argued that international consultants shall only be hired in cases were such expertizes is not available in country.
- The Gambia currently does not have an engineered landfill and for this reason, it was put forward by the representative from KMC Mr. Sanyang that the three councils ; Kanifing Municipal Council, Banjul City Council and Brikama Area Council are working with Government to identify a suitable place to be used as a land fill. In the past Tambana was identified to be a landfill but due to settlements around the area, it is no longer feasible for the said purpose and this was substantiated to by Mr Samateh. Nonetheless, if a place is finally identified by the Government and the councils, an Environment Impact Assessment will be required and therefore possibilities for the project to fund the EIA process should be further explored.

- The discussion brought about the issue of establishing a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Project Management Unit (PMU). The following list of institutions were thought to be relevant to be PSC members;

1. United Nations Development Programme, UNDP
2. National Environment Agency, NEA
3. National Water and Electricity Company, NAWEC
4. Kanifing Municipal Council, KMC
5. Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Natural Resources, MECCNR
6. Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, MOHSW
7. Ministry of Justice, MOJ
8. Gambia Revenue Authority, GRA
9. A relevant Non-Governmental Organisation

For the PMU, the following positions were proposed;

1. Project Manager/Coordinator
2. Technical officer
3. Finance Officer

However, as the review process continued, it was later realized that a PSC and PMU had already been set up in the project document.

- The discussion also featured the possibility of the Project Coordinator/Manager to come from NEA. This is based on the premise that there is not much expertise in the area of PCB and U-POPs management in The Gambia from outside. For this reason, it was later agreed upon that the coordinator can come from NEA if there is someone that meets the requirements of being the Project Coordinator/Manager as stipulated in the TOR. However, the recruitment of Project Coordinator will follow a transparent and competitive process to enable the project recruit the most qualified candidate for the job/position.
- It was also revealed by the UNDP representative in the meeting that there should be a gender study for the project which UNDP will fund and provide a TOR for. A draft TOR was subsequently circulated (10/9/2018) for review and further action.
- The project should also look for possibilities to partner with other UN-Agencies like UNITAR in their areas of expertise.
- It was also suggested and discussed that a vehicle be purchased for the project which could be bought from either GEF or the UNDP contribution to the project. This will facilitate movement, M&E, project assurance missions countrywide.
- Much could not be discussed on Component 2; Environmental sound management of PCB and PCB contaminated sites because NAWEC the custodians of PCB equipment, transformers and capacitors were not present at the meeting.

However, it was suggested that the minutes be forwarded to them for any input they may have.

**Closing Remarks**

The meeting ended with few closing remarks delivered by Mr Omar S. Bah, Registrar of Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides of the NEA on behalf of the Ag. Director of Technical Services Network of the NEA and followed by a closing prayers.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, followed by a stylized 'G'.

**Dawda Badjie**

For: Executive Director

NEA