

Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem Services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)

MINUTES OF THE THIRD BOARD MEETING OF THE ESA PROJECT

Date: 19.01.2017

Time: 3.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Venue: Conference Hall, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment, No. 500, T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10

Chaired by Mr. Udaya R. Seneviratne, Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment

Attendees:

1. Ms. Lovita Ramaguttee, Deputy Country Director, UNDP
2. Dr. Vishaka Hidellage, Assistant Country Director-ESDR, UNDP
3. Mr. D.C. Siribaddana, Director, Environment Planning & Economics Division/ Project Director,
4. Ms. Sureka Perera, Programme Analyst, UNDP
5. Mr. Prageeth Gunasekara, Assistant Director (United Nations, NGO & HRD Division) Department of External Resources
6. Mr. D. Somirathna, Dy. Project Director (ESA Project)/Asst. Secretary (HRD), MoMDE
7. Ms. Dilki Palliyaguruge, M & E Specialist, UNDP
8. Ms. Shyara Baztians, Programme Associate, UNDP
9. Ms. Nirosha Kumari, Environment Management Officer, MoMDE
10. Ms. Lathika Hapuarachi, Environment Management Officer, MoMDE
11. Ms. Menik Pradeepa Ranaweera, Programme Assistant, Biodiversity Secretariat
12. Ms. Sugandhi Samarasinghe, Technical Coordinator (ESA PMU), UNDP

Absentees

Representative from NPD

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. Udaya R. Seneviratne, Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment, welcomed all the members who represented the senior beneficiary and senior supplier of the "Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem Services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)" Project. He noted the need of being vigilant and responsive on warnings

of a worst drought disaster within country and need of conserving water to mitigate the impending impacts, with crop output down and possible shortages of drinking water and power crisis.

Ms. Lovita Ramagutte, Deputy Country Director, appreciated the cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment, conveyed well wishes for 2017.

2. Project Progress

Mr. Deepal Siribaddana, Project Director (ESA Project)/ Director (EP&E), MoMD&E presented the physical project progress, achieved during 2016 and summary of financial progress as at 31st December 2016.

Financial Progress:

Ministry and UNDP has jointly expended LKR 42,444,725 (USD283,248.08). MoMDE has spent LKR 10,737,000 (USD 72491.43) & UNDP has spent LKR 23, 409,359 (USD 156,218.61) and POs to disburse within first quarter 2017 holds USD 54,538.04 under UNDP. Financial progress for 2016 as of date was 92 % of the annual budget.

Physical progress:

- Accomplished Inception Phase and developed Theory of Change, five year work plans
- Developed training module and guidelines on BD integration to Landscape planning with Landscape Planning & Capacity Development Expert
- Developed guidelines on landscape level land use planning with LUPPD
- Started reviewing the National Wild Elephant Conservation & Management Policy
- Started Biodiversity Baseline Survey
- Provided equipment's to DWC, FD, LUPPD, MASL
- Formed 06 Local Management Committees and 02 District Facilitation Committees which are operational in Anuradhapura & Puttalam districts
- Appointed planning team & started capacity building on integration of Biodiversity in to Land Use Planning and landscape level land use planning
- Established 2 Field Offices in Puttalam & Anu.
- Produced Strategic Management Framework for Wilpattu complex and handed over to the Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Completed regional consultations on Management plan preparation for Kahalla Pallekale PA
- Developed ESA Communication Strategy
- Completed reconnaissance survey to identify critical biodiversity habitats outside protected areas in ESA 1
- Demarcated one of Bio diversity hotspot outside PAs (un-demarcated forests)

Apart from above continuation of activities of 2016 on recruitment process of Individual Consultant (Local) – ESA Policy, Baseline Survey, Policy review of Wild Elephant Management, Training the land use planning team, Development of Land use plans, Recording Bar Reef, Pilot Research in a selected aquatic habitat in Wilpattu Complex is on progress.

3. ESA Annual Work Plan 2017

A board paper was presented on approval of Annual Work Plan 2017. The draft Annual Work Plan 2017 was proposed at the National ESA Committee (NESAC), held on 29th November 2016, based on the five-year activity plan of ESA project. As a follow-up, the consortium members representing Bio Diversity Secretariat, Central Environment Authority, Land Use Policy Planning Department, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka, Forest Department, Department of Wild Life Conservation and Coastal Conservation Department met on 11th January 2017 and finalized the AWP 2017.

Ms. Sugandhi Samarasinghe, Technical Coordinator, presented the final AWP 2017. (Pls. refer to Annex 4).

- Budget allocation for outcome 1 was LKR 16,290,480 (USD 108,711.91)
- Budget allocation for outcome 2 was LKR 49,736, 780 (USD 331,910.44)
- Budget allocation for outcome 3 was LKR 4,956,670.30 (USD 31,077.55)
- Total original budget was LKR 70,684,230.30 (USD 471,699.90)

Out of the total budget allocation 47% is set under Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment and 53% is allocated under UNDP.

	LKR	USD	%
Allocation of MoMDE	33,502,885	223,242.48	47%
Allocation of UNDP	37,181,345	248,123.76	53%
Total	70,684,230	471,699.90	

Secretary instructed to advance the activities with Department of Agriculture and Department of Agrarian Services on promoting organic farming, integrated pest management, increasing multi-purpose trees species (especially indigenous species) etc. to end of first quarter 2017 and the AWP was adjusted accordingly and as per the simultaneous agreement of Project Board, the chair approved the AWP 2017.

4. Discussion

- **Sustainability of ESA Implementation:** Dr. Vishaka Hidellage, Assistant Country Director-ESDR, UNDP noted the importance of securing leadership of a consortium Partner who will champion the ESA implementation for the long term sustainability of the project. DWC & FD is leading Protected areas. But here we are focusing outside Protected Areas and the leadership needs to come from BDS and Central Environment Authority. Secretary suggested instructed the Project Director to take a consortium meeting with respective partner agencies and discuss this further.

- **Baseline survey:** The Secretary inquired on the status of baseline survey since the schedule of most of other activities are depend on that. Ms. Pradeepa Ranaweera, BDS said the consultancy agent "Green Tech" is working on profiling transect walks and presently they have initiated work on Bar reef area. Secretary advised BDS to conduct periodical meetings with the consultant and get the progress reports from them and to ensure obtaining completed deliverables by April 2017.
- **Metro Colombo solid waste management plan:** Dr. Vishaka Hidellage, Assistant Country Director, commented on Govt.'s proposed Metro Colombo solid waste management plan in Aruwakkulu/ Gange Wadiya area where come under Environmentally Sensitive Area. Former EIA report has indicated imminent hydrological impacts such as pollution of the Kala Oya/Lunu Oya estuary by surface runoff, noise, wind-blown dust and waste particles during the construction phase of the project. Now it says the dumping site has shifted towards Gange Wadiya. It was noted the need of conducting a meeting with Central Environment Authority to get updates on EIA process and starting a discussion with Mega Police also.
- **Public awareness:** Secretary instructed to create public awareness on ESAs and take steps to project public disclosure. Ms. Sureka Perera, Programme Analyst informed that ProDoc of ESA is already published online under UNDP & GEF portals. It was decided to take actions forward from MoMDE side also.
- **Quality Assurance:** Ms. Dilki Palliyaguruge, M&E Specialist, UNDP conducted a short presentation on Project Quality assurance needs and discussed on end-to-end programme-project commitment to improve quality, QA tool, promoting behavior change and seven quality criteria's to be met. She stated that UNDP has evaluated the status of ESA using QA tool with Technical coordinator during December and requested the government counterparts to closely engage in the process during 2017 onwards.
- Mr. Prageeth Gunasekara, Assistant Director (United Nations, NGO & HRD Division) commented on the AWP 2017 and appreciated the consultative process taken up with the relevant stakeholders. He appreciated the UNDP emphasis on performance based monitoring and quality assurance.

Approved By:



Udaya R. Seneviratne
Secretary
Ministry of Mahaweli Development
and Environment
No. 500, T.B. Jaya Mawatha,
Colombo 11.

Date: 30/01/2017

Mr. Udaya R. Seneviratne,
Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment

Approved By:



Ms. Lovita Ramaguttee
Deputy Country Director, UNDP



Date: 02/02/2017