



Minutes of the External Local Project Appraisal Committee (ELPAC)

Project: "Community-based Forest and Coastal Conservation and Resource Management in PNG" (GEF SEC Project ID: 3954)

Date: Wednesday 16th November 2011

Time: 9:00am – 4:00 pm

Venue: Gateway Hotel Conference Room, Port Moresby (PNG)

PARTICIPANTS

	NAME		ORGANIZATION	POSITION
1	KK	Kay Kalim	DEC	Deputy Secretary, Sustainable Environment Program
2	JM	John Michael	DEC	Executive Manager, Terrestrial Environments
3	MV	Maino Virobo	DEC	Executive Manager, Information & Science
4	JS	James Sabi	DEC	Manager, Terrestrial Ecosystems Management
5	YT	Yvonne Tio	DEC	Executive Manager, Marine Environments
6	EK	Elton Kaitokai	DEC	Program Officer
7	JO	Jim Onga	DEC/Heritage	Senior Program Officer, Heritage
8	BS	Bernard Suruman	DEC/Marine	Manager, Marine Protected Areas
9	MN	Mark Nizette	DEC	Kokoda Initiative Technical Advisor
10	AT	Andrew Taplin	DEC	Strategic Management Advisor to DEC
11	TT	Tony Torca	UNDP	Environment National Technical Officer
12	MC	Maria Cadahia	UNDP	Environment & Climate Change Prog. Analyst
13	ML	Misa Lionel	Milne Bay Provincial Administration	Environmental Officer
14	TG	Tako Gwae	Oro Provincial Administration	Deputy Provincial Administrator
15	DS	Damien Sonny	PNG Power (PPL)	Sustainable Development Officer
16	SP	Simon Passingan	Barefoot Community Services	Executive Director
17	CB	Cecilie Benjamin	MahoniaNaDari Research and Conservation Centre	Chairperson
18	TN	Terence Nasca	TWMA (CBO)	Public Liaison Officer
19	NS	Neil Stronach	WWF	WMPO Representative
20	DA	Damien Ase	CELCOR (NGO)	Executive Director
21	FH	Francis Hurahura	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Forest Programme Director
22	GS	Gabriel P Samol	PNG Forest Industries Association (INC)	Deputy Director
23	IO	Ian Orrell	PNG Palm Oil Council	Executive Director
24	DK	Dambis Kaip	PNG Forest Authority	Forest Policy & Planning Directorate
25	AK	Alu Kaiye	DEC	Program Officer
26	AT	Akuila Tubal	East New Britain Provincial Administration	Provincial Administrator

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction (Deputy Secretary SEP)
2. Objectives of the ELPAC (UNDP Country Office)
3. Project Overview -Part I (Department of Environment and Conservation-DEC)
 - Project Background (history, partners, justification)
 - Threats to conservation in PNG and project rational
 - Conservation Barriers in PNG



Papua New Guinea

- Project Purpose and Strategy
- Project Components and Outputs
- Key Challenges
- Criteria for Geographical Location (demonstration sites)

4. Discussion of Project Overview - Part I

5. Project Overview - Part II (DEC and UNDP)

- Project Managements Arrangements
- Project Monitoring & Evaluation
- Project Implementation Modality
- Project Implementation Schedule
- Key Challenges
- Project Partnership and Financing

6. Discussion of Project Overview - Part II

7. Closing Remarks (DEC Secretary)

Welcome and Introduction

KK: Opened the ELPAC, welcoming all the participants and introducing the workshop and the project.

TT: Explained what the GEF is, and gave a general overview of the global fund.

After the Opening, UNDP proceed to give a background of the ELPAC objectives

Objectives of the ELPAC

MC: Gave a small presentation about the ELPAC objectives, explaining the purpose and content of the project appraisal, which consist in the analytical review and design of the project that will lead to its approval or rejection. She explained that it is a mandatory thing to do according to the UNDP operational procedures, and usually it's done in collaboration with the stakeholders to ensure that the project has been designed in a sound and results oriented way, and to ensure that the project is supported by all the stakeholders. She also briefly informed about the UNDP managements arrangements under the national execution (NEX) implementation modality currently existing in the country, indicating who are the main players involved in that arrangements: The Government Coordination Authority (the Department of National Planning and Monitoring), the UNDP country office, the Government Designated Institution (the Department of Environment and Conservation), and other implementing agencies (other Government Agencies, NGOs, Academy, CSO, etc), and what are their main roles and responsibilities. For more details, see the completed presentation in the annex 1.

After the presentation, any question was raised, so the agenda carry on with the next item

Project Overview -Part I

Part-I Presentation:

JS: Presented a summary of the project background and project history and justification, indicate who are the main project partners. He also pointed out which are the main threats to conservation in PNG and the main conservation barriers faced by the project. Explained that the project purpose "to deal with community



Papua New Guinea

conservation as a resource management issue, and thus align national protected area strategies with landowner aspirations”; and the project strategy “to develop and demonstrate resource management and conservation models for landholding communities that effectively incorporate community-managed protected areas as part of agreed national protected area priorities in partnership with industry and government”. During the presentation the four project components were introduced as well as their respective outputs”. The project overview part-I also highlighted the key challenges identified in the project document and provide an explanation about why New Britain and the Owen Stanley Ranges areas were selected as the demonstration sites for the project. For more details, see the completed presentation in the annex 2.

After the presentation the floor was opened for discussions, questions, suggestion, recommendations, etc.

Part-I Discussions/Questions:

CSO: During this Q&A section, NGOs asked about the timeframe of the project. They wanted to know when the project starts and ends. It was explained that the time frame is seven years, and the project implementation will start officially in 2012.

Terence, a land owner from New Britain, commented that the number of butterflies seeing in the communities are decreasing due to oil palm and logging extension. He was very concerned about the Nakanai area and the potential change in the life of the communities, which are currently being surrounded by logging activities. Terence said that the communities expect some (water tanks, bridges, roads, cash to pay school fees, etc...) from the development projects. He asked, about how we can provide services to the communities and also said that tangible benefits for communities should start now.

A representative from an NGO wanted to know about how many lessons learnt have been capture in the document. The question was addressed by personnel from DEC, saying that many lessons learn have been capture from past projects. This one will try to focus more at the community and local level. The GEF budget for this project, should be entirely invested at the local/community level.

Another representative from an NGO from New Britain mentioned that the project should acknowledge future issues related to food security and clean water.

During this section, it was also asked if the project is taking any approach to work on degraded areas and converted into forest. DEC explained that this project will focus mainly on areas with High Biodiversity value and conservation potential, while probably other project can focus on the degraded areas.

Private Sector: A representative from the private Sector asked if the project can be replicated in other parts of the country. And DEC answered that the government will try to trial the project first through this project, and good and possible replicated later in other locations. DEC mentioned that the government has the target of securing 1 mill Ha under conservation.

During this session it was mentioned also that it is necessary to empower local communities to do environmental protection. Someone also mentioned that the approach taken to involve all in this project is very good, and this should be linked with overall government policy.

The representative from PNG Power, also acknowledge the good project approach, and mentioned that they look at sustainable energy, conservation and sustainability programmes supported by WB and ADB.

The representative from PNG Forest Industry Association mentioned that in the forest management plans there are already identified conservation areas. He said that the proposed project is not being different than other projects in the past. He reiterated that in order to succeed, the project should be build on past experiences and lessons learnt (like April Salome). He raised the question about “What other government agencies are doing?”

It was mentioned that in a sustainable financing approach to Protected Areas, an integral approach should be taken.



Papua New Guinea

Provincial Government: The representative from Oro Provincial Administration commented that he supports the carbon trading, because people see the benefits of protecting their land

National Government: The GoPNG will ask 10% of development area for conservation. The marine side of the proposed project is the Coral Triangle Initiative Project (CTI) implemented by ADB and USAID. ADB through DEC and a NGO partner, TNC are implementing projects in 2 sites, Kimbe (WNBP) and Manus Provinces. USAID through the CTSP arrangement is implementing Marine projects with NGO Partner WWF in Milne Bay and Manus Provinces.

Project Overview -Part II

Part-II Presentations:

JS/MC: DEC and UNDP in collaboration presented the implementation arrangements and the monitoring and evaluation framework described in the project document. This include the organigramme of the management arrangements and the organizations involved, the role and composition of the project steering committees (PSC), the mandatory monitoring reports and the evaluation requirements. The project overview part II also informed about the project main international partnerships, their financing arrangements and the tentative implementation schedule. For more details see the full content of the presentation in the annex 3.

After the presentation the floor was opened for discussions, questions, suggestion, recommendations, etc.

Part-II Discussions/Questions:

The second part of the ELPAC presentations related to the project implementation arrangements, received a lot of comments from the stakeholders, most of the time emphasizing the importance of having provincial representation, involving local level governments and ensuring community ownership.

Stakeholder said that provincial representation should be at the highest level. And if we want to have a sustainable approach to Pas, we project should ensure Public Private Partnership (PPP), Stakeholders highlighted the importance of inviting key players like PNG Power or the Palm Oil Industry.

Stakeholders insisted in the importance of engaging with community land owners, and having land owners representation in the management arrangements. They mentioned that project should take a bottom-up approach, to ensure the project ownership.

One stakeholder was concerned about a potential compromise in the development of the project, if the government does not contribute the co-funding counterpart.

Another stakeholder from an NGO asked whether the current management structure as presented was requirement of UNDP/GEF with so many layers of decision making requirements, if so, he saw a problem from effective and efficient project implementation point of view. Secondly, he pointed out that the project should be managed through partnerships under Public, Private, Partnership Agreement with different partners implementing various defined functions contributing to overall goal of the project. AusAID Advisor to DEC responded that the structure is actually as required by UNDP/GEF. There is contracting advise from UNDP and AusAID/DEC, this needs to be cleared to us stakeholders.

DEC personnel explained that one of the lessons learnt in Milne Bay from past projects, is that the National Government should be more involved in the project at the local level and coordinate better the activities.

Stakeholders were concerned about how long it will take to make decisions if the project advisory board is at the Secretary Level. A suggestion was made about the possibility of putting the board at the director's level.

One of the stakeholder asked why and how the geographical location of the project sites were selected. DEC answered making reference to the slide presented on part I explained the selection criteria.



Papua New Guinea

A stakeholder commented that perhaps forestry people (PNGFA) are not taking people's consent at the local level for their forestry plans. He said that the project has to check the logging concessions, especially in the Nakanai area, because some contracts have been signed already for timber permits.

Another stakeholder, pointed out that reviewing the current legislation is the right way to go, and highlighted that it is important that the rules are enforced. Other stakeholder said that land owners will need to know where to get information.

Another stakeholder suggested that the Provincial Forest Management Committees should be involved and be part of the structure/ organigramme for implementation arrangements.

Stakeholder also pointed out the issue of lack of land use planning, and mentioned that comprehensive land use planning is very necessary and the right way to go. It is important to value local stakeholder's contribution to the project, and it is important also to look for other source of sources (for instance, private sector, provincial governments).

One of the stakeholder wanted to know how much money has been allocated for the project and if the identified budget allocations from the presentation are going to be disbursed in the coming years. DEC answered, that currently the project only count with the 6.9 mill USD from the GEF, but the government will have some in kind contribution. The work on Biodiversity carried out by Bishop is complementary to the proposed project. Stakeholders wanted to know how and what part the Bishop Museum is involved in this project. They asked if it is the first time that Bishop work on Biodiversity in PNG. Some people mentioned that Dr. Alan from Bishop has undertaken lots of research and he is very knowledgeable in the area.

Stakeholders asked how DEC is going to manage the project implementation at the local level. DEC replied that as much as possible will try use the current functional structures at the provincial level, and that someone will be located in an office space in West New Britain provincial administration, to coordinate and guide the project at the local level.

Stakeholder also asked how the budget distribution will be between the two identified project sites (Owen Stanley Ranges, and New Britain). DEC answered that they haven't decided yet, so they will have to conduct an assessment of the project sites needs to identify the required budget distribution between them.

Another stakeholder was concerned about the project budget allocations. He said that it won't be enough, so it will be better if the proposed project focus on some few areas. DEC agreed that budget for the project is not enough, and with the USD depreciation and the PGK appreciation the real money to be spend will less. However, the approach will be a wall to wall coverage in terms of land use planning, and specific location in terms of biodiversity conservation. So they will look at the whole map of New Britain to identify the potential Biodiversity.



ELPAC REMARKS

In general the ELPAC meeting had good representation of environmental NGOs and some government department at the national level, however the participation of provincial administrations officers and other organizations working at the local level was small. All the stakeholders welcome in general the project approach and design in relation to project components, outputs, and community base management. However, some recommendations were made in relation to the project implementation. According to the ELPAC meeting, to ensure the success of the project it will be necessary to engage more with the stakeholder at the local level, In order to do that, it was suggested to conduct provincial consultations in both project sites to engage and coordinate better with the local administrations, to assess on current and needed capacities and to identify feasible implementation arrangements on the ground.

Everyone agreed that more emphasis should be done on community engagement and their project ownership; enhance local and provincial level government participation and coordination. Before the inception workshop for the project, some provincial consultations will have to take place and the Project Management Unit will have to be set up. After that had been achieve, a more concrete and detailed budget breakdown and work plan will be presented in the Inception Workshop together with the agreed implementation arrangements at all levels.

At Port Moresby, on Friday 16th December 2011

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Sabi'.

James Sabi
Manager, Sustainable Terrestrial Programme
DEC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marya Cadahia'.

Marya Cadahia
Programme Analyst, Environment Unit
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Cleared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David McLachlan-Karr'.

David McLachlan-Karr
UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative

ANNEXES

1. Objectives of the ELPAC presentation
2. Project Overview Part-I Presentation
3. Project Overview Part-I Presentation
4. List of participants to the ELPAC
5. Project summary document