

MINUTES OF SERPG&VERP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: March 3rd, 2016

Venue: REMA conference room

Introduction

Supporting Ecosystem Rehabilitation and Protection for Pro-poor Green growth (SERPG) and Vulnerability Ecosystem Recovery (VERP) programme aim at providing assistance to the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) towards achieving its statutory mandate of Identifying, restoring and protecting fragile and vulnerable ecosystems. The programme is also aligned to the second phase of the GoR MDG-linked Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS II), the Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy, Vision 2020 and commitments to the Convention on Biodiversity.

The programme is supporting innovative approaches to restore and conserve fragile island and wetland ecosystems, promote the sustainable management of natural resources and support livelihood diversification to enhance household incomes and reduce the number of people dependent on subsistence agriculture.

Knowledge management component of the programme will track progress, assess impacts and capture and disseminate lessons learned to improve the approach, establish good practice and facilitate up-scaling ecosystem rehabilitation and protection for pro-poor green growth.

Opening remarks:

The meeting started at 12H: 30 PM and it was chaired by the Director General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA). In her remarks, the Director General of Rwanda environment management authority (REMA) thanked everyone for responding to the invitation. She highlighted the importance of the SCM in the project lifespan. She appreciated the results achieved by the project as well as the impact of the project in improving the livelihoods of the Rwandan population. She ended her remarks by presenting the agenda of the SCM and wishing fruitful meeting to all participants.

- Presentation of the implementation status of resolutions taken from the last steering committee meeting
- Presentation of the 2015 annual progress report
- Lesson learned and challenges
- Presentation of SERPG project internal review result framework and budget revised (2016-2017)
- Presentation of SERPG annual work plan (Jan-Dec/2016)
- Presentation of SERPG 1st quarter work plan (Jan-March 2016) and VERP 3rd quarter workplan
- AoB

Topic 1: Presentation of annual report for SERPG Project and the second quarter progress report for VERP Project

The Project Coordinator started presenting the status of implantation of resolutions taken from the last quarter. He continued presenting the progress report and achievements January-December 2015.

The presentation indicated the achievements made against the targets planned as per the outputs of the project and demonstrated that a lot had been achieved. It was highlighted that in the year, 2015, the projected has put more effort on ecosystem rehabilitation to secure land from soil erosion in the project intervention. The construction of green villages has also been progressing well. The table below summarizes the project achievement:

Activities per output	Project targets	Total Achievement up to Dec. 2015	Quarterly target	Achievement by the end of quarter two/2016	%quarterly performance
Output 1: selected degraded fragile ecosystem rehabilitated and protected					
Activity 1.1: Renabilitation of Burera and Ruhondo islands, lakeshores and Rungunga riverbanks	501 Ha	282.6 Ha rehabilitated	50 Ha	43 Ha rehabilitated	94%
Activity 1.2: Rehabilitation of Ruhondo, Cyagara and Burera Watersheds	1,182 Ha	676 Ha rehabilitatetd	48 Ha	46 Ha rehabilitated	95.8%

Activities per output	Project targets	Total Achievement up to Dec. 2015	Quarterly target	Achievement by the end of quarter two/2016	%quarterly performance
Activity 1.3: Construction of green village	286 Houses	84 Houses in Gashaki/Musanze and Rusizi green villages completed at 100%	140 Houses	The construction of 140 houses in Rweru/bugesera and Rugarama/Burera green villages are at finishing stage.	90% for Rweru and 71% for Rugarama

Output 2: livelihood of vulnerable households improvement diversified

Activity 2.1.: Financial Support for vulnerable House Holds(HHs)	1000 Households to be supported	430 households were supported	40 Households to be supported	33 Households were supported	82.5%
Activity 2.2: Supply Biogas equipment to vulnerable Households (HHs)	385 Households to be supported	135 HH supported	50 HH	50 collective biogas are under completion stage	60%
Activity 2.3: Supply solar energy equipment to vulnerable Households (HHs)	275 Households to be supported	60HH supported	60 HH	60 HH were supported with solar equipment	100%
Activity 2.4: Supply water harvesting equipment to vulnerable (HHs)	170 Households to be supported	58 HH supported	50 HH	3 water tanks of 300 cubic meters are under finishing stage	65%

Main comments provided

1. To separate the achievements of SERPG project with the one of VERP project;
2. To separate the quarterly achievement from the annual progress'

After presentation and discussion, the participants appreciated the progress achievement against the annual and quarterly targets and approved the report subject to the incorporation of the comments

Topic 2: Presentation of SERPG result framework (2016-2017)

In his presentation, the Project Coordinator highlighted that the new result framework has been done according to the available resource from UNDP. He continued saying that all planned activities have been shifted to the year 2016-2017. He noted that even though the change of targets, the outputs remained the same.

Main comments to the revised project's results framework (2016-2017)

1. The project's available resources communicated by UNDP to REMA for remaining period (2016-2018) are US\$1,040,000. REMA requested UNDP to avail these total resources in two years as follows:
 - a. US\$ 645,000 (January-December 2016);
 - b. US\$ 395,000 (January-December 2017), avoid new commitments and close the project by December 2017.

In the meeting UNDP highlighted that US\$ 645,000 for January-December 2016 are available as it has been communicated, but UNDP informed the meeting that there is no ^{guarantee} grantee to avail US\$ 395,000 by 2017, UNDP country Director said that all remaining funds would be secured by December 2018 as follows:

- c. US\$ 85,000 in January 2017
 - d. And US\$ 310,000 in January 2018.
2. To continue to mobilize resources required for the project's implementation.

After the presentation, the Result framework was approved by steering committee meeting subject to the incorporation of the raised comments by the participants. **(The result framework is attached on annex I)**

Topic 2: Presentation of SERPG annual work plan (Jan –Dec 2016) & SERPG&VERP Quarterly work plan (Jan-March 2016)

The programme manager presented the main activities to focus on in this year and the budget planned for those activities including ecosystem rehabilitation and green village construction. For the quarter 1, budget requested will only be allocated to the green village under construction as well as programme management. **(The detailed annual work plan and quarterly work plan are attached in annex II and III)**

Challenges

- 1) Lack of support from the districts to contribute to the project activities intending to improve the livelihoods of the communities for example community development subprojects. Where it was revealed that financial support provided by REMA to the community is not enough compared to the needs of community to sustain their subprojects.
- 2) Lack of ownership by district in follow up and sustainability of completed project activities and this lead to damages after a short period of time.

Summary of the meeting resolutions

- The project 2015 annual report has been approved;
- The project's 2016 (January- December) has been approved as well as the 2016 first quarter (January- March) plan;

The SCM recommendations

- The project management to separate the performance achievements of SERPG and VERP in the next steering committee meeting presentation;
- The project management to allocated the budget planned for knowledge management to the construction of green village as it was catered for FONERWA budget;
- UNDP to continue mobilizing the resources and support the programme activities as they are intending to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods and poverty eradication;
- The project management to be engaged with MINICOM specialist in Cooperative empowerment in empowering the project's beneficiaries in implementation of off farm activities/ sub-projects.

CLOSING REMARKS

In her Closing remarks, The Director General of REMA and the chair of the meeting, said that all we are doing is for our people and we must work hard to improve their livelihoods''. She thanked the participants in general and UNDP in particular for their commitments to contribute to the development and sustainability of our country Rwanda and urging them to ensure that the committed resources are provided in effective timely manner in order to avoid the delay in implementation of activities. He also requested UNDP, to continue mobilizing resources which will enable REMA to achieve the intended outcome of the project.

In his remarks, the UNDP country Director Mr. Stephen Rodriques and the co-chair of the SCM highlighted the importance of SERPG project as a multi dimensional project in poverty reduction, environment management, and improving the livelihood of population. He underscored the commitment of UNDP to the government of Rwanda and to Rwanda environment management authority in particular. He ended his remarks by ensuring the meeting that UNDP will continue to work closely with REMA in resources mobilization. He said that

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environment; natural resource management and building resilience of community to climate change will always be a priority of UNDP.

The meeting ended at 1:30 pm.

Done at Kigali, 03/03/2016

Reported by:



SINDAYIGAYA Charles

Sector Specialist

VERP & SERPG Programme

Approved by:

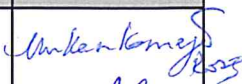



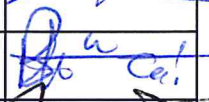





Dr. Rose MUKANKOMEJE

Steering Committee Chair

Director General of REMA

Annex IV: List of SCM participants

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