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MINUTES

Project Board Meeting (PBM) V

Promoting Sustainable Bio-energy Production from Biomass (SBEPB) in Timor-Leste

13 February 2020 15.00 - 17:30

DIRECÇÃO GERAL ELECTRICIDADE DE TIMOR LESTE

1. Objectives of the meeting

The main objectives of the meeting are to present the results achieved and 2020 work plan for Board Approval and discussion on way forward.

2. Agenda

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Presentation on the overall results and challenges
- Presentation on 2020 Annual Work Plan
- Discussion and Board Decisions.

3. Opening remarks

Remarks by Ms. Arlinda. M. R. F. F. Miranda, Director General of Electricity and Chair of the Project Board

- Reiterated GoTL's commitment for renewable energy and bio-energy promotion.
- Thanked UNDP for actions taken on the previous Board's decisions and the key progress/results achieved. Hoping that by March 2020, all activities are implemented and expected results are achieved
- Described that promotion of renewable energy is one of the areas of Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030), therefore, the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) and UNDP has been working through this GEF funded project to promote the use of biomass energy resources to improve rural community's access to clean energy for cooking.
- The Renewable Energy Law has been developed but has not been reviewed and approved yet as the government is focusing on other more important aspect.
- Recognising that the project will ends soon and suggested to UNDP to explore avenues to have similar project in the future to continue promote renewable energy.

Remarks by Mrs. Munkhtuya Altangerel, Resident Representative of UNDP Timor Leste

- Thanked Mana Arlinda Miranda, Director General and co-chair of the project board, and Mr. Virgilio Guterres, Former Director General
- Emphasize UNDP's partnership with the Government of Timor Leste (Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, CNEFP), private sector and NGO/CSOs, ICS and bio-briquette producers and academia through the Biomass project have supported the Government's vision on
 - contributing to formulation of the enabling policy framework (for instance, draft of the Decree Law on Establishing National Renewable Energy Systems),
 - promoting 20,000 ICS (approximately 10% of Timorese Households based on 2015 Census data) in 10 municipalities,
 - giving opportunities to local businesses to develop local bio-energy solutions, and creating employment opportunities for the people of Timor Leste, and
 - supporting capacity building of our partners at organizational level and at individual level (support to NDRE, CNEFP, DIT and all ICS and bio-briquette producers).
- Drew the Project Board's attention to three (3) key issues –
 1. Approval of the Renewable Energy Law is pending for notable time and urge the ministry to take necessary steps to get the law reviewed through the Council of Ministers.
 2. End-user subsidy scheme: Biomass project used a targeted end user subsidy scheme to promote ICS in Timor Leste. For long-term sustainability of the outcomes, it is critical to maintain the subsidy scheme ongoing with possible staggered approach. The project, following MTR recommendation, is testing 50% subsidy scheme starting this month.
 3. Achievements of the project: during last 4 years the project has promoted biomass energy usage; as a result, by 2019 the project distributed 17,682 household ICS and 583 institutional stoves. It is expected, that by the end of project, 3,000 more household ICS will be distributed to reach the project target of 20,000 ICS. Through the ICS distribution scheme, the project helps Timor Leste to reduce consumption of wood for fuel purposes by 163,360 tons and, thus, to reduce the GHG emission by 175,161 tons.

4. Presentation on results and 2020 work plan

By Mr. Ilidio Ximenes, National Project Coordinator

4.1. Key Results and Challenges

- A total of 21,265 clean cookstoves produced by March 2020 which are contributing to 76,176 tonnes CO2 emission reduction per year. By 2019, 18,265 households and industries adopted, and are benefiting from, the energy-efficient furnaces/stoves & other BET applications by EOP
- Renewable Energy law developed, but pending review and approval
- 5 institutions (Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, CNEFP, Secretary of State of Environment, and Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment) are involved in biomass energy production
- The establishment of the Biomass Energy Resource Information System (BERIS) is ongoing and is expected to be completed by June 2020

- 7 local manufacturing firms/local entrepreneurs (Black Smith, Nazareth Foundation, Naroman Ba Futuru, Centru Sover, Ermera Gleno, Mesak Training Centre, and Startec) have fabricated renewable energy from Biomass particularly the ICS. 64 ICS producers trained on ICS production and 7 technical trained on biogas system in CNEFP for government officials, DIT, and CNEFP trainees)

4.2. 2020 Annual Work Plan

Key activities to be implemented during Jan – March 2020

ICS and other bioenergy Promotion

- Additional 3000 HH ICS targeted with ICS partners – Nazareth Foundation, Baucau Blacksmith, Ermera ICS, Startec Enterprise, Mesak Training Centre, Naroma ba Futuru, Centro Sover, Pasura Atauro, Renatau Manatuto, Bidau Lcidere.
- Testing 50% subsidy scheme February to Marcy by the recommendation of MTR

Data and information

- Preparation of national Atlas of Biomass in TL
- Technical analysis and capacity building support to fuel wood management in partnership with Seoul Policy Centre, South Korea and MAF

Sustainable Forest Management Practice Demonstration

- 2 hectares of reforestation in Lake Maubara, Liquica Municipality
- Advanced ToT for local master trainers in partnership with EDTL and CNEFP

4.3. Challenges and Lesson learnt

- Project designed high ambitious, but the actual project does not have enough staffs and budget to achieve all what project document says
- 28 Indicators of the project documents were unclear and overlapped so MTR recommended to remove them
- Gap between designed year and implementation year: project designed 2007 then actually implemented since 2016, therefore, Timor Leste has many changes compared to when it designed e.g. electricity
- Conducted various awareness raising campaign through TV, Radio, Magazine and Roadshow, to change behavior and mind is taking more time than expectation
- Partnership – the project has been working with local NGO and INGO to work with local producers. Last year, the project was able to work with local producers directly as their capacity has improved.

5. Comments and Recommendation

- **Sr. Jose Domingos Martins:** As UNDP has developed the renewable energy law, therefore, requested that both UNDP and government work together to accelerate the approval process. Suggested to the 7 local producers to approach the Government for support. Request the Government to protect the Biogas plant established in CNEFP Tibar training Centre.
- **Sr. Manuel from Black Smith:** thanked UNDP and Government for the partnership and requested that Government officers to visit their production sites to see the challenges they are facing.
- **Mr. kim** from Startec: happy to take part in producing the Improved Cook Stoves, however, the traditional three stones produce more heat than the ICS. Therefore, a lot of improvements needed. Also, he recommended to expand the production and distribution to remote areas through subsidy scheme for most vulnerable people who cannot afford to buy, and disability people.
- **Sr. Afonso Waytila,** Journalist for Community Radio Centre. Our coverage reached 90% of remote areas in Timor-Leste, but until now many of the people are not familiar with Bio Briquettes. Therefore, would like to suggest to UNDP promote the bio briquettes. Thanked the ICS producers for providing information for production of radio programme on ICS and conducted interview with housewife in Ermera.
- **Sr. Mario Cardoso,** we have produced and promote the industrial stoves, and have reached our targets. We need Government and UNDP to link us to the Ministry of Education (MoE) to promote the institutional ICS for school feeding programme.
- **Sr. Acacio, Centru Sover, Palapasu:** we have produced and distributed the ICS. We should also planting trees is on high risk areas were until now, none of trees are growing there, right now our community still depending heavily on firewood.

6. Conclusion and Closing Remarks

In summary, the Project Board meeting concluded, and decision were made on the following:

- Approval of the 2020 AWP for completion of remaining activities and preparation for operational closure of the project by the end of March of 2020.
- Completion of the following remaining activities:
 - Testing of 50% subsidy scheme among customers of clean cook stoves in order to gather evidence of customers' willingness to pay. The results of the testing exercise will be used to discuss potential sustainability of the ICS production in future projects and programs.
 - Establishment of the Biomass Energy Resource Information System (BERIS) to be completed during the operational closure, and to be adopted by General Directorate for Electricity in July/August 2020.
- General Directorate for Electricity will continue its focus on getting the Renewable Energy Legislation adopted by the Government.

Remarks by Mrs. Munhtuya Altangerel, UNDP Resident Representative

- Thanked all who provided their very reach ideas and suggestion. Emphasize important points raised by Board Members particularly on the importance of maintenance and sustainability of the results and impact the project has delivered.
- UNDP will continue working with the government to ensure completion of the remaining activities and stands ready to work with government to formulate new similar project.

Closing remarks by Ms. Arlinda. M. R. F. F. Miranda, Director General of Electricity and Chair of the Project Board

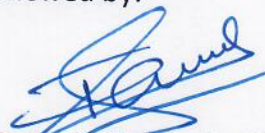
- Congratulated the project team and partners for the result achieved and expressed that the Government is committed to continue working with UNDP and other relevant stakeholders to support the local producers. This is to continue the momentum that many people in remote areas are understand the importance of using Biomass-based energy such as bio briquettes. Therefore, the Government would like to have similar project in the future in partnership with UNDP and other partners.

Prepared by:



Ilidio Ximenes
BIOMASS Project Coordinator

Reviewed by:



Felisberta Moniz da Silva
Programme Manager

Approved by:



Mrs. Munkhtuya Altangerel
Resident Representative - UNDP



Eng. Arlinda. M.R.F.F. Miranda
General Director for Electricity
the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW)

Annex 1: Participants List
Annex 2: PPT Presentation

No	Name	Position
1	Ms. Munkhtuya Altangerel	UNDP Resident Representative
2	Eng. Arlinda. M.R.F.F.Miranda	General directorate of electricity
2	Ms. Ismenia Ximenes	Executive Associate
3	Mr. Lino Mendonca	Technical Faculty, Dili Institute of Technology (DIT)
4	Mr. Justiano S. Guterres	Technical Lab DIT
5	Mr. Jony Carlos da Cunha	Interpreter & Translator
6	Mr. Evangelino S. Vaz	Chief of Department Climate Change
7	Mr. Mario Castro	Mesak Training Centre (MTC) Bairro Pite
8	Mr. Tomas S. da Cunha	DNER, EDTL-MOP
9	Mr. Jose Domingos	DNER, DENR-EDTL
10	Ms. Adriano Xavier Amaral	Producer Ermera
11	Ms. Mario Cardoso	Director Nazareth Foundation
12	Mr. Saturnina de Monteiro	DNER, EDTL-MOP
13	Mr. Manuel G. da Costa	Chefy Black Smith Baucau
14	Mr. Frederico Hornai	Coordinator Producer Naroman ba Futuro
15	Mr. Ilidio Ximenes	National Project Coordinator Biomass
16	Mr. Kim Tchia	Director Startec
17	Ms. Hyelim Park	International Consultant Junior Consultant – Capacity Building Specialist
18	Ms. Ermelinda Amaral	UNDP-Finance & Procurement Associate
18	Ms. Delfia Saldanha	Journalist DN-CRC
19	Mr. Afonso Woytila	Produtor DN-CRC
20	Ms. Filipina dos Santos	UNV
21	Ms. Ersia Apriliana Freitas	Intern
22	Ms. Niva Jacinta da Costa Soares	UNV
23	Ms. Luizinha H. M. Savio Freitas	UNV