

DISCUSSION RECORDS

Local Programme Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting of the Poverty Environment Mainstreaming project

July 7, 2008
UN Conference Hall
1430 hrs.

In Attendance:

1. Toshihiro Tanaka, DY. RR (TT)
2. Serjio Feld, UNDP RCB (SF)
3. Dechen Tsering, Dy. RD UNEP ROAP (DT)
4. Thinley Namgay, Chief Planning Officer, DCD, GNHC (TN)
5. Phuntsho Wangyel, PO, GNHC (PW)
6. Kunzang L. Sangey, GNHC (KL)
7. Doley Tshering, UNDP (D)
8. Nidup Penjor, PPD, MoA (NP)
9. Sonam Lhaden Khandu, PO, NEC (SL)
10. Sonam Rabgye, UNDP (SR)
11. Karma L. Raptan, UNDP (KR)
12. Tashi Dorji, UNDP (TD)

The meeting opened with a welcome note by TT to all the key partners from the government and regional PEI team, followed by an overview of the PE Mainstreaming project by TD.

Sl. #	Issues & Discussion	Resolution
1	DT: On behalf of UNDP/UNEP expressed her satisfaction on the finalization of the PEI project document for Bhutan through a series of consultative process, and involvement of three key agencies. She also commended on the leadership that GNHC has taken as a champion of this critical initiative. She informed that the Regional PEI Team has been firmly established in Bangkok with staff from UNDP RCB & UNEP ROAP. There is a tentative budget of USD 10 million mobilized upto 2012 for the region. An additional Output 3 has been added to the document to identify additional donor resources and donor harmonization in this critical area. The new senior leadership in the government is also very supportive of this initiative.	Output 3 will be supported by the regional PEI team through the regional advisory fund.
2	SF: On behalf of UNDP/UNEP Nairobi Center expressed happiness on GNHC taking full ownership of this initiative. It is expected to give	It is important to take real ownership of the program in the initial phase to develop PEI as an umbrella for all the other homeless initiatives to

	<p>different perspective to PEI by engaging planning and finance from the outset, which in most cases do come along in Phase II. To have GNHC lead from the very beginning will mean that mainstreaming will have a different flavour and will again go deeper in the relevant assessment of PE linkages to the country.</p> <p>The regional PEI team will continue to support the outcome of Output 3 and beyond in terms of financial and technical resources.</p>	<p>garner other projects.</p>
3	<p>NP: We might have a good framework at the strategic level but then at the local level, people still get confused. PE linkage itself is not clear to many at this stage and the extent to which we can really develop a tool kit and its usefulness remains to be looked at.</p> <p>PMI/PMC management arrangement at local level – If the pilot sites are going to be in many places, the operation cost might escalate more than the resources available to implement the actual interventions on the ground.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification of gaps at different level ○ Focus on developing good framework on how PEI can be implemented at different levels that might be a more realistic option.
4	<p>TN: Reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation</p> <p>Involvement of Tarayana at the local level interventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reporting and monitoring of the project will be in line with PlaMS – a web based system developed by GNHC. ○ Specific mention of Tarayana at this point is not felt necessary by GNHC. Based on the interventions identified after the participatory assessment, engagement of civil societies in the pilot intervention will be recommended.
5	<p>TT: Explanation of an interaction between global and regional framework, and how it interacts at the country level to actually see the dynamics has not been mentioned in the document. There is also no indication of commitment of fund for phase 2 in the project document. The current phase focuses on lot of documentation, guidelines and consultancy, instead of having lot of activities on the ground to make a real impact on the life of the rural poor.</p> <p>SF: In reality how much is being apportioned to Bhutan is more an internal exercise to what level of funding may be manageable at this stage. In a way that the project is designed for 18 months and then the next phase, it reflects in more an institutional desire to allow GNHC and IPs to get to a common understanding of the processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding framework of the overall project should be clearly specified and mentioned both for the phase I and II. ○ There is a global document and the UNDP/UNEP joint strategy document which will be referenced in the project document to provide the context. ○ SF suggested using the 1st phase of 18 months in institutional processes, and development of phase II to actually get a closer engagement with other donors. ○ Showcasing successful stories within the 18 months can help the regional PEI team not only to mobilize resources internally but also to add on more to what has been already

<p>which is not there as yet.</p> <p>Global PEI is not intended to fund the entire engagement whereas we use it as an incentive to attract other donors to harmonize among other donors that can work both Poverty & Environment.</p>	<p>committed in the joint strategy document till 2012.</p>
<p>6 DT: Phase I is focused on developing processes at the national level instead of solely devoting to pilot interventions on the ground.</p> <p>The issue of pilot in this project will be to document what lessons we have learnt to influence the planning process. Past lessons indicate that different sectors have been doing multitude of interventions and none of these gets up-scaled and put into the planning processes. As such sectors work in isolation from others. But, when GNHC takes the lead in actually doing all the assessment, trying to see all the capacity needs they will be able to take it from planning right down to the implementation and plan with other line agencies.</p> <p>NP: Resource size should be increased for the pilot interventions which are perceived to provide the feedback on the processes at different levels; Specify the national and international consultants with more focus on local consultant; clarify on specific roles of PMT/Civil Society.</p>	<p>The scope of this phase will be to put forward a comprehensive framework followed by targeted interventions to achieve the implications of mainstreaming.</p> <p>Phase II will support scaled-up program of Phase I targeted towards poverty reduction.</p> <p>GNHC will work on the budget details for 18 months and allocate appropriately with the activities.</p>
<p>7 SF: Informed that a toolkit is being developed at the global level by Nairobi Facility and will be distributed. Potential use of the toolkit will be to field test in Bhutan to see what the gaps are, rather than reinventing a new toolkit through this initiative.</p> <p>SL: Suggested rather than field testing what has been developed outside, we can focus on the already existing tools such as the ones developed for environmental mainstreaming (EM) guideline.</p> <p>KR: To what extent does the EM guideline focus on poverty aspect?</p>	<p>The tool kit/guidance material will be built on to the existing EM guideline with an additional component incorporating poverty environment aspects.</p>
<p>8 SF: Capacity development component under this project – as a part of technical advisory team of NCSA in the RCB, he has ensured to review the figures and synergies with NCSA MSP.</p>	<p>Explore possibility of collaborating with NCSA MSP funded by GEF to support capacity development activities of the PEI project in order to increase the resources for pilot interventions in Phase I.</p>

9	<p>D & PW: The current project document should be developed based on the whole resources indicated for Bhutan in the joint strategy document (USD 1.171 million) without having to prepare & approve a separate project document for Phase II. Highlighted on the absorptive capacity constraint of the IPs in identifying and implementing pilot interventions in phase I and suggested for expanding the program over a five year period to be more realistic in achieving/implementing the targeted interventions.</p> <p>PW: In the current initiative, most of the activities are focused/geared towards mainstreaming the environment with poverty alongside, however there is not much going into the poverty reduction through the targeted interventions which actually needs to be taken in an integrated manner. GNHC wanted this project to focus at the local level considering poverty a rural phenomenon in Bhutan. For the local level, a simple tool will be developed according to their needs on how to mainstream environment. To carry out the targeted interventions in phase I, more resources will have to be focused on program activities, instead of spending more on capacity development.</p> <p>DT: Phase I (July 2008 – December 2009) will specifically focus on developing national level processes and the fund as of now has been mobilized only for Phase I. The indicative fund for Phase II will be mobilized through the Nairobi Facility.</p>	<p>The development of Phase II of this project will follow through a national consultative processes with all the stakeholders on the lessons learnt and way forward. Based on the processes, implementation activities for Phase II will be programmed for USD 750,000 as an addendum to this project document.</p>
10	<p>SR: Gender mainstreaming into the PEI project – need to include gender concerns and issues; sex disaggregated data and consultancy services to include gender background in the ToR.</p>	<p>Given the nature of PEI Phase I which is very preliminary and more focused on processes, gender issue can not be highlighted in detail. However, more reasonable approach will be to state that this phase will contribute to gender mainstreaming in phase II and pilot interventions.</p>
11	<p>Discussion on the Project Output & Budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sub-outputs and activities are amended with appropriate wording wherever necessary; ○ Budget component for Output 2 & 3 will be entered in the project work plan by GNHC in consultation with stakeholders; ○ GNHC will recruit a short-term officer to support PM in the implementation of the project;

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- Budget for output 3 will be met from the regional PEI advisory fund which shall include 1) Support to PEI Officer in the UNDP CO, 2) Support to Griffith EM capacity development as a cost sharing with AusAid; 3) Regional PEI's technical support & guidance to the IPs.
 - The revision of the document will be coordinated jointly by GNHC & UNDP CO.
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Note:

IP – Implementing Partner

GNHC- Gross National Happiness Commission

NCSA- National Capacity for Self-Assessment

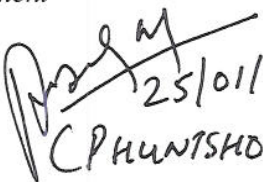
PE – Poverty Environment


PM – Project Manager

EM – Environment Mainstreaming

MSP – Medium Size project

Signed by:-


25/01/2010
(PHUNTSHO WANGYEL)


Unit Head
EU.