

PAC Meeting of 11 December, 2008
Regional Project – Expanding Energy Access

Present:	Moustapha Soumaré	RBA	Chairperson
	Stephen Gitonga	BDP	
	Minoru Takada	BDP	
	Abdulrahman Olhaye	BDP	
	Yvonne Helle	RBA	
	Tega Shivute	RBA	
	Vinetta Robinson	RBA	
	Metsi Makhetha	RBA/ASRO/Dakar, Presenter	
	Khadidiatou Sylla-Ba	UNOPS/Observer	
	Jessie Byron	RBA	

Email comments: Johannesburg ASRO, Tanzania, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Kenya and the Environment & Natural Disaster Prevention Unit of the office of UN Funds and Programmes

Introduction:

The Chairperson welcomed the participants and asked the Country Program Advisor to give a brief overview of the draft document.

The RBA CPA presented the draft project document, outlining the objectives and the expected deliverables. She specified the outputs to be achieved, which are derived from the approved Regional Programme 2008-2011, finalized following consultations with partners in the region, and based on the Evaluation of the 2nd Regional Programme and some of the achievements of the on-going Regional Programme. The CPA further explained the rationale for UNDP's involvement with energy access. She mentioned that while Africa has a huge amount of energy resources, the region is lagging behind in terms of access to electricity even in places where a national grid is available. She emphasized the fact that from a UNDP and human development perspective, energy is in fact more than electricity and that UNDP has a role in ensuring that political leaders, policy makers and development partners focus on the three pillars of energy access, i.e., – access to electricity, access to clean cooking fuels and modern devices, and access to mechanical/motive power for productive uses.

The RBA Advisor also explained that this project draws on the success of the regional energy project implemented under the past regional cooperation framework, as well as commitment by donors and the demand from the Country Offices, which expressed the need for the programme to be extended. She noted that while UNDP will provide funds from its core resources to meet most of the outputs, other partners have made firm commitments of support. She highlighted the four components of the project, each with a specific output, aligned with UNDP service lines on sustainable development and expanding access to energy services for the poor:

- 1) Policy Support and Mainstreaming (ECOWAS, EAC, SADC and Central African Community) which request UNDP to support them with energy access.
- 2) Targeted Capacity Development Support (Capacity development will be at the level of ECOWAS and EAC Secretariat since they are advanced in their strategies)
- 3) Scaling-up successful Decentralized Energy Delivery Models (relates to concrete solution on the ground. UNDP in Africa has gained experience over the years)
- 4) Knowledge networking Experience sharing and South-South Cooperation (experience shared by other regions – information that the country offices will need)

She further elaborated on the need for a clear plan for Capacity Development in the project and the areas to be strengthened as recommended in the 2nd Evaluation of the Regional Programme, and that it was essential to identify partners working at the local level to promote decentralized approaches. She informed the meeting that another important local level delivery model to be scaled up with resources received from the Gates Foundation is the Multi-Functional Platform (MFP) approach. The Foundation is supporting the MFP approach because of its potential to empower women and young girls.

With regard to the implementation and management of the project, the CPA noted that the project will be executed by UNOPS in synergy with the Country programming and operational oversight of UNDP Sub-Regional Office in Dakar even though the

project covers the entire region. In this regard, efforts will be made to ensure that the East African Community gets the dedicated support that has been provided to the ECOWAS Secretariat.

The Chairperson opened the meeting for discussions by acknowledging the comments provided by others and the Country Offices on the draft project, and then proceeded to welcome comments from the participants.

Participants stated that the project was well-written, clearly articulating the objectives and expected outputs, and welcomed the distinction made between energy for growth from energy for poverty reduction which is very important in the African context. The following comments were also provided by the PAC:

There is a need for the following to be clearly stated in the project:

- ❖ Strengthen paragraph 29 to underscore consistency of project objectives with the Strategic Plan and corporate goals;
- ❖ Given the current realities and experience with the Clean Development Mechanism in Africa (it is private sector led), it should be made clear that CDM will not be a major source of funds for the project;
- ❖ Further emphasis on how 90% of energy needs are in rural areas and to look at energy applications in sub-Saharan Africa;
- ❖ Highlight how the project can upscale investment opportunities and bring other partners such as the African Development Bank and others countries on board;
- ❖ Seek support from other partners, particularly in Monitoring/Evaluation to highlight success stories;
- ❖ Monitor closely the work plan and delivery to ensure on-time delivery of specified activities for possible future support from the Gates Foundation;
- ❖ Indicate in the project how resources will be provided to the Countries and the criteria to be used to allocate such funds;
- ❖ Ensure that data is provided on a timely basis to the Gates Foundation and bring to the attention of donors the need for them to support this application on the ground.

Comments were also provided on some of the administrative issues of the projects:

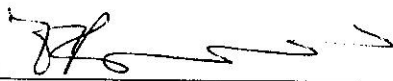
- 1) That the Regional Economic Commissions, NGOs, Academic Institutions involved in implementation activities are recorded in the project to avoid unnecessary competitive process.
- 2) The cost of the Regional Coordinator should be moved to Component 5; and
- 3) Guidance on whether or not the LS post should be advertised in the Economists or just in UNDP and UNOPS websites.

Conclusion:

The meeting approved, in principle, the project document, pending incorporation of the comments made at the PAC and those received from other colleagues not present at meeting. The final project document will be revised, and processed for UNDP and UNOPS signature.

The Chairperson thanked the participants for the contribution, especially BDP for their technical backstopping during the preparatory process.

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Cleared by: 
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Date: 17/10/08

Approved by: 
Moustapha Soumaré, OIC, RBA

Date: 17/12/08

