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Enhancing Climate Resilience of the Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in Somalia

**Minutes of Project Board Meeting
28 October, 2016: UNDP Somalia Support Office, UNON Complex Gigiri; UN Common
Compound, Airport Road, Mogadishu; and, UNDP Office,
Mogadishu International Airport**

Agenda Item 1 - Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Participants:

Mr. David Akopyan, Deputy Country Director, UNDP-Somalia, co-chaired the meeting with the State Minister of Environment and welcomed the participants from the Federal Government, Federal Member States (South West, Galmudug and Puntland) and Somaliland to the Project Board meeting. In his opening remarks he stated that the Climate Change Resilience project is aimed to build coping capacities of the Somali communities to the impacts of extreme climate events. He emphasised that all national partners need to be part of UNDP's initiatives in the areas of environment and climate change. The impacts of environment degradation or climate change are beyond the administrative boundaries and have to be addressed much more comprehensively with the engagement of all stakeholders. This was followed by introduction of the participants. The Chair then invited H. E. Said Haji Mohamud, State Minister of Environment, for the opening remarks.

H. E. Said Haji Mohamud, State Minister of Environment, Office of the Prime Minister, as co-chair on behalf of the government, appreciated UNDP support to Somalia. He highlighted the key priorities for the Federal Government and Member States. These include: 1) capacity building of institutions mandated to address issues of environment and climate change; 2) support to come up with policies and action plans for better environmental governance; and, 3) support to the Office of Environment in the Office of the Prime Minister to regularly engage with Member States on issues relevant to environment. This was followed by opening statements from the Director General (Environment), Ministers and Director Generals from Member States.

Mr. Abdirisak, Director General (Environment), Office of the Prime Minister, informed of his recent participation in the African Group of Countries meeting on Green Climate Fund (GCF). He stated that the civil war has put Somalia far behind other countries to mobilise resources and deal with the issues of climate change. This is an area where they would like UNDP's further support. He also shared the plan to have a government level coordination platform that can be convened on quarterly basis to discuss on-going and planned activities in the areas of environment.

H. E. Mohamed Hussein, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Range, Galmudug State, appreciated UNDP support and highlighted the need to work closely with his Ministry for activities in Galmudug State. Highlighting the needs, he added that the Ministry would like to work effectively on

issues relating to environment. However, it is important to have technical expertise to be based in the Ministry. These could be national experts on government contracts to support the ministry.

H. E. Moalim Mohamud, Minister, Ministry of Forest and Environment, South West State, thanked for engaging him in climate change project and charcoal programme. He also appreciated the coordination done by the State Minister and Director General in Office of the Prime Minister to bring all States together. He highlighted the needs for orientation workshops and involving religious leaders for environment and climate change messaging.

Engineer Mohamed Elmi Hussein, Director General, Ministry of Environment and Rural Development, Somaliland, informed that his Ministry has successfully completed the first phase of activities with support from UNDP and Somaliland Development Fund. However, he emphasised to deal with the issue of charcoal as lack of employment is pulling youth into charcoal production, which is a major cause of reducing the climate resilience in Somaliland.

Ms. Muna Dalmar, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Puntland, appreciated support under climate change resilience project. In particular, she highlighted the capacities that have increased within the Ministry while implementing UNDP and other donor projects. She also appreciated the innovative solutions, such as, sand dams, that were first implemented by UNDP and are now being replicated under projects from other donors.

Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, appreciated in bringing all relevant institutions to this meeting. In his opening statement he highlighted the impact of charcoal production on rangelands and emphasised on need for substituting charcoal with other energy sources, such as, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

List of participants is attached at Annex 1.

Agenda Item 2 - Presentation and Progress Update on "Enhancing Climate Resilience of the Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems Project in Somalia":

Mr. Abdul Qadir Rafiq, Project Manager, Environment and Energy, presented the background of the project and progress update on 2016 activities and outputs. He informed the participants that the project consists of two components. Component 1 covers capacity development, awareness raising, policies formulation and strengthening institutions dealing with climatic disasters. Component 2 is focus on building the capacities of communities in 8 districts to cope with cyclic droughts and floods. While covering the progress update, he mentioned that the on-ground implementation is progressing well in Puntland and Somaliland. Whereas, progress in 4 districts of Galmudg, South West and Hirshabelle States is slow because of delays in procurement process. Other activities with delayed implementation are the ones covering setting up of Agro-pastoral Schools and awareness raising activities in Southern States of Somalia. He also shared with the participants on-going and pipeline projects that would help in upscaling the activities under the Climate Change Resilience Project. Copy of the presentation is attached at Annex 2.

Mr. Akopyan invited the participants for their comments and questions. Mr. Abdirisak, Director General (Environment) highlighted the need for local plans to address the issues of climate change. He further added that coastal zones should also be included in new Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects.

Ms. Sagal and Ms. Muna emphasised on the potential of renewable energy in Somalia. Chair clarified that the project under discussion is to do with adaptation to climate change with specific activities for building resilience to climatic impacts.

Mr. Abdirisak Hussein Aden, Programme Specialist, UNDP, Poverty Reduction and Environment Protection Programme (PREP), informed the participants that there are other projects on energy and charcoal. These projects have their own Project Boards and Steering Committees. For instance, Charcoal Programme Steering Committee met on 13 October 2016. He stated that it would have been better if the presentation was against annual targets set in the Work Plan of 2016.

Mr. Abdikhafar, Somali Disaster Management Agency (SDMA), highlighted the fact that project has so far been supporting Disasters Management Agencies of Puntland and Somaliland with very limited interaction with SDMA.

Mr. Jonathan Brooks, Programme Manager, UNDP/PREP, flagged the need for assessing the impact of trainings and capacity development activities under the project. He added that the project should also look into possibility of including Benadir, Jubaland and Hirshabelle under various activities.

Mr. Abdirashid, Environment Expert, Office of Environment, Office of the Prime Minister, commented on the rehabilitation of three grazing reserves in 2016. He said 80% of population in north of Somalia are nomadic and they have traditional systems of using the range lands. It is important that the project looks into the traditional systems and help in using those systems while rehabilitating the grazing reserves.

Responding to the points raised by the participants, Mr. Abdul Qadir confirmed that there would be more engagement of the Member States as most of the funds for the next two years are for the activities that are to be implemented in locations in regions of South of Somalia. He assured that SDMA activities would also be undertaken on similar lines as for NERAD and HADMA in Somaliland and Puntland, respectively. Clarifying the point on grazing reserves, he mentioned that the present day issue is on establishing private enclosures that was not a practice under traditional systems. Somaliland government has declared such enclosures as illegal and climate change project has supported activities at three locations to revive the productivity of grazing reserves. He also clarified that the project will be independently evaluated early 2017 to assess results of the on-going activities and look into the potential impacts of activities that are policies and capacity development focused. He also clarified on the point on giving progress against 2016 targets and stated that annual targets are grouped under main outputs to make the presentation flow towards project objectives. Activity and sub-activity level presentation gives a disjointed picture, which becomes difficult to comprehend.

Agenda Item 3 – Summary of Decisions by the Chair:

Summing up the key points raised by the participants, Mr. Akopyan summarised the following decisions and action points:

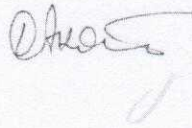
1. Quarterly Progress Report for the quarter ending 30 September 2016 to be shared with participants of Project Board meeting.
2. Mid-term evaluation of the project should focus on whether the investments under this project have brought positive changes to the lives of the people.
3. The impact of trainings and policies should be assessed and any recommendations for future improvements should help in revising the project logic.
4. Project should also look into the possibilities of expanding the focus according to new administrative realities in Somalia, i.e., including all Member States and Somaliland.
5. A detailed session for 2017 work planning be held with the Federal Government, Member States and Somaliland. Project should make efforts to hold next Project Board in December 2016 to present the 2017 Annual Work Plan.

Approved by:



H.E. Said Haji Mohamud (Co-Chair)
State Minister of Environment
Office of the Prime Minister
Federal Government of Somalia

Mr. David Akopyan (co-Chair)
Deputy Country Director,
United Nations Development Programme, Somalia






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Date: 2016.11.06 14:59:14 +03'00'

Annex I


List of Participants

1. H. E. Said Haji Mohamud, State Minister of Environment, Office of the Prime Minister, Federal Republic of Somalia, Mogadishu
2. Mr. David Akopyan, Deputy Country Director, UNDP-Somalia
3. H. E. Mohamed Hussein, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Range, Galmudug State
4. H. E. Moalim Mohamud, Minister, Ministry of Forest and Environment, South West State
5. Mr. Abdirisak Mohamed, Director General, Environment Focal Point for Global Conventions, Office of Prime Minister, Federal Government of Somalia
6. Ms. Muna Dalmar, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Puntland
7. Engineer Mohamed Elmi Hussein, Director General, Ministry of Environment and Rural Development, Somaliland
8. Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Government of Somalia
9. Chairman, Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SDMA)
10. Mr. Abdikhafar Abubakar, Somalia Disaster Management Agency
11. Mr. Abdulkani Raghe, Ministry of Livestock, Forest and Range, Federal Government of Somalia
12. Ms. Sagal Osman, Environment Office, Office of the Prime Minister, Federal Government of Somalia
13. Mr. Abdirashid Ali Ateye, Senior Environment Expert, Environment Office, Office of the Prime Minister, Federal Government of Somalia
14. Mr. Jonathan Brooks, Programme Manager, Poverty Reduction and Environment Protection Programme, UNDP
15. Mr. Abdul Qadir Rafiq, Project Manager, Environment and Energy, UNDP Somalia
16. Mr. Abdirisak Hussein Aden, Programme Specialist, Poverty Reduction and Environment Protection Programme, UNDP
17. Mr. Hassan Abdirizak Ahmed, Project Officer, Climate Change Resilience Project, UNDP
18. Mr. Salah Dahir, Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Officer, Climate Change Resilience Project, UNDP
19. Mr. Awil Abdinor, Project Officer, Climate Change Resilience Project, UNDP

  
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Enhancing Climate Resilience of the Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in Somalia

Project Board
October 28, 2016



Project Objective

“Enhanced resilience and improved adaptive capacity of vulnerable Somali communities in pilot areas, and the ecosystems on which they depend, to the adverse impacts of climate change.”

Scope of the Initiative

Proposed solution:

To reinforce the technical and operational capacities of national and local government officials as well as communities and CBOs to sustainably manage natural resources and build climate resilient livelihoods which can successfully exploit thriving ecosystem services in the long-term.

Long-term expected Goal:

To contribute towards all national and sub-national efforts to strengthen the resilience of key sectors and vulnerable local communities to climate change risks.

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Project Budget (2015-18)

| COMPONENT | COST (USD) |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 Enhancing Policies, Institutional Frameworks and Government Capacities | 2.02 m |
| 2 Piloting Ecosystem Based Adaptation strategies | 5.61 m |
| Project Management Costs | 0.37 m |
| TOTAL funded by GEF | 8.00 m |
| TOTAL funded by UNDP | 1.50 m |
| TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING | 9.50 m |

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| Progress Update... 1/2 | |
|---|---|
| Enhancing Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Eco-systems (adaptation) | |
| Main Activities (2016) | Update |
| Capacity Building and Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 28 government officials trained on Policies and Practices for Climate Change Adaptation (FGS, SW, Galmudug, Jubaland) ✓ Community members and local government officials trained on disaster management and early warnings: Total 332 (222 Men; 110 Women) |
| Introduction of climate change curriculum at university level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Modules developed in Somali and English language ✓ Somalia National University participating in developing the degree courses |
| Integrate Climate Change in National Development Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Development Plan (completed) ✓ Somaliland Development Plan (on-going) |
| Land Use and Climate Change Policies supported by Climate Vulnerability Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regional Climate Change Strategy – completed ✓ National Policy on Climate Change – in progress ✓ Regional Disasters Management Strategy (in progress) |
| Climate Monitoring and Early Warning Systems Centers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NERAD Somaliland provided infrastructure support for the establishment of the center ✓ HADMA and SDMA to have similar centers by 2017 |

| Progress Update... 2/2 | |
|---|---|
| Enhancing Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Eco-systems (adaptation) | |
| Main Activities (2016) | Update |
| Ecosystem based Adaptation Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community based organizations formed in 8 districts ✓ Technical studies completed at watershed and sub-watershed level to inform community led land use planning, infrastructure design and ecosystem based adaptation |
| District Disasters Management Committees in 8 districts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Committees formed in 8 districts for community based disaster management |
| Water harvesting and floods protection structures in 8 districts (Guricel, Balanbale, Afgoye, Jowhar, Bandar Bayala, Qardo, Qyota and Sheikh) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Feasibility and detail design of 8 structures completed (water catchments, boreholes, canal rehabilitation) ✓ 2 Water Dams under construction ✓ 3 Grazing Reserve under rehabilitation |
| Training of 6 women groups in climate change adaptation technologies for small businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 60 women headed households trained in integrated water management techniques ✓ 5 women led cooperatives formed to start businesses linked to adaptation technologies |

Delayed Activities

- ✓ *Setting up of Agro-pastoral schools with specific focus on trainings to the local communities in adaptation practices*
- ✓ *Development of fact sheets, information brochures, briefing notes; training of trainers from the communities to impart messages on adaptation and disasters management*
- ✓ *Rehabilitation and construction of water conveyance systems in Afgoye, Jowhar, Gureil and Balanbale*

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2016 Budget

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Available Funds | USD 3,885,517 |
| Expenditures | USD 1,867,113 |
| Balance | USD 2,018,404 |
| Delivery (%) | 49% |

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Scaling Up Opportunities

- Second Project from GEF/LDCF
- Green Climate Fund / Adaptation Proposal
- Joint Programme on Charcoal Production

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THANK YOU, Shukran شڪرا,
Mahadsanidiin

