

**OECUSSE-AMBENO COMMUNITY
ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (OCAP)**

**MINUTES OF THE 12TH OCAP PSC MEETING HELD ON
6th May, 2009**

Venue: Meeting Room, Secretary of State for Oecusse Office, Oecusse

Time: From 13:00 p.m. to 14:40 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Valentino Varela, Secretary of State for Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Acting Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

Participants:

A list of participants is attached (Appendix I).

Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks by the Acting Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
2. Approval of the 11th PSC minutes
3. Remarks by the Ambassador of the EC to Timor-Leste
4. Remarks by the UNDP Country Director
5. OCAP Progress Presentation by OCAP Project Team
6. Issues and Discussions
7. Closing Remarks

1. Opening Remarks by the Acting Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

- a. The Secretary of State for Livestock represented the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. He began by welcoming all participants and noted that the meeting would be the final one of OCAP as the programme would come to an end on May 13th 2009.
- b. The priorities for the meeting were set as i) to discuss the handover of OCAP material/equipment and ii) to discuss issues relating to the sustainability of activities in the field that are highly valued by the community in particular agricultural and savings and credit activities. He further referred to the 184 SHGs established with an active membership of over 4,000 people and stressed the importance of maintaining this valuable asset.

2. Approval of 11th PSC minutes

The chairman invited comments or amendments on the minutes from the 11th PSC meeting. The minutes were approved without amendment.

3. Remarks from Ambassador of EC to Timor-Leste

- a. The Ambassador began by thanking everyone present including the Secretary of State for Oecusse for his dedication in guiding the programme, and UNOPS and UNDP for their commitment in the preparation and management of the programme. He went on to say that in his view one of the main issues to be discussed at the PSC meeting should be the exit strategy for OCAP. In this regard, he pointed to the importance of the OCAP Mid Term Evaluation.

- b. The Ambassador noted that several difficulties had been encountered in the implementation of the programme some of which related to the situation on the ground. There were also issues relating to the multi-layered structure of the programme and it was recommended that thought be given to how this could be solved in the future. Further problem areas identified were i) recruitment and retention of personnel, ii) delayed delivery, iii) the over-ambitiousness of the programme taking into account capacities and budget, iii) gaps in the nursery and chicken raising activities.
- c. Issues identified as having ongoing importance were: i) the question of the boundary with West Timor, ii) the question of sustainability and iii) the importance of seeing the global picture in relation to Food Security. He noted that OCAP had aimed to focus on the very poor communities in Oecusse and by doing so had improved food security and economic development. This focus should remain.
- d. He urged the government to hold discussions on the exit strategy for OCAP taking on board the MTR recommendations concerning quality and feasibility. He further urged government to ask itself what activities it was ready to support and whether it would consider handing over to NGOs or other Civil Society bodies in order to support achievements of the programme.
- e. He closed by noting that it was unrealistic to think there would simply be other donors willing to take over where OCAP left off. He urged the need for pro-activity with the government taking on responsibilities and ensuring the learning of lessons from the past five years. He confirmed that the EC did intend to continue its presence in Oecusse with a new more specific, more focused and more realistic programme. The EC intends to learn from experience and, by reducing the scope of intervention, ensure a focus on quality over quantity.

4. UNDP Country Director

- a. OCAP, funded by the EC, was a period of cooperation between UNOPS and UNDP. The UNDP CD recognized that in hindsight, certain aspects of the programme design could have been improved but stressed that lessons had been learned and would be applied in the future, leading to much more focused programmes.
- b. Referring to the importance of the SHG component to people's lives, the UNDP CD stressed the necessity of their continued vitality and urged Government and partners to consider how they could ensure their sustainability. In addition, he pointed to the success of the CDF component in facilitating communities to prioritize their own needs. He pledged UNDP's continued commitment to cooperation with the Government to ensure the ongoing sustainability of OCAP successes.
- c. Despite the problems that arose, he noted that the programme was a huge success in overall, helping to improve lives of people in Oecusse. He acknowledged the presence of the UNDP Media Officer who was going to spend time talking to beneficiaries to see how the programme has impacted on their lives. He closed by thanking once more partners in government who gave UNDP the opportunity to work with them, the EC for its financial contribution and UNOPs for the strong cooperation over the course of the programme.

5. Presentation of OCAP Progress

(Refer to handouts)

6. Issues on the Presentation

Prior to inviting comments from the floor following the presentation by the OCAP team, the chair made two comments. First, he noted that there was a balance of project funding totaling approximately \$200,000 that remained unspent. He requested that the EC allow an extension to allow further benefit to the people of Oecusse. Second, he noted the need to consider the issue of community activation and in particular the maintenance of the 184 SHGs. He noted that local NGOs were in a position to take over the activities and recommended a decision be made on that at the meeting.

- a. It was clarified that the PSC was not a decision-making body but rather a body providing guidance. All decisions had been made when the contract was signed at the outset of the project.
- b. It was agreed that the usual mechanism of handing over programme assets to the Government following the end of the Programme on May 13th would be adhered to and that it was for the government to then decide how best to distribute such assets. The handing over process must be transparent. The need for clear reasoning to back-up the handover of programme assets was stressed. The Secretary of State voiced his support for any proposal that had such clear reasoning and ensured that assets were useful for the community if used rather than gathering dust. It was further agreed that the inventory of assets would be handed over to government together with relevant proposals from local CSOs/NGOs during the next week. The appropriate Inventory document and the Handing-over Minutes should be submitted to the EC Delegation.
- c. Regarding the amount unspent in the CDF fund, it was clarified that payments under the two ongoing CDF projects could be made as long as relevant works were carried out before May 13th. If a contract does not exist or if it is dated beyond May 13th, these costs are ineligible.
- d. Regarding the other amount unspent, this cannot be renegotiated at this stage. This must be treated according to purposes and time-frame stated in the relevant Financing Agreement.
- e. It was confirmed that the Ministry for Economy and Development could be of assistance to the existing SHGs if they were to fulfill all the requirements of a cooperative and register as such. The Vice Minister for Economy and Development confirmed that he would feed PSC discussions back to his Ministry in order to consider how best they could engage in the future.
- f. It was confirmed that the border regime study document was still outstanding but would be handed over in the following days. However, there was no clear answer as to whether a Poverty Survey study for the Oecusse District was available.
- g. The sustainability of the community mobilization element of OCAP was stressed and all stakeholders including relevant government departments were urged to undertake broad-based consultations in order to find the best method of supporting them.
- h. The need for an on-the-ground monitoring presence was emphasized as an important lesson of the project. The Secretary of State for Oecusse confirmed that his office would work

together with the office of the Prime Minister to ensure such a mechanism was in place for the future in order to help identify and address weaknesses of development programmes operating in Oecusse as they arose.

- i. The obstacles caused by poor communication facilities to the coordination of programmes being implemented in Oecusse was stressed and a call made to concentrate on improving such facilities.

8. Conclusions/Decisions

The chairman thanked everyone for their presence and for their participation in the implementation of the programme.

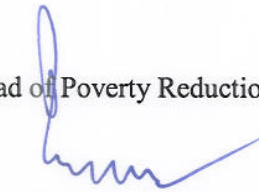
Prepared by: Claire Martin / UNDP-UNV

Noted by:

Mr. Pradeep Sharma/Head of Poverty Reduction and Environment Unit of UNDP

Signature: _____

Date: _____



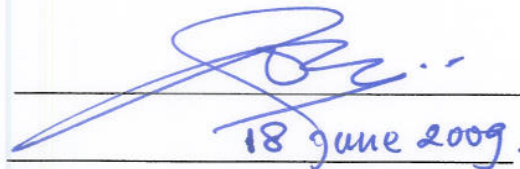
25 May 2009

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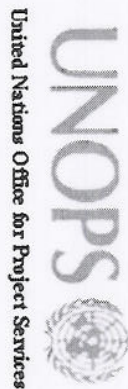
Mr. Valentino Varela/Secretary of State for Livestock-MAF

Signature: _____

Date: _____



18 June 2009.




















OCUSSI AMBENO COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (OCAP)-TIM/03/010

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Oe-cusse, 6 de Maio de 2009
 Prepara husi,
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