



**Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)**  
***Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers in the dry zone, to climate variability and extreme events, through an integrated approach to water management***

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the Conference Room, United Nations Compound,  
No 202-204, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07

**Co- Chair:**

Mr. Jorn Sorensen- Country Director, UNDP

Mr. Sisira Kumara, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

**Present:**

1. Mr. M. F. A Mubarak, Director, Department of National Planning
2. Ms. Kavitha Arunasalam, Assistant Director- UN Division, Department of External Resources
3. Mr. S. Sumanaweera, Deputy General Manager, National Water Supply and Drainage Board
4. Mr. J.M.C.G. Jayasinghe, Engineer (Northern and Central Provinces), National Water Supply and Drainage Board
5. Mr. Mr. Singayar, Senior Engineering Assistant, Department of Agrarian Development
6. Mr. Sunil Jayaweera, Director, Disaster Management Centre
7. Ms. Sepali Rupasinghe, Planning Director, Ministry of Disaster Management
8. Mr. S. M. R. C Herath, Department of Meteorology
9. Mr. D. Somaratne, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
10. Ms. Himali De Costa, Assistant Director, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
11. Mr. P.M.S. Jayathilake, Assistant Director, National Planning Department
12. Dr. Vishaka Hidellage, Assistant Country, Environment Sustainability and Disaster Resilience, UNDP
13. Ms. Tharuka Dissanayake, Policy Specialist, UNDP
14. Ms. Sonali Dayaratne, Policy Specialist, UNDP
15. Ms. Sureka Perera, Programme Analyst, Environment Sustainability and Disaster Resilience, UNDP
16. Ms. Nimmi Ariyaratne, Programme Analyst, UNDP
17. Ms. Tashya De Silva, Programme Analyst, UNDP
18. Ms. Kenosha Kumaresan, Communication Associate, UNDP

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19. Ms. Ereesha De Silva, Programme Associate, Environment Sustainability and Disaster Resilience, UNDP
20. Ms. Shyara Bastiansz, Programme Associate, Environment Sustainability and Disaster Resilience, UNDP
21. Dr. Buddika Hapuarachchi, Programme Manager, Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDP
22. Mr. Sampath Abeyratne, Technical Coordinator, UNDP
23. Mr. Sivapalan Sivaruban, Programme Finance Associate, UNDP
24. Ms. Dinali Jayasinghe National Coordinator GEF Small Grant Programme
25. Mr. U.S. Imbulana, Irrigation Specialist, UNDP
26. Mr. Asoka Ajantha, Water Resources Engineer, UNDP

### **1. Opening remarks:**

Country Director of UNDP- Mr. Jorn Sorensen welcomed all present and stated that UNDP is pleased to have partnered with the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and the other responsible parties, in developing Sri Lanka's first proposal to the Green Climate Fund. He stated that UNDP was one of the first international multilateral agencies to be accredited to the Fund and Sri Lanka was quick to respond to this new financing opportunity. He said that UNDP is pleased to see the conclusion of approval stages and the beginning of implementation.

He explained that while the project was approved by the Board in July 2016, it took some time to get over the initial teething issues, which is not unusual with a new donor. On June 07, 2017, finally the Sri Lanka Funding Activity Agreement (FAA) was signed. Mr. Sorensen offered full support to the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment; the implementing partner, to implement the project with the identified national responsible parties, private sector and Civil Society Organizations. He also mentioned that the Government responsible parties have jointly committed co-financing to the tune of USD 14 million for this project, enabling to meet the desired objective of building the resilience of smallholder farmers.

UNDP hopes to begin implementation this year after a quick inception phase. Mr. Sorensen thanked the Government, especially Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment for taking the lead on this, the responsible agencies for their cooperation and patience and the colleagues of UNDP both in country and at the Regional Bureau and headquarters for their diligent support.

The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Mr. Sisra Kumara delivering his opening remarks, conveyed apologies from the Secretary for not being able to join this important meeting due to unavoidable circumstances. He welcomed all the representatives of the Ministries and Government agencies as well as UNDP staff present at the Local Project Appraisal Committee meeting of the Integrated water management project funded by Green Climate Fund. He thanked UNDP and other responsible parties for their valuable contribution in formulating and submitting the above-mentioned project to the GCF. He stated that the government recognizes the significance of the USD 38 million grant from the Green Climate Fund to Sri Lanka, to address climate vulnerabilities of small farmers and expected full cooperation of UNDP, responsible parties, civil society and private sector to implement this project successfully. Having acknowledged the unforeseen delays to start this project

he was hopeful that with the signing of the Financial Activity Agreement in June 2017, the government can start project implementation while incorporating methods to expedite implementation to ensure timely delivery of project outputs. He thanked all stakeholders once again and looked forward to carry out successful collaborative initiative over coming few years

## **2. Project presentation**

Vishaka Hidellage Assistant Country Director, presented the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project. The presentation covered the background to the project design and development, Project Objectives and Outputs, targeted geographical areas and beneficiaries and rationale for selection of the geographical areas and beneficiaries, a detailed description of each output, project management arrangement, organogram, PMU and its staffing, budget breakdown including co-financing, risk assessment, M&E , revisions included during FAA signing, the arrangement between IP and RPs and the way forward.

## **3. Key Highlights of the Discussion**

Mr. Mubarak from National Planning Department queried why the Ministry of Disaster Management is recognized as a RP rather than the two technical agencies under the Ministry; the Disaster Management Centre and Department of Meteorology. UNDP officials responded that this is the implementing arrangement suggested by the Ministry of Disaster Management and representative of the Ministry of Disaster Management explained that technical agencies will implement specific project activities and the Ministry will have an internal arrangement to manage fund flows and accountability.

Mr. Mubarak also questioned the capacity building plans for national level agencies to forecast weather, stating that there are similar plans under the World Bank-supported Climate Resilience Improvement project to equip and build technical capacity. UNDP clarified that this project does not have plans to provide big infrastructure or physical assets to national agencies. Instead the project will build on these investments to enhance national capacity to provide targeted weather advisories to small farmers. Project hopes to provide specific technical capacities at national and local levels to produce and disseminate accurate seasonal forecasts to deliver quality service to the vulnerable communities in project locations.

Mr. Singayar, Department of Agrarian Development, stated that government has plans to improve the facilities at Agrarian Services Centers (ASCs), especially improvements to buildings and communication facilities. The UNDP team responded that the project has already planned around these envisaged investments and will work towards meeting gaps and improving local capacities to make maximum use of such investments for the benefit of small holder farmers.

Ms. Dinali Jayasinghe, National Coordinator GEF Small Grant Programme, enquired about opportunities for NGOs to get engaged in the project implementation and the inquired about selection process for NGOs. Mr. Sisira Kumara clarified that the NGOs will be invited to assist local implementation of the project and to work with the relevant government agencies at local levels, and that selection process will be based on competitive bidding

Ms. Nimmi Ariyaratne, UNDP, sought clarifications on the role of farmers and FOs in the rehabilitation of Village Irrigation Systems (VIS) and in maintenance of the same. The central role of farmers and FOs in planning and monitoring rehabilitation of VIS as well as its maintenance in the project design was clarified, while stating that there is a mandatory requirement to engage farmers in VIS rehabilitation and maintenance as per guidelines of DAD.

Mr. Sumanaweera highlighted that climate change impacts ground water differently to surface water, and during the project implementation this should be considered in planning community water supply schemes. This will be taken up at the inception.

Mr. Mubarak queried if abandoned/neglected community water supply schemes will be included in the planning of drinking water in the project. In response to this, it was acknowledged that there are possibilities to include these schemes if they fall within selected cascade. Cascade level plans will be developed through a holistic plan which would capture these scheme and reasons for their failure. Mr. Sisira Kumara further elaborated that the project will adhere to agreed selection criteria which will provide guidance to prioritize cascade level drinking water plans

**4. Next steps on the approval process and signing of the project document:**

The next step is to finalize minutes of the LPAC meeting, sign Letter of Agreements (LOAs) between the IP and the RPs and signing the Project document. It is expected that the inception meeting will be held by mid-August to start implementation soon after.

Mr. D Somarathne from Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, stated that interviews for PMU positions already underway and they expect some of the key positions including the Project Director and Project Engineer be on board in a month's time.


Vishaka explained that the delineation of the dual role of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment as the NDA for the Green Climate Fund and the project Implementing Agency (IP) should be clearly separated. The Water Management Division of the MMDE should implement the project, while the NDA would be represented by the Climate Change Secretariat (under the environment division).

UNDP acknowledged the leadership provided by the Secretary Mr. Udaya Senevirathne in formulating the proposal and preparatory phase of the project.

Mr. Jorn Sorensen thanked all who participated in the meeting and expected continued support from all stakeholders in coming years.

Mr. Sisira Kumara echoed Mr. Sorensen in thanking all parties and requested UNDP's continued close support for successful project implementation

Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 16-06-2017  
Mr. Sisira Kumara,  
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment

Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 16-06-2017  
Mr. Jorn Sorensen  
Country Director, UNDP, Sri Lanka

