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Gambia: Pilot Program on Climate Resilience (PPCR)

Final Aide Memoir

**Aide Memoir
The Gambia:
First Joint Mission for the Pilot Program on Climate Resilience (PPCR)
21 – 25 November, 2016**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The First Joint Mission to support the Government of the Gambia in developing its Strategic Plan for Climate Resilience (SPCR) was undertaken from November 21 to 25, 2016. Under the leadership of Government of the Gambia (GoTG) on one hand, the mission included representatives of the African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank (WB) and Climate Investment Funds- Administrative Unit (CIF-AU) on the other hand. This mission's activities were coordinated by the PPCR focal institution, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources. The objectives of the mission were to (i) finalize and firm up the SPCR's priority activities and key analytical studies to inform the SPCR, (ii) finalizing the recruitment of the consulting firm to start preparing a draft SPCR and (iii) defining the next steps in developing the SPCR.

1.2 The MDB mission team members included Mr. Olagoke Oladapo, Chief Agricultural Economist & Mission Leader, Ms. Siham Mohamed-Ahmed, Principal Natural Resources Management Expert, Mr. Mark Eghan, Agricultural Economist, all from the African Development Bank; Mr. Remi Kini, Resident Representative and Ms. Kazi Fateha Ahmed, Climate Change Analyst from the World Bank, and Mr. Kouassi Emmanuel Kouadio, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert from CIF-AU.

1.3 The mission paid courtesy call on Hon. Pa Ousman Jarju, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR). The mission consulted extensively on the key priority areas of the SPCR and the preparedness of the partners to support the process. The Mission met with Resident Development partners such as the UNDP, FAO and EU delegation to The Gambia.

1.4 The mission team wishes to thank the Honorable Minister, Pa Ousman Jarju, and the technical team in the Ministry and other relevant government agencies for their support, diligence and assistance during the mission. The Aide Memoire presents highlights of the mission's findings which were discussed at a wrap-up meeting chaired by the Honorable Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources. The regulations of the Climate Investment Funds require public disclosure of mission Aide Memoires. The disclosure of this Aide Memoire was discussed



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and agreed with the Government of The Gambia during the closing wrap-up meeting. The Aide Memoire will be publicly disclosed by the CIF Administrative Unit.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Following the scoping mission in February 2016, the African Development Bank as the Lead MDB, and working with the World Bank and the CIF-AU provided guidance to the Government in implementing the agreed next steps during the last mission. These included: a) the submission of the request for the grant to the CIF AU on 27 April 2016 and approval by the PPCR sub-committee on 11 May 2016; b) the receipt of the commitment letter from the trustees on 8 June 2016 which triggered the formal approval by AfDB management in accordance with its extant policy; c) the signing of the grant agreement between AfDB and GoTG on 18 October 2016, d) the publication of the Expression of Interest in the UN Business Development News and Local newspapers soliciting for the interest of consulting firms to help prepare a detailed Strategic Program on Climate Resilience (21 October 2016). Although due to some unforeseen reasons, there were slippages in the implementations of the agreed recommendations the Mission essentially charted the way forward in the SPCR process with the outcome listed in the following paragraphs.

3.0 MISSION'S KEY FINDINGS

3.1 **Status of the SPCR process:** Although this process is behind schedule, The Government of the Gambia (GoTG) reaffirmed its readiness and commitment to finalize the SPCR for submission to the May 2017 meeting of the PPCR Sub-Committee. To this end, the following critical paths towards preparation of the Gambia SPCR were reviewed and agreed with the mission:

- ✦ **Shortlist of firms:** A draft evaluation report of the firms that expressed interest in the preparation of SPCR was shared with the mission. The mission reviewed the submission and observed that the process was rigorous, transparent and due diligence was followed by the evaluating team. The mission granted in principle, a provisional “no objection” for the shortlisting of the following firms and these would be invited to submit their technical and financial proposals:
 - Le Groupe-conseil baastel sprl, Belgium
 - Met Office & Deltares, UK
 - Antea Group & PIK, Belgium
 - Agrer, France
 - BRL ingeniere, France
 - Tefa Global Solutions, The Gambia
- ✦ **Opening of the Special Account:** In order to facilitate the release of funds for the running expenses of the climate change secretariat and other miscellaneous activities towards the



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development of the SPCR, and the coordination of the activities leading to this in line with the grant agreement, the mission was informed of the opening of the special account to receive the proceeds of the PPCR Investment Plan Preparation Grant (IPPG). A copy of the letter sent by the Accountant General Office to the MECCNAR was received by the Mission. The mission however recommended that the letter should come with a cover memo from the MECCNAR as well as the authorized signatories to the special account. This should be submitted to the AfDB *not later than 2 December 2016*. The mission re-affirmed to the Government the need to follow the PPCR guidance note to ensure that only eligible expenses are incurred to avoid audit queries.

✦ **Terms of Reference for the engagement of the SPCR consultant:** The consultant terms of reference were submitted to the Government prior to the mission. A joint review of the document was undertaken with the mission and necessary changes were incorporated. The draft final of the ToRs was re-submitted and it was generally considered adequate enough for incorporation into the *Request for Proposal* that would be sent to the shortlisted consultants. The mission agreed that the RFP should be sent to the consultant *not later than 30 November 2016*. AfDB would assist in finalizing the RFP early enough in order to meet the November 30th deadline.

3.2 **Review of the Procurement Plan and Workplan & Budget Request:** The mission supported the Government team in preparing and reviewing the work-plan and budget as well as the procurement plan. A provisional no objection was granted to the procurement plan, the workplan and budget such that it would help trigger the submission of the Disbursement Request. The draft disbursement request was reviewed and should be finalized for submission *not later than 5 December 2016*:

3.3 **Climate Resilience Priorities:** The mission reviewed the identified key climate resilient priority areas with the Government team and **re-confirmed** (as agreed during the scoping mission) to the following five main clusters:

1. **Climate resilient food and landscapes:** Agriculture, food security, forestry and natural resources, including water, biodiversity and wildlife;
2. **Low emissions and resilient economy:** Energy, transport, and the key economic sectors of tourism and financial services;
3. **Climate resilient people:** Health, education, equitable social development, migration and human settlements including climate proof urban planning and waste management, climate information and early warning system;
4. **Managing the coasts in a changing environment:** climate-awareness Integrated Coastal Zone Management including coastal Erosion management.



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5. Infrastructure and Waste Management: Developing climate proof infrastructure, sanitation and solid waste management.

3.4 Stakeholders' Consultations: The Mission re-affirmed the need for extensive stakeholders' engagement in order to ensure that the developed SPCR is all inclusive to meet the national priorities and aspiration of the Government of the Gambia in building a climate resilient economy. The mission recommended the regular convening of the meetings of the climate change secretariat and the technical team, such that it would be driving the SPCR agenda especially by providing necessary support to the consultants that would be engaged. All cooperating institution must appoint a focal person. The mission had interaction with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Focal Person who doubles as the Director of Budget at the Ministry of Finance. The mission was reassured by GCF focal person that the GCF Secretariat is working closely and in synergy with the MECCNAR. This was further corroborated by the Honorable Minister who confirmed that the current set of projects submitted for GCF consideration has inputs from the MECCNAR. The mission was reassured that the SPCR would be building on these projects submitted to GCF and there would be ample opportunity that the SPCR proposed projects would be presented for GCF consideration by the Government of the Gambia.

3.5 Coordination Arrangements: As a result of the issue in 3.4 above, the mission observed that the National Focal Person may have been overwhelmed as he is involved in other critical duties in the Ministry. The mission recommended the appointment of a Co –Focal Person who will be working jointly with the Focal Person in driving the PPCR agenda. The nominated Co-Focal Person should be confirmed to the AfDB *not later than 10 December 2016*.

3.6 Engagement with Partners: The mission interacted with the main partners' resident in the Gambia including the UNDP, The FAO and the European Union. All the partners pledged their support to the process and promised to make available to the consultant that would be engaged relevant information and existing programs related to building resilience to the climate factors in the Gambia. It was agreed that the resident partners will also constitute a working group in support of the PPCR process until completion. This partners' working group will work with the Focal Persons and the technical team to ensure that the SPCR is finalized timely for processing and submission to the PPCR-Sub-Committee for the May 2017 meeting. With respect to the EU, the mission was informed there is still likelihood of securing funds to implement projects that would be emanating from the developed SPCR.

4. AGREED ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The Government agreed and re-confirmed its willingness to present the SPCR to CIF Sub-committee in May 2017 for approval. The following table shows a tentative timeline for the SPCR preparation processes, in order to meet the first feasible date for CIF approval in May 2017. The



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indicative timeline will require close collaboration and strong commitment of the parties involved for successful implementation.

Activity	Responsible Party(ies)	Proposed timing / deadline
Finalization of the shortlist and the RFP	GoTG, Lead MDBs	November 30 2016
Submit details of the special account to the Lead MDB	GoTG	December 2, 2016
Sending out the Request for Proposal to the shortlisted firm	Lead MDB Focal Point	Dec 2 2016
The nomination Co-Focal	GoTG	December 10 2016.
Deadline for the submission of the RFP	GoTG	December 16 2016
Evaluation of the RFP submitted and submission of the evaluation report to the AfDB for no objection	GoTG	December 22 2016
Granting of no objection by AfDB	Lead MDB	January 5 2017
Collation , assemblage of all relevant document and study reports	GoTG	January 15 2017
Negotiation and formal appointment of the consultant	GoTG	January 17 2017
ToR for independent reviewers	MDB & GoTG	January 15 2017
Consultants' field work commences	engaged consultants	January 25 2017
Draft SPCR Report from consultants	engaged consultants	March 10 2017
Review and Feedback on the draft report	GoTG, MDB support and Partners	March 17 2017
National Stakeholders' validation of the SPCR	GoTG, MDB support and Partners	March 24 2017
Second Joint Mission	GoTG with MDB support	To coincide with the national stakeholders March 24 2017
Finalization of the draft SPCR and	GoTG/engaged consultants	March 31 2017

Submission to independent reviewers	GoTG/Lead MDB	April 1 2017
Feedback from the independent reviewer	Reviewer	April 15 2017
Finalization and submission of the final SPCR to PPCR Sub-Committee	GoTG	April 25 2017
Presentation of the SPCR by the Government to the Sub Committee	GoTG	End May 2017


Prepared in Banjul
Friday, 25th November, 2016



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Mr. Ousman Sowe
Permanent Secretary
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Annex 1. List of persons met

No.	NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION
1	Pa Ousman Jarju	MECCNAR	Hon. Minister
2	Ousman Sowe	MECCNAR	Permanent Secretary
3	Alagie Manjang	MECCNAR	Dep. Perm. Sec.
4	Bubacar Jallow	MECCNAR	PPCR Focal Person
5	Illo Jallow	MECCNAR	Dep. Perm. Sec.
6	Salmina Jobe	MECCNAR	Director, PCU
7	Ade Mamonyane Lekoetje	UNDP	Res. Representative
8	Darrell Sexstone	EU Delegation to The Gambia	Programme Manager
9	Raymond Jatta	FAO	M&E Specialist
10	Yankuba Sawo	FAO	Programs Officer
11	Sirra Njie	FAO	Fisheries Specialist
12	Mustapha Ceesay	FAO	Agronomist
13	Bai Madi Ceesay	Ministry of Finance/	Director of Budget/ GCF Focal person
14	Abdoulai Mbye	NEMA	Procurement Specialist
15	Modou Njie	NEMA	Accountant
16	Sait Touray	NEMA	Accountant
17	Sang Mendy	P2RS	Accountant