Ministry of Environment

30th September 2021

Minutes of the 6th Steering Committee Meeting for Strengthening Climate Resilience of Rural Communities in Northern Rwanda Project (Green Gicumbi Project).

Venue: URUMULI Hotel

Time: 9:00PM – 12:00PM

Attendees

Project Steering Committee Members Present	
Patrick KARERA	Chairperson of the PSC
Teddy MUGABO MPINGANGANZIMA	CEO/FONERWA
Jean Pierre MUGABO	DG/RFA
JMV KAGENZA	Team Leader/Green Gicumbi Project
Papias KARANGWA	REG/EDCL
Jean Damascene NDAYAMBAJE	RAB representative
Innocent BISANGWA	Climate Change Specialist /MINAGRI
Sandrine URUJENI	Chief Operating Officer/NAEB
William MUGABO	Green Economy Specialist/MoE
Oreste NDAYISABA	RDB representative
Albert RWEGO KAVATIRI	Transparency International Rwanda Representative

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Other Invitees

Augustin HITIMANA	FONERWA
Aimable GAHIGI	METEO-RWANDA
Charlotte URUKUNDO	MoE
Beatrice CYIZA	MoE
Alphonsine NTABANA	MoE
Chantal UTAMULIZA	MoE
Mamissa NGABO KANKINDI	MoE

Agenda of the Steering Committee Meeting

- Implementation progress of the previous Steering Committee recommendations
- Presentation of the project implementation progress report to date
- Presentation of the annual work plan and Procurement plan

Opening remarks:

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and the chairperson of the steering committee meeting welcomed participants to the sixth PSC meeting. He highlighted that the project has been in implementation for over 18 months. During the first year, the project achieved budget execution rate of 75%. This project disbursement was sufficient for the accredited entity to request and receive the second disbursement from GCF. He further informed the meeting that the current budget execution rate is low, an indication that significant efforts are required to cover the large number of pending activities for the disbursement cycle. To this effect, members of the steering committee were requested to support the project team in devising strategies that can be used to execute the budget and closely monitor to ensure that the project adheres to the funding activity agreement.

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The agenda was then presented and approved. The following items discussed and actions proposed were summarized in the table below:

POINTS DISCUSSED	PROPOSED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
1. Presentation on the key recommendations from the previous Steering committee meeting held on 29th March 2021.	From the review of the previous Steering Committee Meeting recommendations, all recommendations were fully implemented except the challenges of getting climate resilient bricks for construction of climate resilient settlement. The delays from project design to implementation including scarcity and therefore lack of access to bricks has and continues to drive increases in the cost of the activity. - Expedite the supply of the already identified bricks from SKAT for the current construction of the ongoing 40 houses - FONERWA and MoE to closely follow up the supply of bricks and facilitate the learning tour to RICA campus.	FONERWA/Project Team	1 Week
2. Presentation of the project implementation progress report to date.	A brief presentation on the progress of the project highlighted the key project interventions which are as follows; ▪ Sub catchment B of MUVUMBA watershed restored and small - scale farmers supported to adopt climate resilient practices;	Project Team Leader with support of FONERWA/Gicumbi District with support of partnering institutions and stakeholders	**Immediately**

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	▪ Communities supported to implement sustainable forest management and adopt fuel-efficient cooking methods; ▪ Human settlements developed and/or modified to increase climate resilience; ▪ Successful adaptation and mitigation approaches communicated and mainstreamed at the national level; The project emphasized on the support needed from the respective institutions to reinforce the project team in bringing and introducing new technologies innovation in all the activities that are being implemented by the project. This is crucial in ensuring wide adoption and mainstreaming of good practices from the project and therefore future sustainability and climate resilience of the project interventions. New methodology, approaches and guidelines are more needed in forestry management in order to mainstream climate resilient approaches into existing forestry program and practices to support scale up and replication in the whole country. For Tea plantation, the activities are ongoing where preparation of 50 Ha are at good stage with 5 Ha of demonstration for hillside irrigation of tea plantation.		

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	More support from NAEB is needed to increase climate resilient farming practices with Tea cooperatives in the project intervention area. To sustain the project activities, Meteo Rwanda will support extension of weather and climate data and services for Tea and Coffee farmers to increase productivity and reduce losses from weather and climate variability. Construction of 40 low carbon climate resilient houses in Kabeza has started and it is ongoing except the challenges related to lack of climate resilient bricks. In order to address the issue, the project has worked with SKAT Consulting Rwanda to explore opportunities to support construction of environmentally friendly modern brick Kiln. The support will facilitate production of green and climate resilient bricks, modernize the brick processing and promote viable business for cooperatives that have been engaged in traditional brick making business. Challenges including COVID19 pandemic affected the implementation and this led to delays in implementation of planned activities particularly knowledge transfer and mainstreaming. Significant effort will be used in public awareness and publication to support visibility of the project results		

	with the potential to further facilitate resource mobilization of additional climate finance.		
3. Presentation of the annual work plan and Procurement plan	The annual work Plan and procurement plan was presented and it was found that project is behind in execution of the procurement plan. The project was advised to speed up developing and drafting of ToR's by working together with TCC members and expertise from partnering institutions. During evaluation of tenders, Tender committee together with the experts should convene to evaluate all tenders and ensure quality and efficiency to meet the sense of urgency in implementation.	Project Team	**Immediately**

Steering Committee Meeting General Recommendations

After discussions and different views shared among participants, the meeting approved and recommended the following:

1. The PSC appreciated the project implementation progress to date. However, the project team was requested to expedite implementation of activities in order to qualify for the next disbursement.
2. The PSC recommended the project team jointly with MoE and RHA to visit RICA institute for assessment of the best technology and innovation used to manufacture the climate resilient bricks that are produced and used there and how the project can adapt it.
3. There is a huge difference between the available budget to be executed and the level of progress with regard to procurement plans. The recommendation is to work jointly with MoE and other institutions that has different expertise to draft the needed technical specifications/TORs/BOQs for all tenders of the FY 2021/2022. Terms of reference for this joint session should be done before the week ending October 8,2021

4. The PSC recommended also the project team to document project achievement using scientifically verifiable evidence. Documentation of project achievements using the before & after photos is highly recommended.
5. The PSC assessed the indicator scope limiting for number of water tanks installed and recommended that this indicator can be revised during mid-term review to volume of water captured/harvested.
6. The PSC also approved the 2021 / 2022 project annual workplan in its entirety both for Accredited Entity and Executing Entity.

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Closing remarks.

The Permanent Secretary and the Chair of the Steering Committee closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their fruitful participation and argued the participants to continue working hand in hand to ensure project success. The Chairperson emphasized on having new approaches to communicate and document project results and speed up the implementation to achieve delivery targets. He also requested the project team to extract all ToR's that are needed to be developed and work with experts from different sectors under Ministry of Environment and other relevant stakeholders in order to publish all tenders as soon as possible. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Done on 30th September 2021.

Minutes Prepared by:

JMV KAGENZA
Project Team Leader/FONERWA

Minutes signed by:

Patrick KARERA
Permanent Secretary/MoE

PSC FIELD REPORT 29th -30th SEPTEMBER 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of its mandate the Project Steering Committee conducted a field visit to Mukarange Sector, Rubaya Sector in Gicumbi district on **29th** and **30th September 2021.** The visit was aimed at monitoring the status of implemented activities on the field, challenges being experienced in the course of implementation as well as guidance to the project teams. It's in this regard, that the PSC members together with the project staff conducted a field visit to the project activities including the radical terraces to reduce floods and landslides and control soil erosion in Mukarange Sector, installed rain water harvesting tanks as a climate change adaptation measure to control soil erosion and mitigate flood risks and with sustainable development benefits such as access to clean and safe water in Mukarange Sector. The PSC visited climate resilient housing activities in Rubaya Sector, Kabeza site location for settling poor households relocated from high-risk areas prone to flooding and landslides. The PSC also visited the Mulidi Tea Factory among other interventions visited were the installed Variable Speed Drive (VSD)s and the drying hangar that were provided by the Project with the aim to ensure reduced volumes of wood biomass used and increased energy savings to ultimately result in GHG emission reductions.

2. PROGRESS TO DATE

No	Lo and climate rationale for choosing the site cation visited	Activities visited and current progress	Challenges	Recommendations
1	Mukarange Mukarange was identified as a site in the intervention	- Radical Terraces. The project has established new 100 ha of radical terraces that employed 2407 (including 1464 Women) with integration	Low uptake of beneficiaries on some of the interventions including agroforestry	The project has to set strategies to increase communities' mobilization and sensitizations and ownership by involving local

	area of the project with hilly topography marked by step slopes. The area is prone to extensive erosion and terraces have been constructed to address flooding. The terraces have also been complemented by construction of underground water tanks to capture rain water as an adaptation measure. To further build adaptative capacity of beneficiary farming community, post-harvest facilities have been established	of other climate smart practices like agro-forestry, check dams and waterways. - Rain Water Harvesting Tanks both at household and underground (70 water tanks installed at houses and 5 under ground water installed in the neighborhood village with the capacity of capturing 710 cubic meters) - Post-Harvest, Storage Facility with the capacity to store up to 1500 tonnes of the harvested crops and has an installed water tank of 45 cubic meters	Increased risk of Soil Erosion and flooding where no proper check dams are put to minimize water floor. Household installed water tanks at houses in bad state that needs to be rehabilitated and plastered.	leaders and considering local preference in the selection of Agroforestry trees to be planted. The Project Team to closely ensure that the contractors exhaust all the The Project Team to work with Local Authorities and rehabilitate the houses that are in bad condition.

2	Rubaya Sector	- Climate Resilient Settlement site to accommodate 40 households coming from near by cells with high levels of vulnerability	- Un availability of low carbon bricks for construction	- For the ongoing construction - Expedite the supply of the already identified bricks from SKAT for the current construction of the ongoing 40 houses - FONERWA and MoE to closely follow up the supply of bricks and facilitate the tour to RICA campus - Revisit different technologies available in Rwanda including RICA and others that prove low carbon nature for adoption in the other construction sites for the project. - Devise measures to establish the bricks making site in Gicumbi that demonstrate low carbon nature and as well resilient
3	Mulindi Tea Factory	- Installed VSDs: 40 VSDs have been installed and reduces about 780 Kilo Watt of wood consumed per (Day) - Drying Hangar with the capacity to dry 1500 cubic meters of wood at ago and support the factory to remain in the acceptable moisture content well below 20%.	Lack of GHG calculations reduced or avoided as a result of the project investments.	The PSC recommended that the project team ensure that in the next reporting phase amount of GHG emissions reduced or avoided be quantified and reported on

		- Weather Station (With 11 parameters that the station captures compared to the old station that captures only 8 parameters)		

3. KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIELD VISIT

- The PSC members commended the progress of the activities on the field and requested the project team to properly document the project interventions especially linking the interventions with the project intended objectives.
- The PSC also recommended continued stakeholders' engagement with regard to different interventions to ensure full ownership for sustainability most especially the beneficiaries.
- The PSC members recommended to rethink on the supply chain approach to valorize the production of farmers/beneficiaries within the 3 components.
- The project team to reinforce the participation of the beneficiaries to promote ownership for the climate resilient houses in close consultation with the local authorities.
- The PSC recommended the project team to increase the project communication and visibility
- The PSC recommended that the project team to ensure that in the next reporting phases amount of GHG emissions from different interventions reduced or avoided be quantified and reported on
- The Chair of the PSC commended partnership with Mulindi Factory and the project and argued the factory to devise measures for sustaining the project interventions through continued support to the tea cooperatives.

PHOTOS RELATED TO THE AREAS VISITED





Post harvest handling facility



Kabeza Site for 40 Climate Resilient Settlement





Photo: 2 Rain water harvesting tanks, (Ferro cement) in Rurembo village mukarange sector



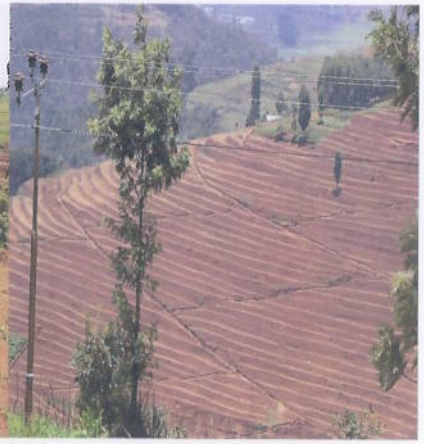


Photo: 1 Visit of ongoing bench terraces in Mukarange sector, Gicumbi district