



**PILOT PROGRAMME FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE (PPCR)
INCEPTION WORKSHOP**
WORKSHOP REPORT

24th March 2018

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURAL RESOURCES
PILOT PROGRAMME FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE (PPCR) FOCAL POINT
INSTITUTION**

Project ID No.: GM – C00 – 006

Grant No.: 556515500140

INTRODUCTION

The Gambia is one of a second round of countries selected to prepare their Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) under the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR). To that effect, a grant of US\$ 1.5 million was approved to support the preparation of the SPCR, through the African Development Bank (AfDB) and in collaboration with the World Bank (WB).

The SPCR preparation process is conducted to undertake further vulnerability analysis from climate risks, institutional analysis, awareness raising, capacity building, stakeholder consultations, and investment prioritization, in order to be able to attract funding from other sources, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), in addition to any resources that may become available within the PPCR. It is to be a country-owned, country-led and country-driven process.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) is the national focal point for the PPCR, and the lead Government Agency to guide the elaboration of the SPCR process. The SPCR preparation grant received from the AfDB is channelled through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. Other key institutions involved in the PPCR process include the National Environment Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Forestry, as well as Civil Society Organizations, including women and youth, and the private sector.

As part of the process, AGRER consulting firm was hired to develop the document. The consulting firm started work on the 6th of March 2017 and one of the first major activities was the Inception Workshop.

This workshop was held at the Paradise Suites Hotel and the purpose was to inform all the Government, Private Sector and Ngo stakeholders of the launching of the project and the different roles to be played by the respective stakeholders.

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening Remarks

The Opening remarks for the workshop were given by the Deputy Permanent Secretary Technical, Mr. Alagie Manjang who informed the gathering of the Gambia's selection for a grant from the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds. He added that the purpose of this support is to help developing countries achieve sustainable development. He urged the participants to take the consultation seriously and to provide all the necessary inputs to the consultants. He informed the participants that climate change impacts are now evident throughout the country therefore, it is the responsibility of all to safe guard the environment for future generations to come and that the PPCR could provide the Gambia with such an opportunity.

Introductory Remarks

The Introductory remarks were given by the Project Coordinator and PPCR Focal Point Mr Bubacar Zaidi Jallow. Since Climate change is no longer disputable and its impact is apparent and without boundaries, a holistic and programmatic approach that will involve all stakeholders and sectors is required. The PPCR is intended to ensure that such a synergy is well formulated in a programmatic way in order to build a climate resilience economy, agriculture and people in The Gambia. It is however imperative that the anticipated proposals, recommendations and the concept note of the SPCR be implemented on time in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the PPCR.

Statement from AGRER

Mr. Pa Ousman Jarju deputy team leader of AGRER informed the participants that, the government is very much interested in ensuring that the development of the SPCR is inclusive and consultative, as such their active participation is highly solicited. Additionally, he informed the participants that, he and his team will ensure that the comments and priorities from the participants are incorporated in the document. Furthermore, they will be invited a later date for the validation of the document. During this validation they will have the chance to see whether their comments are incorporated to their satisfaction.

PRESENTATIONS

The Opening ceremony was followed by presentations from the Project Coordinator and the Consultants.

Presentation 1 - Overview of the SPCR objective and links with National Climate Change Policy

This presentation was carried out by the Ministry of Environment and highlighted the aims and objectives of the project and its links to the National Climate Change Policy. It also dilated on the application process for the grant and the selection process for the consulting firm AGRER.

The PPCR is implemented in two phases. Phase 1 involves the preparation of a Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) to be submitted for PPCR Sub-Committee endorsement in May 2017. Phase 2 involves the implementation of the SPCR with grants and concessional loans, usually from PPCR. However, at present, the PPCR lacks sufficient funding to finance the projects and programs that may be proposed in the new SPCRs. In light of this, the new pilot countries are expected to design their SPCRs to attract funding from other sources, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), in addition to any resources that may become available in the PPCR.

The PPCR design recognizes that creating an enabling environment, including integration of climate resilience considerations into development/sectoral planning and strengthened institutions, is essential for successfully responding to climate risks by the public and private sector. The Strategic Program should therefore outline the government's agreed long-term vision to achieve a climate resilient development trajectory and a critical path to accomplish it. This should include consideration of vulnerable economic sectors, specific social groups (including women, youth, indigenous peoples, and local communities), and ecosystems. The Strategic Program will summarize the country-driven strategic approach to climate resilience, building on related relevant efforts, and define the underlying investment programs proposed for PPCR support.

Presentation 2 - Workplan, Inception Report and Stakeholder Consultation Report

This presentation was given by the consultancy Firm AGRER and gave an overview of the agreed workplan for the project. The consultant also gave a brief summary of the inception report and the initial consultations with Government Institutions, the Private Sector, NGO's and Community Based Organizations.

According to the Technical Proposal, the Gap analysis, draft SPCR review and validation consultations were proposed to comprise of one set of workshops to review the gap analysis and the emerging priority themes, and one set to review the draft SPCR. In addition, the Consultant would organize a National SPCR Validation Workshop before the submission of the SPCR to the CIF-PPCR and other potential financing agencies.

Clearly, holding two sets of regional workshops in the 1.5 months remaining after the completion of the Scoping Phase would not be feasible and would place an unnecessarily heavy burden on institutions and stakeholders in the regions. To avoid such disruption, while still optimizing stakeholder consultations, the team therefore proposes to carry out a **First Round of Regional Consultations** during the week of 27th to 31st April 2017, which will be focused at the project level rather than requiring a full multistakeholder workshop in each region. This allows the team to respond to stakeholder suggestions received to date, a number of which have emphasized the need to build on emerging Gambian success stories on community-based climate resilient development, and consider ways in which the SPCR could assist with scaling these up and out. It also means that the team will travel to project sites in the regions, in order to be able to observe results and interact directly with project participants on the ground, rather than placing the burden on NGOs and CBOs to have to travel to the regional centres at this stage. This adjustment to the methodology allows the team to streamline the consultations to reduce the burden on stakeholders, while still being able to have valuable engagements with affected communities and emerging successful projects at a relatively early stage in the assignment. These consultations will enable further deepening of the gap analysis work, and begin to identify strategic priorities for the SPCR based on valuable ground-level Gambian experience.

The **Second Round of Regional Consultations**, within and beyond the Greater Banjul Area, will be carried out between 8th to 15th April 2017. These will entail multistakeholder workshops at the regional capital in each region, and will include regional and local government, civil society (including women and youth), and private sector. At these consultations, the team will be able to present initial priority investment areas for the SPCR, and to further scope and prioritise these.

Participatory development of criteria to select priority investments will be facilitated during the Enlarged Technical Team workshop to be held on 24th March 2017 in the Greater Banjul Area.

Finally, the draft SPCR will be discussed and validated at a National Multistakeholder Validation Workshop to be held in the Greater Banjul Area on 26th April 2017, which will include representatives from all of the regions and across the sectors and groupings.

Based on the above, and in order to carry out the work in an optimal fashion, following discussions with the MECCNAR, the consultants have proposed the following revised time frames for completion of the assignment:

n°	Activities / Deliverables	Completion / Submission
1	Inception report	23 rd March 2017
2	Stakeholder consultation plan (SCP)	24 th March 2017
3	Stakeholder consultation workshops – Phase 1 (including Enlarged TT Workshop)	24 th March 2017
4	First and Second Rounds of Regional Consultations	15 th April 2017
5	Draft SPCR document	24 th April 2017
5	National SH Validation Workshop	26 th April 2017
6	Matrix of responses to the external reviewer	Receipt of comments + 1 week
7	Draft TORs for the analytical studies	To be included in the Draft SPCR document

8	Final SPCR document	4 th May 2017
9	Powerpoint presentation to sub-committee meeting	At Final SPCR document submission
10	Responses to subcommittee comments	Receipt of comments + 1 week

Presentation 3 - Emerging issues from preliminary consultations

This presentation by AGRER highlighted the emerging issues relating to climate change that have emerged from the initial consultations with a wide range of stakeholder institutions.

the Joint Scoping Mission (from 1st to 5th February, 2016) of the GoTG, the AfDB and the World Bank and various stakeholders, under the auspices of the MECCNAR, identified five priority themes: (i) climate resilient agriculture and rural livelihoods; (ii) climate resilient coastal, transport, and urban infrastructure; (iii) water supply, sanitation, and waste management; (iv) capacity building; and (v) climate services value chain. These priority themes serve as a basis for launching the preparation of the Gambia SPCR, and reflect strong congruence with the five strategic focal areas identified in the National Climate Change Policy, together with the need for a cross-cutting focus on disaster risk reduction and management.

In this initial round of stakeholder consultations, a number of emerging issues have been identified for further discussion, in the context of deepening the Gap Analysis and Vulnerability Assessment for the SPCR, towards determining the priority areas for investment. Both cross cutting and more sectoral issues have been identified, as well as issues that relate to both rural and urban resilience. Resolution of a number of the cross cutting issues is likely to be fundamental for addressing many of the sectoral resilience issues.

Please note that the following discussion merely highlights the range of issues identified by stakeholders during the consultations to date. It does not purport to be a comprehensive reflection of the rich discussions undertaken with stakeholders to date. The consultancy team has begun the process of distilling key issues, which will be further discussed with the Technical Team at the workshop to be held on 24th March 2017.

Emerging issues: agriculture, natural resources and rural resilience

Drivers of rural vulnerability with respect to *agriculture and small-scale farming* are primarily due to:

- The absence of capacity to overcome the impacts of climate change, in particular the ongoing shortening of the growing period, with late onset and early cessation of rains.
- The growing migration flux of young populations, the main workforce, towards the urban centres and abroad, enlarging the number of women-headed households.
- Inadequate technical support to adopt adaptive options that would enhance farmers' resilience to the shortening of the growing period - frequent dry spells in the middle of

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the rainy season limit their capacity to carry out farming activities such as ploughing, sowing and planting before the arrival of the dry spell. The Multidisciplinary Facilitating Teams (known as MFTs, which are essentially extension services) are presently monovalent, with an extension/farmer ratio of 1 to over 3,500; these are also not cost effective in their delivery performances.

- Insufficient technical knowledge on climate-smart farming techniques for erosion protection and improving soil texture and fertility - soils in The Gambia are generally poor in organic matter and chemical fertility, requiring high inputs of manure and fertilizers to increase yields and quality.

Given the vulnerabilities summarised above, a number of options for strengthening rural resilience have been identified:

- Enhancing the use of renewable energy to support small scale farming in irrigation, storage and micro processing activities.
- Enhancing the availability of water for irrigation through rain harvesting.
- Strengthening the small-scale mechanization in farming activities to support the increasing numbers of women-headed households.
- Disseminating climate-smart agricultural practices to reduce soil degradation and enhance crop production.
- Strengthening Extension Services to support crop diversification and developing the capacity of farmers through *Climate Change Farmers Field Schools (CC-FFSs)*.
- Strengthening the value chain of agricultural products while simultaneously enhancing rural mobility (rural tracks and feeder roads) and product certification; as well as market extension targeting in particular the tourism industry.
- Supporting the expansion of Urban Farming units as a contribution towards food security and employability of youth populations that have migrated into urban areas.

Key actions to undertake include the following:

- Review the Agroecological Zoning (AEZ) to assess the expansion and reduction of major ecosystems such as the riverine zones for rice farming and wildlife grazing.
- Develop a new soil mapping to support land use and land use management activities.
- Train Extension workers in mainstreaming the concepts of climate change and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Establish a groundwater based Early Warning System (EWS) to monitor the status quo of the groundwater, both in terms of quantity and quality of the various aquifers. Develop an integrated approach for the EWS, including increasing groundwater monitoring stations

and transmitting of real-time information; and installing solar systems for transmitters purchased for Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS) to disseminate weather information.

- Place additional attention on urban agriculture, in light of rural-urban migration and tackling food security. To this end, a policy on urban agriculture is required, which should include provisions for extension services to be trained and made available for urban agriculture.

With respect to *Forestry and rural land management*, the current Forest Policy envisages that 30% of the total land area should be covered by forests, and that 75% of this should be sustainably managed by communities. Clearly, the policy target for the area has already been surpassed. However, the sustainability of this management approach is questionable as communities are increasingly struggling with capacity constraints for ensuring the multiple use of forests and forest resources for food and nutrition security, incomes, employment and investment. In addition, forests are under severe attack with widespread cutting of trees both for commercial purposes and charcoal/household fuel purposes villages. There is regular encroachment into forests and virgin lands when the fertility of farming grounds is exhausted, mostly due to inadequate land use and lack of technical knowledge on soil improvement, use of composting and mineral fertilizers.

Concerning the *interactions between forestry and livestock*, further degradation of vegetation cover is taking place through freely moving cattle (transhumance) and small ruminants. Rapid population growth and urbanization, as witnessed for example in Brikama, have placed increased demand on forests for new settlements and/or expansion of existing ones, as well as for agricultural production, fuel wood, timber for construction and other forest produce. Cattle production is constrained by scarcity of feed and water during the long dry season, aggravated by rampant bush fires that consume most of standing hay, crop residues and by-products to feed cattle.

Concerning *forestry-related actions to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability*, the Forestry sub-sector could arrest and reverse degradation of lands along river banks and mangrove areas and protect others at risk of degradation from erosion, and in the process, expand land availability for increased rice production from tidal irrigation, and short cycle cash crops from uplands. Forestry could also increase the efficiency of the value chains of livestock, especially increasing off-take and processing of cattle in the rangelands of the country.

Additional *biodiversity-related issues and proposals* made by stakeholders include the following:

- Establish a Climate Change Centre for natural resources development.
- Undertake an inventory of biodiversity and wildlife, linked to soil mapping and agro-ecological zoning.

- Set up a multidisciplinary team to study and provide guidance in addressing invasive grass species problem.
- The Coastal and Marine unit of NEA to examine marine issues and invasive species and its relationship to the Abidjan Convention.

Emerging issues: coastal zone management

The physical issues of coastal erosion and flooding along the open coast of The Gambia have been well documented by previous work under Phase 1 of the GCCA project undertaken in 2015, with the need to address the sustainability of the city of Banjul being the highest priority. These issues are not expected to have changed significantly over the past two years, although the urgency for action has increased due to continued global sea level rise and ongoing erosion of various parts of the shoreline.

Importantly, the approach to coastal zone management action in The Gambia has also not changed. Despite recommendations from various coastal experts over the past twenty years, GoTG have not yet been able to implement a coordinated programme of coastal zone management. The following points summarise the perceived needs:

- An outline programme for nearshore and shoreline surveying and monitoring to inform coastal management decisions was proposed in the earlier GCCA project, and is still considered a vital area for investment.
- High quality data and geographical information (i.e. topography, bathymetry, existing and proposed land use, land ownership, drainage routes, geomorphology, etc.) needs to be collated and stored for use by a range of government bodies, preferably in a centrally managed GIS that can be efficiently accessed by all relevant users.
- Coordination between relevant government bodies with interests in coastal zone management must be achieved, with clear definition of policies and responsibilities for planning, implementation, monitoring and enforcement. A critical first step with regard to long-term sustainability is to define, agree and enforce appropriate set back zones for all coastal developments and activities.

Regarding *Fisheries*, stakeholders stressed the need to build coastal resilience particularly for fishing communities from Bakau to Kartong. The following specific responses were highlighted:

- Mainstream climate change into the fisheries sector and develop a master plan for coastal settlements.
- Implement monitoring and evaluation towards sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources.
- Develop a skills centre for fisheries.

- Design and implement an integrated package to develop the Fisheries value chain, which should include capacity building, provision of fishing gears and material, storage, smoking and drying facilities, early warning for the fisheries sector, and a rescue boat for each landing site for extreme events.
- Establish a Centre for Oyster Production, Processing, Certification and Marketing.

Cross-cutting issues: financial and institutional

The following cross-cutting financial and institutional issues, which encompass land use planning and development control, have been identified:

Cross-scale integrated land use and physical planning to enable climate resilient development

The impacts of sea level rise will have a significant impact on the Greater Banjul Area - two municipalities (Banjul and Kanifing) and one region (Brikama) - threatening private, public and commercial buildings, and infrastructure (such as roads, water and sewerage, the port of Banjul, etc.). There is low resilience to climate change in the Greater Banjul Area.

Challenges to tackling resilience for the Greater Banjul Area include legislation that does not take climate change into consideration and is, in many ways, in need of urgent revision, while also needing to be harmonized to reduce overlap between legislation and mandates.

A local government that is equipped to address climate change is an important challenge to be met for the Greater Banjul Area. In this context, the Local Government Act of 2005 is a key piece of legislation that has not been updated to take climate change into consideration. Also falling under Local Government's mandate is land use and physical planning that similarly does not take climate change into consideration and is not climate proofed (Physical Planning and Control Act of 1990, which is out of date); and lack of appropriate building codes focussed on climate-proofing infrastructure.

While the Local Government Act of 2002 enshrines the principles of subsidiarity and a demand-driven bottom-up approach, tackling the climate change impacts on the Greater Banjul Area need to be tackled at that broader level. The three local government areas acting separately cannot tackle these problems alone; neither should it be for the Ministry of Local Government, at the national level, to be both responsible for implementation and oversight, the more so that the problems of the Greater Banjul Area cut across all sectors.

Ad hoc financing of climate change activities - There is continuous inconsistency in government and donor financing of climate change activities in The Gambia. Government financing on climate change is provided across ministries on several levels including programmes, projects and sector-specific initiatives. Some of the funds are government provided while some are development partners; however, most of the funds cannot be adequately tracked or monitored since they lack budget coding. This creates a level of difficulty for the Ministry of Finance in general, and in particular in terms of accounting for climate change supported activities.

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Inadequate coordination of climate funds among institutions implementing climate change activities - Since there is no established specific institution within government to coordinate, manage, administer and arrange activities for climate change financing, it is difficult to identify specific budget and/or itemized activities specifically for climate change. The government is carrying out many activities to address climate change impacts and build resilience, but, due to insufficient coordination, it is difficult to identify and quantify outputs and results from climate change funded activities.

Operationalization of the Gambia Climate Change Fund - The National Climate Change Policy (2016) makes provision for the establishment of Gambia Climate Change Fund (GCCF), an idea with broad support amongst stakeholders participating in the process to develop the Policy, and welcomed by government institutions. However, there is currently a lack of clarity on where the GCCF will be housed. There are ongoing discussions with a number of Government Ministries now undergoing institutional reforms, resulting in collapsing, merging or eliminating some of the agencies. This creates a level of difficulty to propose creation of new institutions such as GCCF, in the context of reducing government expenditure. It will be necessary to indicate institutional arrangements for the proposed GCCF, either through a Policy approved by Cabinet, or by means of a Climate Change Law to be enacted by Parliament.

Sustainability of climate change financing - The Gambia is a heavily taxed economy. Introducing new activities that will depend on government financing through budget support, fiscal allocations and transfers may experience severe challenges of continuity and dependence on government financing.

Innovative financing mechanisms for climate change - There have been in-country discussions and suggestions on a range of new financing instruments, including application of the “polluter pays” principle, a carbon tax as a levy on fossil fuel consumption, carbon credits resulting from climate change benefits, carbon footprint mechanisms, green labels, and carbon coupons. However, there is as yet no established effective institutional mechanism for reinforcement, and for ensuring compliance, and collection of receipts or revenues.

Recommendations for enhanced collaboration with the private sector

- Government to engage the private sector in policy discussions to avoid overlap.
- The GCCF to be given support and a clear role in providing renewable energy for small-scale enterprises e.g. industrial sector.

Recommendations relating to capacity and skills development

- Enhanced South –South Cooperation on climate resilience should be pursued.
- There is a need to break the barriers between the formal skills training requirement (NTA) and informal skills training centres for development in relation to climate resilience.

- Establish a Centre for Skills Development with: a centre of excellence for solar, centre of excellence for fisheries, and a centre of excellence for food processing.

CLOSING REMARKS

The workshop was closed by the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Technical). He first of all stated that the development of the SCPR will be as inclusive as possible and iterated the call by the consultants for support in the sharing of information especially priorities.

He then added that all the priorities identified by the different stakeholders would be reflected in the Strategic Framework to be developed by the International Consultant with support from the Local Consultant. He finally thanked all the participants for not only attending but also showing a keen interest on the proceedings as shown by their lively participation. He then closed the meeting.

ANNEX**Workshop Agenda**

TIME	ACTIVITY	MODERATOR
09:00 – 09:30	Opening remarks	DPS TECHNICAL
09:30 – 10:00	Coffee break	
10:00 – 10:30	Introductory remarks on CIF, PPCR and SPCR	MECCNAR
10:30 – 11:00	Overview of the SPCR objective and links with National Climate Change Policy	AGRER
11:00 – 11:30	Workplan, Inception Report and Stakeholder Consultation Report	AGRER
11:30 – 12:30	Emerging issues from preliminary consultations	AGRER
12:30 – 12:45	Way Forward	AGRER
12:45 – 13:00	Closing Remarks	MECCNAR
13:00 - Onwards	Lunch	