



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



**PILOT PROGRAMME FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE (PPCR)  
NATIONAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP  
WORKSHOP REPORT**

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**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 Ministry of Environment as the Focal institution for the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience recently concluded its regional consultation with the Belgian consulting firm Agrer. The consultation targeted all the administrative regions of the Gambia which included a very diverse range of stakeholders to determine the challenges they face in relation to climate change.

The consultations are all geared towards the development and formulation of the Strategic Programme on Climate Resilience (SPCR) for the Gambia. As a key output of the consultancy, the consulting firm has prepared a draft Strategic Program on Climate Resilience for review by all stakeholders from the national to subnational level.

A formal validation with the involvement of the Consultants was organized for the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 at the Senegambia Hotel for one day. Participants were invited were from all the line Ministries and Departments involved during the consultation including the Technical Working Group. There was also a cross section of participants from the Regions invited, including the Governors and NGO's.

## **OPENING CEREMONY**

### **Welcoming address by the Chairman**

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary Technical of the Ministry and he gave a brief welcoming statement highlighting the process of the developing the SPCR. He mentioned the in depth stakeholder consultations that included meeting with over 140 institutions within the Greater Banjul Area as well as visits to Project sites and the Regional Consultations. He also informed participants that due to the very short time available for the review of the document due to the expiry of the consulting Firms Contract, this validation is more of a formality agreed with the Bank. He added that the documents will be shared with all stakeholders and a period of just above a week will be given for comments. The Technical Working Group of the Project will carry out a 2-day retreat to fully review the document and the Bank will also be carrying out an external review of the document.

### **Keynote address by the Head of Agrer**

Mr. Frank Feys the Coordinator of AGRER informed the participants that this was the second time for the company to work in the Gambia, and that they are now getting to be more familiar with the National circumstances. He added that the process was very tough due to the very limited time available for the implementation of the stakeholder consultations and policy

review but nonetheless his team have completed their task and it now up to the National stakeholders to review the document and provide comments.

### **Official opening remark by Minister MECCNAR**

The opening statement of the first stakeholder consultation was given by the Honourable Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources. He started by welcoming the Governors and participants from the various regions and institutions. He informed the gathering that although The Gambia's overall contribution to the high concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is minimal, the country has been identified by the IPCC (2007) as one of the most vulnerable countries to climatic effects. These effects are further amplified by the lack of adequate finances and technical knowledge to actively adapt to the changing environment.

He added that the country has also experienced drought related crop failures and severe floods over the past decade not to mention the threat faced by the entire Gambian Coastline including Banjul, the capital city from coastal erosion and Sea level Rise (SLR). In the past decade there has been a high incidence of flooding during the rainy season. In 2004 and 2010 many people were affected and many houses, farms and livestock were lost leaving many homeless and at the risk of water borne diseases. The longer-term impacts of climate change on communities and their livelihoods, as well as increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events expose settlements to a wide range of risks they are often ill-equipped to handle. Rural and urban communities lose livelihoods and homes, suffer physical danger and health problems and may need to relocate. Disadvantaged communities, including subsistence farmers, slum and coastal dwellers are particularly affected.

The HM also highlighted the process of developing the SPCR which was done in a relatively short period during to the political impasse at the beginning of the year and contractual obligations with the Consultants and Bank. He however added that participants will be given time to review the document and provide their comments which will be incorporated by the Consultants.

### **PRESENTATIONS ON SPCR THEMATIC AREAS**

This session involved the consultants presenting the various sections of the SPCR document and them breaking into different groups based on the 4 pillars identified.

#### ***Presentation 1 - Overview of the SPCR***

- 2 Stage Process
  - Phase 1: Preparation of Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR)
  - Phase 2: Implementation and management of SPCR investment plan

- Basic approach to SPCR development
  - Country-owned; country led and country driven
  - Extensive stakeholder consultations including private sector
  - Strong support and partnership by the donors especially the MDBs;
  - Strong overall focus on Gender
  - Shared learning and Knowledge Exchange (all participating countries)
  - Programmatic focus, not just projects
- Strategy determines investment plan
- Pillar 1: Developing the enabling environment to enhance climate resilience
- Pillar 2: The climate resilient national land use Mapping and planning
- Pillar 3: Urban resilience
- Pillar 4: Rural resilience

The consultants highlighted the stakeholder consultations and the institutions met:

- Meetings with 140 reps from govt., NGO, CBO, civil society, private sector groupings, 102 males, 32 female
- Site visits in GBA: Senegambia, Joswan, Ebo Town and surrounding riverine areas; trip down coast to Kartong
- Two-day trek up-country, with FAO, to visit project sites and learn lessons from successes / challenges

The following institutions were visited by the consultants and PM Team:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kanifing Municipal Council NAWEC,</li> <li>• Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,</li> <li>• Gambia Ports Authority,</li> <li>• National Road Authority,</li> <li>• Department of Lands and Survey,</li> <li>• Department of Water Resources,</li> <li>• PURA, Gambia Standards Bureau,</li> <li>• Geology Department, GTB (several visits),</li> <li>• Sandele Eco-tourism lodge,</li> <li>• Mandina,</li> <li>• Women's' Bureau,</li> <li>• Ministry of Higher Education,</li> <li>• Fisheries,</li> <li>• Ministry of Local Regional Governance,</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance &amp; Economic Affairs,</li> <li>• Ministry of Energy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Parks &amp; Wildlife Management,</li> <li>• Gambia Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry,</li> <li>• National Environment Agency,</li> <li>• United Nations Development Programme,</li> <li>• Food &amp; Agricultural Organization,</li> <li>• Unicef,</li> <li>• European Union Delegation,</li> <li>• The Association of Non – Governmental Organizations,</li> <li>• Worldview,</li> <li>• Action Aid - The Gambia</li> <li>• Mbolofandema, TOWA,</li> <li>• Women's Group Tanji,</li> <li>• NACOFAG,</li> <li>• ISRA</li> <li>• National Agricultural Research Institute,</li> </ul> |
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- National Disaster Management Agency,
- Department of Health Planning
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Physical Planning and Housing,
- Ministry of Agriculture

***Presentation 2 - Cross-cutting issues (Gender, Youth, Health and Tourism)***

- Gender, youth and health
- Awareness raising and outreach
- Institutional capacity, including human resources, coordination, information technology, climate data and services, and ME&R

**Summary of the discussions and next step**

The presentations were then followed by a discussion session involving all the participants. Mr. Musa Sowe from NACOFAG stated that regional communities are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change therefore there should be more sensitization programmes targeting the regions.

He further added that finding measures to ensure that there is adequate water for agricultural purposes is very important but he stressed the need for post-harvest technology and skills (agro- processing), which he felt, were more important. He then concluded that Farmer based organizations should be supported in terms of technical capacity within the SPCR.

Mr. Kebba M. Sillah representing WASDA (Women association for Development) commented that in his opinion, prioritizing farmer needs such as water availability through irrigation and water storage and increasing the yield of harvest should be considered more important than post-harvest technology within the SPCR document.

The Chairman responded that the proposal to carry out radio sensitization in the regions was very sound. He also added that the selection of project depends on the interest or priority of the stakeholders but urged stakeholders to first read the document to ensure that there is no duplication of their concerns.

Mr. Burang Danjo representing Concern Universal then asked if there is any support available for project development. Mr. Nuha Sarjo from the Bakau Fisheries Association also commented that there is dire need for coastal defense infrastructure at the Bakau beach to counter the erosion that is threatening the livelihood of the fishing community.

The Coordinator of the Project then informed the two participants that that there concerns have been included in the strategic plan, however if there were any further comments they could share this with the consultants.

Dr. Sidat Yaffa the Coordinator of the WASCAL climate change programme under the University of the Gambia commented that they are currently training 60 Gambians under a postgraduate diploma to enhance the capacity of the Department of Water Resources, however they have a funding gap. He asked if the SAP can be used by the University to

support the funding of postgraduate capacity building. He further encouraged the insurance companies in the Gambia to consider providing crop insurance.

### **CLOSING REMARK BY MECCNAR**

The closing remarks for the workshop were given by the DPS – Technical of the Ministry of Environment and he thanked the participants for their attendance and active participation, especially those from the regions. He also thanked the World Bank and Climate Investment Funds and African Development Bank for for supporting the Gambia in its strive to achieve climate resilience. He then thanked Agrer for the Draft Strategic Plan and reminded the gathering that both the project team and Bank would carry out further review and reminded all stakeholders to send their comments to the Ministry by the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2017.