

Draft Minutes of the 2nd National Steering Committee Meeting for Global Environment Fund

August 23, 2010

Members Present

Secretary, GNH Commission

Aum K.C. Namgyel, MoFA

Karma C. Nyedrup, NEC

Tenzin Chopel, MoAF

Thinley Namgyel, NEC

Members Absent

Chencho Norbu, MoAF

Karma, DGM

Non- Members Present

Dr. Karma Tenzing, NC, GEF/SGP, UNDP-Observer

The Chairman extended warm welcome to all members to the 2nd NSC Meeting for GEF and informed that USD 4.5 m is available under the GEF 5STAR allocation for the period of four years from July 2010 till June 2014. The agenda would be to discuss and endorse the proposed projects (some of which were proposed under the GEF 4 but could not be approved due to limited budget) and also review on the proposal for additional budget of USD 0.8 m for UNDP/SGP from the country's GEF 5 Star allocation.

Discussion on the UNDP/SGP

The National Coordinator for UNDP/SGP, Dr. Karma Tenzing provided a brief justification on the proposal for additional budget from the GEF 5 Star allocation. He informed the SGP receives an annual amount of USD 250,000 which can support up to five projects annually. He also informed that the number of proposals received from the communities are increasing and cannot be accommodated from the approved allocated fund. He further stressed that the SGP has been very effective in delivering goods and services to the communities with no additional cost on trainings and other expenditures.

The members endorsed to approve USD 0.8m for SGP with release of USD 0.2m annually. This was approved taking into consideration the impact of the program on communities and its contribution towards poverty reduction, which is the overall goal of the 10th FYP. Looking forward, the meeting recommended the need to synchronize to the extent possible and wherever relevant, the SGP

interventions with that of the targeted poverty alleviation program commonly known as REAP, spearheaded by the GNHC Secretariat.

Discussion on the Pipeline projects

The following three projects were discussed under this: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Management into the Tourism Sector in Bhutan, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management in the High Altitude Mountain Areas of Bhutan (BCSNRMHAMA) and Energy Efficiency Program in Bhutan. The Chairman raised that since some of the projects were submitted under GEF 4 and with the time gap and changing context there can be some changes in the programs/activities under the project, therefore it is necessary to revisit the projects again. He further advised that the Dealing Officers (related to the proposed projects) in the GNHC should coordinate to revise it taking into consideration the compact signing of the Ministries and the time frame for the project. The allocated timeframe of the project is four years but GNHC Secretary advised that the projects should aim for completion from the third year by using up the country allocation, this will enable the country to get access to additional funds that are not used by other countries in the fourth year for other projects. The Dealing Officers should also verify that there are no overlaps and duplication in the projects and proper consultation should be made with the sectors for ownership and to align with their current programs.

NEC members pointed out duplications in activities within all three proposals where proper coordination could reduce costs. It was also pointed out that there were potential overlap of mandates of agencies regarding proposed activities in the proposals such as establishment of standards, guidelines and policies and that there was a need to ensure proper coordination in this regard among relevant stakeholder agencies.

The members endorsed the proposal and agreed that Sector consultation should be completed within ten days for Mainstreaming Biodiversity Management and Energy Efficiency. The fund available after funding the above two projects will be made available for the BCSNRMHAMA project. However members raised concern that the BCSNRMHAMA project maybe too ambitious for the stipulated timeframe and needs to be revisited. It was further agreed that the revised projects will be circulated to the members for their comments and endorsement and it was agreed that the proposal for the USD 4.5m should be sent to GEF within one month from the meeting. The project proponents were also advised to include the NECS and other relevant stakeholder agencies in the review process, and where relevant as part of the projects, to ensure mandates are not duplicated.

With regard to the proposals under NAPA additional funding from the UNFCCC's LDC Fund, the Climate Change Focal point informed the house of the NAPA implementation process and the planned review of the NAPA implementation in September 2010 with a view to formulate the next NAPA implementation project. The house recommended forwarding the proposals to the UNFCCC focal point at NECS and the respective sectors having proposal under the additional funding to contact the NAPA focal person directly.

Review on the Concept Paper for Solid Waste Management

The meeting was informed on the availability of another USD 400,000 from the GEF under the thematic area of Health and Climate Change. The funds will be facilitated by the WHO Country office – Bhutan. The above said fund has been committed to the Ministry of Health. However, due to capacity constraint within the Ministry, it is very likely that the funds may not be utilized within the stipulated time frame. Therefore, in order to make optimum utilization of committed funds, USD 100,000 has been allocated to Solid Waste Management proposal received from DUDES, MoWHS.

As there was no other agenda, the Chairman thanked all members for their time and concluded the meeting