

MINUTES OF THE PEA RWANDA, ABS & BIOFIN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING

Meeting Venue: REMA Board room

Date: 3rd May 2019

PARTICIPANTS: ANNEX I (attached)

AGENDA:

- Progress on ABS, BIOFIN and PEA work plans for previous quarter
- Approval of next quarter work plans
- AOB

I. Welcome and Introduction:

On 3rd May 2019 at 9h00 am in Rema's board room, a technical meeting was held for PEA, ABS, and BIOFIN projects. The purpose of the technical meeting was to review and assess the progress made on the implementation of projects' activities and also provide a strategic orientation and guidance to ensure their effective and smooth implementation.

The meeting was chaired by SPIU Coordinator /REMA who welcomed the participants by thanking them to honor the invitation and come on time. The Chairperson requested to start with ABS presentation and requested the ABS Coordinator to take the participants through the presentation

I. ABS

Access and Benefit Sharing Project (ABS) Coordinator presented to the participants the progress on quarter one activities:

Activities done under Q1

- Valorization strategy (guideline to access traditional knowledge) was developed and Validated
- Inventory on traditional knowledge related to genetic resources is ongoing , final draft will be validated on 20th June 2019
- One training was conducted on ABS Contract.

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Activities for Quarter 2

- For quarter 2, the project will develop ABS law
- Develop ABS National platform for communication

Recommendations for ABS Project

The ABS Project was requested to engage an MoU with UR to use its laboratory, the MoU should be available by June.

II. BIOFIN

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative project is to phase out by this May, the project has completed all the activities as planned except one feasibility study on biodiversity finance plan which was not validated as was earlier scheduled because of its poor quality, the consultant was given a period to re-do the work before 14th May and the Team will revise the report and if it fulfills all the comments earlier provided then it will be validated.

Recommendations for BIOFIN Project

The participants recommend that, to avoid failure of the same study a consultant who did this activity should submit the report with corrections on 9th, and on 12th May the team will review the report and take a position for further actions. And there after UNDP Rwanda Country Office will write a letter requesting an extension for Biofin study

III. PEA PROJECT

Poverty and Environment Action for SDGs Project Technical Advisor presented the project progress as below;

Activities done under Q1

- Developed the Greening indicators (NST1-Period) for all 30 districts
- Developed the Env & CC budget statement-as a tool for mainstreaming
- Developed the road map for the Env and CC mainstreaming strategy
- Support the SEA-assessment for agriculture, Energy and Mining and proposed key recommendations for policy makers

- Supported the Development of the National land use and development master plan (NLUMP), Secondary cities master plan and the Kigali City Master plan
- Supported to draft and completion of the assessment of the ENR inclusion in 2018/2019 budget submissions

Activities for Quarter 2

- Prepare a policy brief from biofin study (BER, FNA etc)
- Recruitment of the Consultant to Develop a training module to guide MINECOFIN and priority sectors (Agriculture, Urbanization, Energy, Industries) on using environment and gender disaggregated evidence to prioritize the needs of women in national planning and budgeting
- Meeting with NISR on the finalization of MPI guidelines
- Recruitment of Consultant to undertake P-E at national and Sector level
- Development of ToRs and Recruitment of consultant on multi-dimensional poverty assessments, mapping of natural assets, and assessment of current and potential natural resource use. For 2 pilot Districts.
- Conducting training on Green Growth
- Draft a Policy brief on mining

Recommendations for PEA Project

Recognizing that majority of the activities done in the first quarter were in response to the needs and demand from the government, the participants noted that only few of these activities were on Quarter one plan, while there has been very slow progress in implementation of planned activities. It is in this regard that the meeting requested the PEA team to work with the Department in charge of environmental education and mainstreaming (DEEM) in REMA to review planned activities to make them context specific to the extent possible.

Specifically, the meeting requested the PEA team to include the following activities on the second quarterly plan:

- 1 Developing a SEA for industry;
- 2 Compilation of all the studies undertaken by REMA with their recommendations and implementation status and create a database to avoid duplication and make the follow up process easier;
- 3 Plan for training which can fit with both PEA and other projects activities in 2 piloting Districts for ensuring sustainability.
- 4 Conduct Environmental Audit for big Projects;

- 5 Develop an MoU with MIGEPROF spelling out the roles and responsibilities of each institution in the development of a joint ENR and Gender sensitive training module as a technical assistance to MINECOFIN and other priority sectors on using gender disaggregated evidence to prioritize the needs of women in national budgeting and planning;
- 6 Finalize the review of planned activities and make some adjustment where necessarily to respond to the needs on the grounds. Fred was tasked to take lead on this activity which should be completed by end of May.

IV. AOB

UNDP Programme Analyst updated the meeting on progress of recruiting Districts Technical Advisor for PEA Project - written test was done on April 25.

- The participants recommend that REMA should be involved in oral Exam for that Technical Advisor because he will work under REMA to support Districts.
- For the vacant Position in PEA, on the post of project officer, the Technical meeting approved the proposal to transfer SPIU staff who was working with SERPG to PEA to avoid longevity of the gap left by former PEA program officer
- For Biofin Project, SPIU REMA is recruiting a biodiversity specialist who will work also as Biofin project specialist for the next phase of Biofin project. And UNDP was requested to upgrade the position from Biofin Officer to Biofin Specialist.
- The UNDP Programme Analyst informed the meeting about the need to make adjustment to some activity line budget items to cater for the salary of the National Technical Advisor for the districts since the approved work plan did not have sufficient budget to attract a competent candidate with the required skills and experience to perform the tasks of this position.
- On the above, the meeting recommended to first review possible savings made during the months that this position has remained vacant and advise whether those savings may not be sufficient to cover the gap in this NTA's salary and wait for the budget revision at the time of Year 2 work plan preparation.

V. Overall Resolutions and Recommendations

- Before any technical or Steering committee meeting, the working documents should be shared to the authorities two week in advance;
- Presentation should be harmonized and use one format which will be shared by UNDP Team;
- Technical meetings should be held two weeks ahead of steering committee meetings to review the materials to be used in steering committee meetings;
- Projects' managers should report on progress made in previous quarter before presenting the next quarter work plan.

Vi. Closing Remarks

In her closing remarks, UNDP SGU Team Leader, Ms, Madeleine thanked the participants for productive meeting and requested to have as many meetings as needed to discuss and resolve arising issues in a timely manner. She also gave the participants heads' up on the upcoming World Environment Day and National Environment Week scheduled on June 5 and May 25th - June 5th respectively.


The theme for this year being Air Pollution

Rapporteur of the meeting

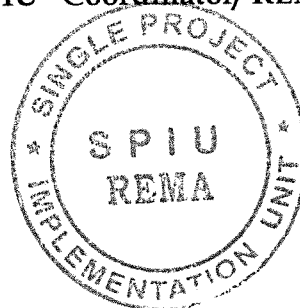


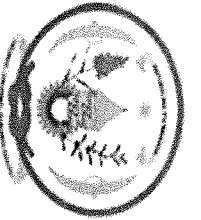
Olive MUKANDAHIRO
PEA Project officer

Chaired By:



NTABANA Sheri Alphonsine
SPIU -Coordinator/ REMA





Republic of Rwanda

RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (REMA)



ATTENDANCE LIST FOR PEA AND ABS TECHNICAL MEETING ON 3, MAY 2019

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