



II CIRDA Project Board Meeting
5 March, 2015

Minutes

Participants

- Bonizella Biagini, CIRDA Programme Manager, UNDP-GEF
- Mary Power, Director of Resource Mobilization, WMO
- Juan Carlos Villagran, Head of UN-SPIDER Bonn Office
- Benjamin Larroquette, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP Regional Center Addis Ababa
- Mariatu Swaray, Portfolio Manager Environment and Disaster Risk Management, UNDP Country Office Sierra Leone
- Onesimus Muhwezi, Team Leader Energy & Environment, UNDP Country Office Uganda
- Laurent Ngoma, Head of Environment & Sustainable Development Unit, UNDP Country Office Sao Tome and Principe
- Montserrat Xilotl, CIRDA Coordinator

Meeting Brief

Bonizella Biagini greeted the CIRDA Board Members and introduced Laurent Ngoma, Head of the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit at the UNDP Country Office in Sao Tome and Principe, who recently joined the CIRDA Board.

Bonizella Biagini began the meeting by providing a brief review of the CIRDA Programme including its general objectives and outputs. She also presented a recap of the approved 2014 Annual Work Plan stating that the majority of the actions included were addressed. These included: holding two training workshop aimed at representatives from partner national Meteorology and Hydrology Services (NMHS); 4 missions to partner countries by CIRDA experts; carrying out a survey to asses digitization needs; developing a programme website and blog; the hiring of key experts in the field of meteorology and alternative technologies as well as establishing a Letter of Understanding with the Procurement Support Unit to provide assistance to partner countries in the procuring of technologies for collecting climate data.

The CIRDA Programme Manager, proceeded to introduce the 2015 Annual Work Plan for the CIRDA Programme while highlighting the key actions that the Programme will develop. These include: the hiring of country specialists in the field of hydrology, meteorology and alternative technologies to provide on the ground training to all 11 CIRDA partner countries; training missions to partner countries (at least 6); procurement support to partner countries through the development of long term agreements with technology providers as well as by providing assistance on individual country procurement plans; developing a market study to assess the market value of climate and weather information services; establishing partnerships with sister school programs for capacity building and the monitoring of automatic weather stations; the development of a training workshop on private sector engagement in Kampala, Uganda as well as a training workshop on the dissemination of climate information and application development in Lusaka, Zambia; an outreach initiative at key international events and donor countries; and a publication on public private partnerships. The budget for the 2015 Annual Work Plan totals an estimated USD \$1,667,785. 00.

Laurent Ngoma thanked the CIRDA Programme Manager for the presentation and congratulated her for including the sister school training programme within the CIRDA Budget. He stated that this is an initiative that the Sao Tome Climate Information project would be interested in participating in. This position was seconded by Mariatu Swaray and by Onesimus Muhwezi.



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Mary Power stated that the initiative was an excellent outreach opportunity and provided the possibility of forming a new generation of young meteorologists within the CIRDA partner countries.

Benjamin Larroquette stated that the sister school initiative would also require support from the national climate information/ early warning projects to be successful. Bonizella Biagini stated that this initiative will be developed in response to a direct request made by the Government of Sierra Leone and a result of the fruitful experience that has been garnered by the non-profit organization TAHMO. TAHMO has been successful in providing training to schools in Africa on the installation and monitoring of weather stations on school grounds.

Mary Power indicated that she was familiar with TAHMO and their positive reputation in providing training to schools in Africa.

Laurent Ngoma mentioned that the efforts of the CIRDA Programme on digitization is a vital component however he recommended that the effort be channeled to a specific objective and not just for the sake of digitization itself. He mentioned that there are real challenges in digitization for partner countries as many NMHS departments do not have the necessary capacity to address this issue.

Mary Power mentioned a data digitization programme that exists within the WMO that could provide assistance and has experience to CIRDA Partner Countries. Bonizella Biagini responded by thanking WMO for the offer and stated that the CIRDA Programme could develop a partnership with WMO to develop a digitization initiative aimed at helping CIRDA partner countries.

Onesimus Muhwezi requested the CIRDA Programme Manager support to identify suitable training institutions and developing country missions to visit international best practices so as to promote knowledge exchange and training. He further suggested the creation of long term partnerships with these centers to minimize costs and maximize training opportunities.

Mariatu Swaray stated her concern that on ground support had not yet reached all CIRDA countries. She therefore greeted the initiative within the 2015 CIRDA AWP of hiring more experts to provide this assistance to countries. This was also seconded by Laurent Ngoma who stated his interest in consulting a hydro- meteorologist to provide aid to the Sao Tome Climate Information Early Warning Project. Onesimus Muhwezi stated the need of expert support in the development of technical specifications for procuring thermometers acceptable within the scope of the Minamata Convention.

Bonizella Biagini, took note of this concern and stated that providing expert support to meet partner countries needs will be a top priority for the Programme during the year. She also mentioned that country missions to visit international best practices would also be addressed.

Mariatu concluded by stating that the 2015 AWP laudable and expressed her appreciation to the CIRDA Team and Manager for the great initiatives and underlined the importance of fast track deployment of the CIRDA experts to countries with low capacities as well as in enhancing capacity development.

The meeting concluded with the unanimous approval of the 2015 AWP and budget.