



I CIRDA Project Board Meeting
8 July, 2014

Minutes

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Participants:

- Stephen Gold, Principal Policy and Technical Advisor and Head of Green LECRDS, UNDP
- Bonizella Biagini, CIRDA Manager, UNDP
- Caroline Richter, Director Global Climate Observing System, WMO
- Juan Carlos Villagran, Head of UN-SPIDER Bonn Office
- Isidore Agbokou, UNDP Country Officer Benin
- Mariatu Swaray, UNDP Country Officer Sierra Leone
- Onesimus Muhwezi, UNDP Country Officer Uganda
- Montserrat Xilotl, CIRDA Consultant

Meeting Brief

Stephen Gold in his role as chair to the board meeting, welcomed all participants to the first project board meeting for the CIRDA Programme, highlighting its relevance to UNDP.

Bonizella Biagini presented a brief overview of the CIRDA Programme including its overall objectives, geographic scope and areas of intervention. A recap of the **Programme's 2 main** outcomes and outputs was provided. Capacity building and training were highlighted as a key aspect of the Programme as well as its focus on identifying potential private sector partnerships in collecting and disseminating climate information. Among the main challenges mentioned, was the lack of institutional coordination within and among countries, need for BC and specialized training, and the risk of focusing only on hardware and technologies and not on their usability. The latter will be addressed by focusing on an end user approach.

Bonizella Biagini also presented the 2014 Annual Work Programme (AWP) as well as the corresponding budget. The AWP included, among other things, two workshops, a technology exposition, support to countries on procurement, deployment of highly specialized experts to the partner countries, a private sectors partnership strategy and a survey on data digitization needs. Also included within the AWP was the development of a communications platform through a webpage, regular newsletters and a programme blog. The 2014 budget was also presented to board members for their approval.

Project board members congratulated the Programme Manager on the **CIRDA programme's** scope and ambition. Carolin Richter (WMO/GCOS) suggested evaluating the quality performance of the existing networks operated by the national meteorological services and what can be done to improve the performance. She volunteered the support of the WMO Lead Centers for GCOS that are already working in assessing the status of the networks in Africa. The CIRDA Manager thanked Caroline Richter for her comment and agreed on integrating those comments into the AWP. She also welcomed the support from WMO looking forward to a stronger collaboration as the project evolves.



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Isidore Agbokou mentioned the relevance of conducting an institutional analysis of the project to map stakeholders, the legal provisions and interrelations between actors and institutions involved. This analysis would provide a baseline context to the Programme. The CIRDA Programme Manager welcomed the suggestion and mentioned that both this and the technology services base line study will be included as part of the study budgeted in Action 2.2.1. Isidore also noted the importance of the digitization initiative and consulted on whether this initiative would be separate from the approved work programme of the individual country CI/EWS project. Bonizella Biagini, highlighted the complementarity of the CIRDA Programme, stating that the programme is designed to be consistent with and complement the individual country CI/EWS project by providing overall support that would be too costly for each individual country to provide.

Mariatu Swaray also highlighted the importance of conducting a baseline analysis on country needs and resources. In addition, a pool/roster of consultants to be made available to countries who will benefit from their similar expertise, and thereby encouraging complementary of approach. Bonizella Biagini confirmed that one of the objectives of the CIRDA Multi-country Programme is to provide this support through the hiring of experts and consultants to support the needs of each country.. These experts will be hired through the life of the CIRDA Programme and will be deployed to countries to provide support on technologies, meteorology analysis and interpretation as well as in private sector engagement, among others. The recruitment process, still ongoing, is projected to be completed by the end of this year.

Onesimus Muhwezi praised the workplan as clear, realistic and management cost reasonable. He suggested to fine-tune and complete the list of indicators and targets on each output. He also commented on the section pertaining to the private sector strategy. Bonizella Biagini welcomed the suggestion and made the pertaining additions and edits to the 2014 AWP.

The 2014 AWP and budget where approved by the Project Board Members.

Stephen Gold thanked all the participants for their insightful comments and suggested following up this board meeting with a second one to be held at the end of the year. Montserrat Xilotl suggested holding this second session in October, taking advantage of the training workshop in Tanzania, allowing the board members to meet in person.

As a follow up, the CIRDA team will circulate the revised budget and the minutes of the meeting.