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In January – March 2016 quarter, national stakeholder workshops were held in Burkina Faso, Mauritius and South Africa. The workshops aimed to provide an avenue for the common understanding of the overall project objectives, roles and responsibilities as well as the expectations and required outputs of the country projects among the national stakeholders, grantees, partners and final beneficiaries (MSMEs).

The grantees held various activities including training, developing tools, constructing demonstration equipment as well as awareness rising in the pilot countries.

National Stakeholders Workshop in Burkina Faso

The national stakeholders workshop held on 2 March 2016 was officially opened by Mr. Rasmane Ouedraogo, Director of the Department of Environmental Policies, Coordinator IPE2 / Burkina SP / CONEDD, the National Focal Point for the SWITCH Africa Green Project in Burkina Faso.

The meeting had about 70 participants representing the grantees, their partners and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), members of the National Technical Coordinating Committee (NTCC), SP/CONED, Ministry of Environment Green Economy and Climate Change, UNDP Country Office, UNEP and UNOPS officials. There were presentations on the overview of the project, roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders; the Grant Support Agreement provisions, reporting and monitoring; Green business development and the networking facility. The sessions were participatory as the participants sought to understand the various roles and objectives of the project as well as the various tools available for green business development.



On the way forward it was agreed that the validation of the National Implementation Document will be held in April 2016. The Grantees were introduced to the National Coordinator who reported in February 2016 and also encouraged to attend the Networking forum in Kampala. It was also agreed that a National communication plan would be developed.







Grant Award Ceremony in Burkina Faso

The grants award ceremony was held on 3 March 2016 and was graced by the Regional Director UNEP ROA. The meeting started with an introductory welcome note and speech from the Permanent Secretary CONEDD, read on her behalf by Mr. Rasmane Ouedraogo. This was followed by a speech by Ms. Juliette Biao, Director and Regional Representative UNEP Regional Office for Africa and the European Union representative Mr. Alain Peigne. There was a clear emphasis on the commitment of the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change to the promotion of Green Economy, job creation, economic growth based on a rational use and development of natural resources and environment in the context of sustainable development and social cohesion.

A total four grantees were awarded the SWITCH Africa Green grant in Burkina Faso. The awards were officially awarded by Mr. Alain Peigne (EU), Ms. Juliette Biao (UNEP), and Mr. Rasmane Quedraogo (CONEDD). Thereafter, each grantee presented the overview of their project and the progress of implementation. These presentations served as a good avenue for the national stakeholders to understand the SWITCH Africa Green component B projects in Burkina Faso. The sessions were very participatory and presented an opportunity for peer review among the grantees and MSMEs as well as the national stakeholders.

Field visit to SWITCH Africa Green project - Project NEERE by GRAAD; a waste management project meaning "Pretty and clean" Koudougou, Burkina Faso (5 March 2016)



GRAAD, one of the SWITCH Africa green grantees in Burkina Faso, has partnered with the Municipalities of Koudougou and Deodougou with an aim of contributing to the emergence of sanitized cities based on an integrated and sustainable waste management system under the project 'NEERE' meaning pretty and clean. The project specifically intends to establish an integrated and sustainable system for the collection, transportation and treatment / recovery of operational waste, equip households with skills for sanitation to ensure proper management of household waste.



For visibility, the grantee prepared a bill board along the road from Ouagadougou to Koudougou, which was unveiled by Ms. Juliette Biao, Director and Regional Representative UNEP Regional Office for Africa and the Honourable Mayor of Koudougou, Mr Kontogom Laurent before proceeding to meet the selected associations representing the targeted MSMEs in the Koudougou Municipality. These MSMEs undertake collecting, sorting as well as composting of solid waste in Koudougou Municipality. In addition to improving the waste management cycle, proposed interventions include addressing the plastic bags menace in the Municipality.



Also present were Mr Rasmane Ouedraogo Director CONEDD, GRAAD officials as well as UNEP and UNOPS officials. The Association's officials especially noted the challenge of transportation of the solid waste to the approved dumping sites. It was recommended that they explore the available means which is donkeys and carts to assemble the waste at a closer agreed and approved point and the Municipality assists to consolidate and transport the waste in the available trucks.

National Technical Coordination Committee Meeting (NTCC) and Quarterly Review Meeting, South Africa







The NTCC meeting was convened at the Protea Hotel Fire and Ice in Menlyn Pretoria on 10th March 2016 and chaired by the Mr.

Tlou Ramaru, SWITCH Africa Green National Focal Point from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The meeting had about 20 participants including the EU, DEA, CSIR, NCPC, DAFF, EDD, DTI and DST.

The main objectives of the meeting were to

- a. To update the NTCC on progress in implementing the Switch Africa Green project as it had been some time since the last NTCC which was convened in 2015.
- b. To discuss how to strengthen coordination of the programme with a view to improve monitoring of project implementation
- c. To validate the national Implementation Document

The South Africa NTCC has not been meeting as frequently as required, it was agreed that the final terms of reference would be circulated and regular dates for NTCC meetings would be set. Mr. Mapako and Ms. Matumba from CSIR presented the final draft of the SWITCH Africa Green Inception and Implementation report for South Africa.

The committee pointed out that the report needed some improvements on specific interventions that were to be prioritised by SAG to promote SCP. It was agreed that these would be prioritised in the synthesis report to be compiled by UNEP using the 6 country implementation documents. The grantees were also introduced to existing SCP tools that could be used in greening the business.

Questions were raised on the definition of MSME within the SWITCH Africa Green project. It was indicated that focusing on micro-enterprises was possibly not the optimal approach for South Africa, it was agreed that South Africa could also focus on small and medium enterprises.

The grantees presented the progress in their projects, it was noted that the grantees in South Africa need to fast-track the selection of MSMEs that they will be working with. It was also agreed that some quarterly review meetings would be held in Cape Town, as 50 per cent of the grantees are based there.

STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP IN RODRIGUES ON 14 MARCH 2016 AT COTTON BAY HOTEL AT POINTE COTON

After the welcome speech by Mr Jean Carlo Botsar, Departmental Head of the Commission of Environment, Forestry, Tourism, Fisheries and Marine Parks, the workshop was officially opened by the Commissioner of Environment, Mr Richard Payendee. The commissioner gave assurance of the full support of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to the implementation of the SWITCH Africa Green project in Rodrigues. He expressed his appreciation of the fact that the national projects being implemented in Rodrigues were in line with the Regional Government's objective of making Rodrigues an ecological island. Mr Payendee thanked EU for the financial support, and UNEP, UNDP and UNOPS for assisting with the implementation of the SWITCH Africa Green projects in Rodrigues. Mass media representatives, including MBC of Rodrigues were present to cover the opening ceremony of the workshop.

Presentations on the overview of the project, the grant system mechanism as well as Greening the business were given by UNEP and UNOPS followed by the three grantee presentations from Rodrigues. The grantee presentations

focused on highlighting achievements and challenges of

implementing the project since November 2015 when the projects started; as well as the financial status of the projects.

Representation of beneficiaries from each project was high for each of the three projects. Officials from the Commission for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries who participated in provided useful inputs regarding optimisation of limited resources in Rodrigues regarding implementation of the projects. For example, sharing of consultants with similar competencies, such an expert in Agriculture, that are required for the projects being implemented by the Department of Fisheries and the Centre de Formation Agricole Frere Remy. It was highlighted that linkage amongst the projects was to be very important for effective implementation of the project in Rodrigues.





National Stakeholder Workshop, Port Louis, 17-18 March 2016. Le Sirius, Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel.







IFollowing the welcome speech by Mrs Ng, Director of Environment, of the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management; address by Mr Simon Springett, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative; and a speech by Her Excellency, Mrs Sall, Head of Delegation of the European Union; the opening of the workshop was conducted by the Honourable Mr. Dayal, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management. Mr Dayal thanked EU for the financial support, and UNEP, UNDP and UNOPS for assisting with the implementation of the SWITCH Africa Green projects.

Presentation on project objectives, project components, project implementation mechanism, the role of the stakeholders, including the National Technical Coordination Committee(NTCC), network facility, were given. In addition, presentations on country-specific and multi-country projects by grantees/local partners were given by the SWITCH Africa Green Grantees. These presentations highlighted the achievements and activities since November 2015 as well as the financial status of the projects being implemented by six grantees from Mauritius including those based in Rodrigues. UNEP reiterated that the grantees of the multi-country projects should ensure that the beneficiaries of country-specific projects also benefit from the training being provided by the multi-country grantees.

The National SWITCH Africa Green Consultant gave an overview of his assignment which consists of conducting a policy review/ scoping exercise of existing policies, regulations, standards and instruments, and mapping of gaps on SCP and Green Economy. The Consultant presented his work plan and subsequent deliverables to be produced in the course of the assignment that is scheduled to end by the end of May 2016.

The need to address an effective communication strategy within each project and amongst projects was highlighted. Sharing of resources, including consultants with common competences required by different projects was reiterated. The three grantees from Rodrigues who also participated in the workshop in Mauritius benefited from the interaction with the grantees based in Mauritius.

On the way forward it was agreed that an effective national communication plan would be developed for Mauritius; Sharing of resources including training and toolkits by the grantees would be applied; The grantees from Mauritius and Rodrigues would network more closely; and the national consultant would submit the national implementation report by mid May 2016.

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