



MINUTES OF MEETING n°20200519

Project Title: Technical Assistance to the African Union - Infrastructure Support Mechanism (ISM)

Project Identification number: EuropeAid/139919/DH/SER/MULTI

Subject: Transboundary Water Project Packaging

Date: 19/05/2020

Location: Virtual

Attendants:

Mr. Gilbert Addy – Team Leader ISM TA

Mrs Olushula - Senior Water Expert

Mr. Yagouba Traore - Chief of Infrastructure Information Unit - AUC

Mr. Krishna Heeramun - PIDA Coordinator - AUC

Mr. Stephan Fox – Programme Manager EUD

Ms. Elsa Velasco – Infrastructure Advisor – DT Global

Mr. Aziz Sfar Ben Chekir- ISM Project Manager – DT Global

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by Mr. Aziz Sfar, ISM Project Manager-DT Global. He introduced the non-key water expert nominated by DT-Global to the meeting. The water expert is expected to provide technical assistance to PIDA PAP 2 in identifying and packaging transboundary water resources projects..

2. Approval of agenda

The main agenda was to discuss the Terms of Reference for the Transboundary Water short Term expert provided under the ISM contract.

Mr. Aziz presented the Water Expert's TOR. The activities highlighted are as follows:

- i. contribution to the specific sectoral aspects of the PIDA PAP 2 by providing assistance to Member states and Regional Economics Communities to improve the quality of projects and alignment with PIDA PAP2 criteria.
- ii. Effective participation in the PIDA PAP 2 project screening and selection processes by responding to specific request made by Task force members and partner Institutions
- iii. Input to the PIDA Market and Demand Study for the Water component;
- iv. Advise and assist on the implementation of the PIDA Mid Term Review report recommendations



- v. Identify activities from the STC plan and their implementation
- vi. Contribution and participation in PIDA workshops and meetings

It has been stated during the meeting that Mr. Yagouba Traore - Chief of Infrastructure Information Unit – AUC is the focal point. Mr. Krishna Heeramun is the PIDA Coordinator at AUC representing the Consulting Company. Mrs. Olushala is the Senior Water Resources Expert at AUC.

3. Topics discussed

Dr. Krishina brought to the attention of the participants new Water Expert has been nominated after an interview was held the 8th of May, 2020. The tasks of the water expert were highlighted by Dr. Krishina and requested the expert to register on PIDA PAP 2 website in order to acquaint himself with the current PIDA-PAP 2 project profiles, project submission forms and screening criteria.

Mr. Stephan, EUD focal point, also briefed the participants on the support provided by EUC to the PIDA PAP 2. He highlighted that EUC is supporting WATSAN project in Africa. Moreover, EUC partners with AMCOW and NEPAD to come up with showcase projects for AUC. EUC is also deeply involved in Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources mostly based on satellite derived data or remotely sensed data.

The water expert, Dr.-Ing Yonas Michael Gebrewubet, was then given the chance to introduce himself to the participants. He has shared his experience on water resources projects in sub-saharan Africa. He highlighted transboundary projects on Niger river, Nile River, Shire river, Lake Chad, Lesotho Highlands Project. He has requested information on the level of participation of River Basin Organizations in the selection of Projects. It was disclosed that the basin organizations are on board on PIDA PAP 2 and summoned to a meeting on the 21st of May, 2020. The water expert discussed the cascade of dams upcoming on the Bahr-El-Jebel (White Nile River reach in south sudan) which could be integrated to the VICMED river transport project. The cascade of dams is located at Fula, Lakki, Shukholi and Bedded. The cascade of dams is expected to be generated 2000 MW approximately and have regional impact. He has also discussed the nine transboundary water projects identified under PIDA PAP 2. The water expert is already familiar with Nyerere HEP (under Energy section), Batoka HEP, Lesotho Highlands water transfer project (to Botswana), GERD and Polihali Dam projects (to be connected to Mohale by tunnel). He also highlighted possible candidate projects on major wetlands in Africa such as those in Machar Wetlands in South Sudan, Hadeja Nguru Wetlands, Niger Wetlands etc as the livelihood of millions of Africans are attached strongly to the currently existing wetlands. The Expert also highlighted existing projects of regional nature such as development DSS for the Nile Basin, development of inflow forecasting and reservoir operation model for Cahora Bassa Reservoir which could possibly appear in the shortlist of PIDA PAP 2 project portfolios. Additional possible projects of regional nature could be development of HIS (hydrologic information system) and WIS (water information system) for Transboundary river basins.



Mrs. Olushula has also stressed the importance of increasing the number of transboundary water resources projects. Moreover, the projects need to be packaged and submitted for screening. She reminded the water expert to deliver in time and with acceptable quality. Moreover, she has reiterated the importance of participation of basin authorities and river basin organisations and she confirmed that they RBOs will be on board soon.

Mr. Krishna said that PIDA PAP 2 project started in Jan 2020. The implementation process has been delayed by the pandemic Corona Virus. Currently they are discussing and consulting about the project online. He has asked the water expert to register on the PIDA PAP 2 website and make use of the platform during the upcoming activities. The RBOs include NBA, ZAMCOM, NBI, ENTRO, Lake Chad Basin Authority, Lake Tanganyika Authority, Senegal River Basin Commission etc

The Member States (MSs) and the Regional Economics Communities (RECs) are requested to submit the projects for PIDA PAP2 online. He mentioned some MSs requested for ICT assistance in the formulation of projects as well as some RECs. He said that ECOWAS has a master plan and their priority projects will be submitted. SADC will submit the projects after consultation with her MSs to ensure ownership at national level. There are around nine projects submitted up to now, therefore the submission date will be extended to end of May 2020 instead of end of April 2020. They also conducted some virtual training workshops.

4. Action to be undertaken after the meeting

The actions recommended are as follows:

- i. Participate the MDS meeting which will be held on 21 May 2020;
- ii. Review the selection criteria and participate in the priority process;
- iii. Provide assistance to MSs and RECs for submission of projects; and
- iv. Provide input to the financing and implementation strategies.