



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES

UPPER TANA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

START UP WORKSHOP (29Th April -2Nd May,2013)

OPENING SPEECH BY PERMANENT SECRETARY -MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES

(Read on behalf of the PS by Mr. Patrick Oloo- Ministry Of Environment, Water & Natural Resources)

The Provincial commissioner Eastern province, Provincial commissioner central province, Country Director/Head of Regional Office, IFAD-Nadine Gbossa, Country Programme Manager-Samuel Eremie, PSC members,all PCT lead by the Project coordinator-Muthoni F. Livingstone, Catchment Area Advisory Committee Representatives-Mt Kenya and Aberdares regions, the community and the other stakeholders, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Irrigation which is the Lead Agency I am glad to take this opportunity to thank and welcome all those who have managed to come to this start up workshop for UTaNRMP. I also thank in absentia those who were not able to come personally due to various unavoidable commitments but had sent representatives or expressed desire to attend this workshop

This is a very important event in launching the UTaNRMP as it will act as a pivot point for implementation of the project over the projected eight years of the project implementation period (2013/13 to 2020/21).

I would like to thank all those involved in organising this workshop and state that the spirit of commitment would continue throughout the project implementation. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the PCT members for having made it through the intensive interviews during the PCT recruitment exercise carried out late last year 2012. It is not by design that most of the recruited PCT members for UTaNRMP were in the PMU for the MKEPP project which closed on 31st March of this year, rather I believe it is because they excelled and are competent enough to handle the task ahead of them. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation played the leading role in the recruitment of the PCT and on behalf of the PSC I would like to assure all that the team is capable of making UTaNRMP a success just like MKEPP.

I also thank all the PSC members for UTaNRMP some of whom were in MKEPP PSC for their active participation and I attribute this spirit to success of MKEPP and subsequent up scaling to UTaNRMP. The Ministry appreciates the support and cooperation and trust bestowed on us by IFAD and I thank all the IFAD officials involved.

I cannot forget to appreciate the role played by other stakeholders and of particular the community who form the foundation of any project and play a very crucial role of a project's success.

The key objective of this workshop is to bring together key stakeholders in order to create a platform for the UTaNRMP implementation. We cannot go ahead without looking back as to the basis of all this. In this aspect I would like to remind you that UTaNRMP background is as a result of the success of MKEPP. From 2004 to 2012 IFAD and the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and GOK financed implementation of Mount Kenya East Pilot Project for natural resources of Mount Kenya East Pilot Project for natural resources management (MKEPP). The signing of the loan was done on 26th February, 2003. The actual loan closing was on 31st March, 2013.

The MKEPP aimed at linking sustainable use of natural resources, water and forests, with enhanced rural livelihoods in 5 river basins on Mt. Kenya East area, the Forest Reserve and National park. MKEPP project used a wide range of strategies and approaches in the course of implementation in order to achieve the objectives. In general the bottom-up approach (focal area) was adopted by the project and involved working with communities. Implementation of the project was done through existing government ministries/departments/agencies.

The project was found to be relevant to the needs of the communities as well as contributing to the national development goals. The project was in line with the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation(2003);Vision 2030 as well as other policy documents such as: EMCA 1999; Water Act 2002 and Forest Act 2005.

The project impacts were satisfactory and the project categorized as low risk. The sustainability of the project activities is assessed as satisfactory. The performances of partners in MKEPP were found to be highly satisfactory. None of the partners failed to play their role as specified in the project documents. Stakeholder involvement was very high. The government provided excellent support through an effective PSC as well as contributing resources (counterpart funding) beyond the Loan agreement. The communities also supported the project implementation by contributing labour, cash and materials way above the Loan agreement levels. IFAD on the other hand supported the project very well through offering appropriate advice and timely decisions e.g. Speedy no-objections, accepting requests by the government on re-allocations as well as offering appropriate recommendations during implementation support and supervision missions.

There were a lot of lessons learnt during implementation of the project and on up-scaling some activities are worth replication and up scaling. The mid-term review of MKEPP in 2009 concluded that performance was satisfactory and recommended the up-scaling of the project to

cover all 24 river basins in the entire catchment. A project Completion Report was completed by February 2013 and contains more about the MKEPP project achievements.

Based on the fore mentioned factors the GOK and IFAD recommended the up-scaling of the MKEPP project to cover 24 river basins in Mt. Kenya and Aberdare water towers within the upper Tana catchment. This project is the Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resources Management Project (UTaNRMP).

The overall goal and objective of UTaNRMP is to contribute to reduction of rural poverty in the Upper Tana catchment which covers an area of 17,420 km².

The project will be implemented within a period of 8 years from 2012/13 to 2020/21.

The project is structured along the same lines as MKEPP with four components i.e. Community Empowerment, Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Sustainable Water and Natural Resource Management, Project Management and Coordination, each of which will generate its own outcome

The project is designed for a smooth and seamless transition from MKEPP to UTaNRMP, including procedures for project completion reporting, financial closure and audits, and the closure of bank accounts and opening of transition process. The key activities to be undertaken during this transition and early implementation phases of the project are defined in the Transition Action Plan endorsed by stakeholder Validation Workshop on the project design held in Nairobi on 19th December 2011.

Some of the activities spearheaded by MWI as the lead agency and achieved so far include the following;

- Competitive recruitment of the PCT and reconstituting the PSC for UTaNRMP.
- Establishment of County Coordination Team and County Facilitation Team
- Consultation between PCT, WRMA and WSTF on the MOU has been done. The MOU is waiting to be approved by IFAD.
- IFAD Country Director had revised the PDR for UTaNRMP and the revised and final report shared with GoK, MKEPP PMU, PCT, WSTF and the borrower. MWI distributed copies of the report to PSC members.

- The opening of required project bank accounts and designation of signatories. All project accounts have been opened except county accounts which are already in process of opening
- The UTaNRMP start-up workshop and in house orientation of PCT and WSTF is what is now on-going and is scheduled for 29th April – 2nd May 2013.

Generally there has been delay in undertaking some activities due various reasons. The start-up workshop is behind schedule by about 9 months. Due to delays in the recruitment of Project Coordination Team, the AWP/B preparation relied on activities and estimates picked from Project Design Report and lacked proper county/community participation.

IFAD has released Euros 800,000 as part of the Initial deposit. USD 2,100,000 is yet to be released as per the loan Agreement.

More details about the project will come out during the presentations as the workshop progresses.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has a good record with IFAD after successfully spearheading implementation of MKEPP, the pilot project, and the same spirit is expected in implementing UTaNRMP. I therefore call upon the PSC UTaNRMP whose primary role is to provide overall

policy guidance, review progress against targets, assess project management effectiveness and approve annual work plans and budgets among others to enhance their commitment by being more hands on in running of the new project. This could be achieved by giving more time to the project, making frequent field visits to the project area to backstop the project activities and developing more effective communication with all project institutions and the beneficiaries.

I also call upon the PCT members, most of who were in the PMU of MKEPP, to multiply their efforts as this project covers a bigger area and poses more operational and logistical challenges. The same spirit is expected of the community and all the other players in implementation of this project. I cannot fail to emphasise that Upper Tana Catchment is an important ecosystem for the country and the world at large owing to the huge number of families whose livelihood it supports.

I conclude by emphasising that we are glad to play the role of Lead Agency once again for this project and we promise to have more commitment in playing the role in order to ensure the success of the project in meeting its objective. It is worth to note that with the creation of new ministries in line with the constitution, the Project Design Report states that, the lead agency will be the Ministry responsible for water resources management. I therefore call upon all the other partners- ministries and agencies including the Government arm responsible for administration and internal security to continue providing the necessary support and cooperation in the project implementation.

Am looking forward to the success of this workshop and hope that at the end of it the objective will have been met.

Thank you.

Dr. David Stower

Permanent Secretary