



**Summary Report of
National Stakeholder Engagement Workshop under
“Plastic free Rivers and Seas for South Asia” Project
11th March 2020- Colombo, Sri Lanka**



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Second National Stakeholder Consultation meeting for Plastic free Rivers and Seas for South Asia project was held on 11th March 2020 in Colombo, Sri Lanka with the participation of additional secretary, Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources, Sri Lanka and 44 participants representing government, private sector, NGOs, plastic recyclers, media, academia and civil society. SACEP has extended invitations to about 60 participants covering above sectors and 44 were participated and few others regretted as they were unable to participate due to prior commitments. The meeting started at 9 am with welcome addresses made by Dr. Abas Basir, Director General on behalf of SACEP and Mr. A.H.L.D Gamini Wijesinghe, Addl. Secretary on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources and continued until 4.30 pm. SACEP made presentations on the project and its components, Environment and Social Assessment (ESA), Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) prepared by SACEP for the project. In the Afternoon, last session, participants were requested to identify possible stakeholder groups and stakeholders under each group as a group work session.

Welcome remarks by Dr. Abas Basir- DG, SACEP

Dr. Basir welcomed Mr. Gamini Wijesinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources, and all other participants and extended his thank to the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources for assisting in organizing this Stakeholder meeting. He stated that the meeting was properly arranged within a short period of time and also thanked to all participants for participation at this very important meeting. He wished that we will have very fruitful discussions on this very important project.

Next, Dr. Basir introduced SACEP and said, it is an Intergovernmental Organization established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat is hosted by Sri Lanka. The mission of this organization is to promote and support coordination between member countries in terms of protection of the environment in South Asian region. Since its establishment SACEP has conducted many activities of environment protection and nowadays has six priority areas of activities including climate change, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, air quality, marine environment, water quality and environmental governance.

Dr. Basir also stated that waste management is one of the major areas SACEP is currently working on. As you know, solid waste in general is one of the major challenges that global community and particularly South Asian region is facing, due to the fast economic development and growth. Among the different streams of waste, plastic waste is a major challenge. During Governing Council meeting, the Ministerial meeting of SACEP held in Dhaka, Bangladesh last year in November, All SACEP member countries, all the ministers emphasized that plastic waste management should be one of the focused areas of SACEP activities in the next decade.

He also mentioned about the problems created by plastic waste all over the world and South Asia in particular. Last Governing Council meeting of SACEP adopted a roadmap on sustainable waste management for South Asia which is mostly focused on circular economy, resource management and

plastic management. It also adopted Regional Marine Litter Action Plan which identifies challenges and major problems on marine litter management in South Asia. All of these documents mandated SACEP to work on plastic waste management.

Dr. Basir then said that this is a \$ 50 million project. \$40 million is contributed by World Bank and SACEP is expecting PARLEY for Oceans to provide another extra 10 million US dollars to complement World Bank' support.

This project has four main components. The first component which is very important is Regional Competitive Block Grants to Reduce Plastic Waste. Under this component we will be communicating to individuals, civil society organizations, entrepreneurs and institutions and entities who are interested in plastic waste management, who has innovative ideas, who has the ability to implement these ideas.

The second component is Leveraging Private Sector Engagement and Solutions. Without involving private sector, it would be difficult to properly tackle plastic pollution. Private sector plays a significant role in the production and use of plastics that "leak" into rivers and oceans and therefore must be a core stakeholder in the formulation and implementation of public-sector policy and associated actions. There are many innovative ideas and solutions among private sector. So, we need to make them involved in plastic waste management.

The third component is Promoting Educational Partnership, Awareness and Behavioral Change. The objective of this component is to promote education, increase awareness and stimulate behavioral change of citizens across South Asia. The role of public is very important in plastic waste management. They are the main consumer and their behavior is key to plastic waste. We need to change the public lifestyle through public awareness campaign and through educational partnership.

The final component is Strengthening Regional Integration and Project Management with the objective to support regional coordination, cooperation, institutions and policy development that deliver both short and long-term solutions. It improve SACEP abilities to implement large projects in South Asia region. This is a unique opportunity for SACEP and its member countries to address the plastic pollution in the region. Of course, 50 million US dollars is not a huge amount to tackle all problems, but with this amount we can establish an enabling environment and mobilize another financial support from member countries and I am hopeful that with the support of SACEP member countries can tackle this challenge through the implementation of this project.

At the end, Dr. Basir thanked the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources for assisting in organizing this meeting and wished to have a fruitful discussion.

Remarks by Mr. Gamini Wijesinghe, Additional Secretary, Environment Projects and Education Training, Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources, Government of Sri Lanka

Mr. Wijesinghe, while welcoming all participants on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources, said that it was his pleasure to be here in this workshop. He thanked Dr. Abas Basir, the Director General of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and his team about financing this workshop. We have invited government officials as well as leading private sector organizations and NGO's for this workshop.

Currently in Sri Lanka, waste management including plastic is a big problem. When we use plastic, we dump them to our environment as open dumping. Those plastic goes to our rivers and at the end it will go to the oceans. Why is this a problem to country and the world? You know plastics are not degradable. It has a long life. After going to our water bodies and oceans most of the animals in ocean they eat these things and after sometimes the biodiversity will disappear. They will kill. Not only human beings all living beings, this is a major issue.

We know in the world daily usage of plastic is really high, in Sri Lanka also very high. When we use water bottles, we regularly use these. So, what should we do to manage this and what have we done so far? Actually, to manage this, I believe we can reduce the usage. If we can reduce the usage, plastic in the environment will reduce. As well as we can reuse and recycle. Also, we can do 3R. Who are involved in leading companies of private sector we are invited for this workshop we have a responsibility to reduce plastic usage. As citizens of Sri Lanka we must do it because we want to protect our environment. So, I think during this day we will realize what is the importance of this workshop.

He further stated that "Plastic free rivers and seas for South Asia project" is the name of this project. This is the National Stakeholder Consultation for Sri Lanka. So, I am lucky, and you all are lucky to be here.

The technical session by Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera, Senior Programme Officer- SACEP

Presentation 01- introduction of the project.

Mr. W.K. Rathnadeera made a PowerPoint presentation and introduced the project components.

Before take through the details of this proposed project he explained the objective and the purpose of today's meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to inform you about the project we are going to implement in South Asia region. This project will be implemented in all eight countries including Sri Lanka and this is the first time we are having stakeholder consultation for Sri Lanka on this project. We had a similar kind of meeting in Maldives last January. Secondly, we have produced a number of documents, three documents related to this project. We are hoping to disclose these documents to you and general public in general and get your feedback on them. Thirdly, we want to hear feedback from you on the possible stakeholders who can involve in this project. These are the objectives that we are set up to organize this workshop. So, if I move into the details of this project, you already know some facts about this project as Dr. Basir and Mr. Wijesinghe mentioned before regarding the project and plastic pollution.

If you see the current facts of plastic issue globally, 8 million metric tons of plastic waste entered into oceans every year. About 250 metric tons of plastic wastes could be in the oceans fewer than 10 yrs. The estimated time for a plastic bottle to decomposed is 50 yrs. I would like to take your attention regarding a recent article which was published in last Sunday in 'The Sunday Morning' newspaper in Sri Lanka. That interesting article says that 'Increase in Microplastics in Seas: a growing concern for Sri Lanka'. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in their technical paper titled "Microplastics in fisheries and aquaculture", indicated that the global plastic production had reached 322 million tons in 2015 with an addition of 61 million tons of synthetic fibres in the same year, and expected that it would very likely double in 2025. The mismanagement of plastic waste had contributed towards the contamination of freshwater, brackish waterbodies, and the ocean resulting in 4.8-12.7 million tons of plastic waste entering the oceans in 2010. That is the issue that we are facing currently.

Then he explained the project in detail.

Discussion

This project will implement through the participation of stakeholders. During the day, you can identify whether you are a direct beneficiary stakeholder or indirect stakeholder and who are the other possible stakeholders. Even though you are not a stakeholder directly benefit from the project, you can contribute to the cause of alarming issue of plastic waste, not only for Sri Lanka and for the region as well.

1. You have mentioned about a block grant and what is the mechanism to achieve the grant?

As mentioned, there are 2 windows created under sub-component 1.1 of the component 1. Window number 1 is the block grant and window number 2 is the TA support for the most promising ideas including innovative ideas and creative solutions from individuals and institutions on turning the tide on plastic pollution. We will publish a call for interested

parties to apply. So they can apply according to the criteria we set along. We'll make necessary arrangements to publish this call for proposals on our website and on other printed media, as widely as possible. Interested people, organizations, private sector, NGOs or any other individuals who would like to implement the innovative activities or new technologies which eligible for our criteria can apply directly to SACEP on a given format. So, we will appoint a selection committee and we will follow a transparent selection criteria and selection method. Again, short listed proposals and the final list will publish on SACEP website to inform the stakeholders and general public.

The other way you all can involve in this project is that there are activities under the mitigation, like cleanup activities, we hope to implement with the participation of NGOs, CBO,s and other stakeholders. There is an opportunity for relevant stakeholders to take part in public awareness programmes as well.

The criteria and many other information we'll be discussed during the day.

I invite you to visit our website www.sacep.org regularly as we will publish all information about this project on it.

- 2. Political blessing and commitment are a key to implement this type of a project in the South Asian region, we have to keep a link between the ministry/ or need to get the approval from the ministry regarding these kinds of projects when implementing in Sri Lanka. Therefore, what is the strategy of this project in terms of political background?**

Well, yes, you are right. The political support is really critical in implementing any project. So, we have the blessing of all the ministers of 8 countries basically, environment ministers who are the members of our governing council. We had our GC meeting in last November in Dhaka, Bangladesh. They were very supportive and in fact, they adopted a decision there by assuring the all countries willingness to participate in this project and they asked SACEP to accelerate the process of development of this project with the World Bank. So, basically that the political support at the ministerial level and in fact the country level is there. Another example, Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources as our National Focal Point extended its fullest support in organizing this event. In fact, the invitation letter has gone under the signature of the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Wildlife resources which shows their commitment and the support for this project in particular and for the SACEP as usual.

- 3. Basically, mentioned the GC was held with the participation of ministers. Did the minister participate at the GC?**

During November 2019, the minister of Environment was H.E. the president. The president nominated Secretary to the President to represent him and therefore, Mr. Udaya R. Seneviratne, Secretary to the President participated from the Sri Lanka. It was last year before the election.

- 4. Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources together with the Central Environmental Authority has already initiated an action to develop a national plastic waste management action plan. Now the first draft has been finished, and the final**

draft would be submitted to the cabinet for the approval. That action plan would be the strategy for managing the plastic waste in Sri Lanka. Some of the activities has already initiated. For example, basically the laws governing the plastic waste management is available in the National Environment Act under section 23W. But present, there are laws for single use plastic management, but it is little bit weaker. So, now CEA is in the process of amending the present law and dedicating some of the powers to some of the agencies like Health Department and to the Sri Lanka police. So, in some countries, I noticed that 127 countries have brought these kinds of banning laws in case of single use plastic. In our country also there are several single use plastic banning laws. The issue is that the present penalties and some other weaknesses of the current laws. So, that laws will be amended very soon and also included in the National Plastic Waste Management Action Plan. This is just to clarify whether the implementation of the national action plan will be benefited by this project or how can we coordinated and when some stakeholders apply for the grants whether you will be able to consider the national action plan whether that component is addressing the National Action Plan or how could be considered? The national action plan components also will be considered as a criterion for releasing funds for particular stakeholders. (CEA)

Thank you for the very important information regarding the national action plan. Yes, when we are selecting the proposals from candidates who are eligible for implementing activities under block grant, we consider many things. Some of the criteria set along is that the proposals have to meet the national environmental laws and regulations. When we are selecting possible grantees in Sri Lanka, we will take into consideration of the provisions you have said under the national action plan. Some of the activities under this project can be considered as complementary to the activities already implementing for plastic waste management.

As I mentioned earlier the other component is that we are working on establishing public-private partnership platform to sustainability of this project beyond the project period and the criteria also will develop under this.

Dr. Park- I would like to make a suggestion and also try to share a message. Basically, if your block grant projects accurately works, it is not for the SACEP, not for the World Bank. It is for yourself, your country and for the region. Therefore, country level strong involvement is very important. So, your involvement is very important and SACEP has to work with Focal Point at the country level. So, in Sri Lanka, SACEP can focus on the environment and sustainable development but, the focus ministry could be the Ministry of Environment. The close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment acts as the focal point of this project for SACEP has also to open the door to all stakeholders in relation to plastic waste management and sustainable waste management activities and bring them all together and each ministries or agencies and stakeholders might have their own action plans and so on. We have to bring all the stakeholders together and this is very important and more have to work together.

Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera- There are 2 things; as I mentioned the project is going to support block grant programme and as well as technical support programme under two windows. SACEP is managing the project and SACEP is the implementing agency. Apart from this project, SACEP is implementing its own other programme activities on different subject areas.

Since SACEP's establishment in 1982, all these programmes, we are implementing in collaboration and partnership with the national focal point of each member country which is the Ministry of Environment. We received more than the enough support from our National Focal Points. In this case also their support is already assured.

5. **According to the statement of that gentlemen, we have to work together. So, did you all have invited local government here because they are the body dealing with the waste management. So, in Sri Lanka many things are happening through them and they are one of the important stakeholders. So, any representatives from the waste management authority today?**

We already extended the invitation for them and they are here today.

6. **Just want to directly be questioned regarding the private sector. The private sector in Sri Lanka we are doing a lot more things such as design, projection, recovery and increasingly we look for partnerships specifically the government and the civil society with media, academia and so on. Just wanted to know in terms of this project and the grant available, how does the private sector should qualify for a grant and what is the processes involved and what sort of rules and regulations are there for private sector in order to achieve this and how can we know whether we are already eligible?**
(Mr. Lakshan- Coca Cola)

There are 2 things: (1) with regard to the block grant and TA, if the proposals from private sector bring innovative ideas as a solution for this problem or even the process that you already implementing with your own and which need expansion, and meet other criteria which we will discuss later on the day, will be eligible to apply. (2) We are hoping to establish public-private partnership where the private sector can participate and give their ideas and they can directly participate to the project.

7. **I would like to express that actually the waste management is a mandate of the local authority completely and all the management activities are legalized with them and it can be overall by the provincial council and the Ministry of Local Government. So, in this project also focuses as a regional authority to give any support or facilitation to spend at the local authority's work force because ultimately the project should be handled with them and it should go to the community through the local authority. So, in this project is there a special focus on giving grant block or special condition for local authority? (Waste Management Authority- Western Province)**

The answer is straight forward because we are working with the World Bank and the grant which we received from the World Bank we can't transfer any money to the government agencies. The WB has its own process for supporting governments and its agencies. This project needs to be implemented through private sector, NGOs, CBOs. This does not mean that government agencies can't participate in implementing this project. There are many other activities other than block grants and TA which the government entities can participate. For example, in our monitoring process for block grants, we do it through our NFPs. We will discuss it on net session.

Dr. Abas Basir- Many questions raised in term of implementing national waste management action plans. We know that many countries have a plenty of national policies. This project establishes an enabling environment for the implementation of national action plans through private sector engagement, public – private partnership and public involvement. we know that governments alone are not able to tackle all environmental challenges if there is no support from public and private sector. So, we will be supporting the governments in implementing national action plans and policies by partnership. We can also work with the gov. in terms of strengthening their capacity to implement some activities, their action plans and policies.

Presentation 02: Introduction and presentation of the key findings and recommendations of the Environment and Social Assessment (ESA) for the project and discussion. (Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera)

Discussion

- 1. I just want to clarify whether you are ready to fund some activities which are initiated by the govt. with the assistance and the collaboration with the pvt. Sector? (MEPA)**

Well, whether it is initiated by govt. or complement to already in operational govt. project is not a disadvantage. If the proposed project would support to implement government policy, action plan to manage plastic waste would be an advantage. But the project should be implemented by the pvt. sector or NGO, CBO, etc. and not a government agency.

- 2. Regarding single use plastic, somebody is collecting single use plastic, recycling and again making the single use product so, are you going to discourage the activity or however this is not promoted because this finally added to the env. And then pollute the env. So, what is the logic or policy behind discourage the single use plastic and again making the single use plastic. It is good in one hand but there is a long-term impact as well. We need to discourage but we can't stop it. (Mr. Mahinda Werahera, M/Env. And Wildlife Resources)**

We are not advising to stop them. But, under this project, we are not considering these types of proposal as eligible proposals to receive block grant or TA. The logic or a reason behind this is that though collection and recycle of the single use plastic is a good practice, producing again single use plastic is considered as environmentally negative practice as no one can assure that 100% collection of those re-produced single use plastic for recycling. That means their production going to be a threat to environment and therefore, we consider these kinds of activities under the negative list. If they are collecting single use plastic and producing multiple use products after recycling, then we encouraged.

- 3. What sort of plan or actions will you expect from our department? (An officer from Sri Lanka Coast guard)**

In this project, there will be some prevention and mitigation activities apart from block grants and TA. pollution. Prevention activities include mainly education and awareness of various stakeholders and general public. Mitigation activities include clean-up activities both beaches and water bodies including rivers and sea. As the coast guard there are some responsibilities to undertake education and awareness and also support in mitigation activities. People who are living around the area need to make aware of the negative environmental and health impacts of plastic pollution. You have a role as a stakeholder to implement such awareness and education programmes.

4. **Dr. Park-** After the identification of the stakeholders each stakeholder's roles and mandates to be known. As an example, the coast guard, your roles and enforcement as he mentioned education so on, So, detailed role of stakeholders under this project will be clearly defined and identified during stakeholder meetings and then share their roles and mandates and so on. So, then we can find the connectivity among the stakeholders how to cooperate with each other. As he mentioned the education and awareness related to plastic waste in seas and so on are important.
5. **Are all these environmental and social impacts represented here World Bank criteria? And you are also stated that many social and environmental standards which the grantees have to meet while implementing sub-projects. Also mentioned about a negative list. Can you explain what does it mean? (Dr. Park)**

There are two aspects we will have to understand in this regard. The overall project which will be implemented by SACEP and the sub-projects will be implemented by selected grantees under window 1 and 2 of the component one. Being an implementing agency, SACEP will have to ensure that it all environmental and social standards of WB relevant to this project are fully addressed. And also, SACEP will have to ensure that all sub-projects under this project also comply with the relevant environmental and social standards. Under the ESA, we have identified possible environmental and social risks. And also, we proposed how we can manage those risks. Accordingly, we produced environmental and social management framework which we will present in next session.

For the sub-projects, SACEP will request all selected grantees to produce their own ESMFs as a condition. You will get more information on it in the next session.

Negative list is a list of activities that are pollutive and resource intensive. The sub-projects which include activities in the negative list will not be selected to support.

6. **In Sri Lanka what is lacking is the collection that is because there is no network of collection. Recycling is not an attractive business because the collection cost is high. So, I would like to make a request from the project formulation unit please pay your attention in this regard and try to encourage the networking for collection. (Mr. Mahinda Werahera, M/Env. And Wildlife Resources)**

What we understood is currently in Sri Lanka there are some networks but, they are not enough. When it comes to the business, yes, some recycling facilities need assistance. But there are private sector recyclers making profitable and attractive business. When we were interacting with them, they informed that they have enough businesses and they are

profitable. But the current collection is not enough for run the full capacity. According to information we received from some pvt. Sector organizations they are thinking to expand their facilities. So, if they have enough capacity and lack of collection, if they need to expand this could be one of the ideas create good case for a sub-project under block grant.

- 7. Currently we are the largest PET recyclers in Sri Lanka and recycling 250 tonnes per month and our capacity is for 350 tonnes and we are lacking 100 tonnes. In 2020 to 2021 we are trying to expand our business for another plant and the estimated target is 650 tonnes. I have been and seen several these kinds of events, forums but the thing is we are talking more about these things but the final impact for the industry is not enough. we have to do more regarding this because we are talking about circular economy and the recycling is one of the main things of it and not only the single use plastic we can recycle more things but it is impossible because there is no enough knowledge on that and people are not aware on recycling.**

Regarding to this project you have specifically mentioned about rivers and seas so, is there any specific geographical location to do the project activities or else can we implement activities all over the country? (Mr. Priyankara- Eco Spindles)

There is no any geographical limitation within the country and in fact this is a regional project for South Asia. The reason for focusing on rivers and seas in this project is that ultimately these plastics are end up in oceans. But the sources of plastic are not the rivers and oceans therefore, we are addressing the sources as well.

You have capacity but you are lacking collection but, I understood, you already developed partnerships with some other private sector establishments in this regard. In this project we are trying to fill the gaps.

When it comes to coca cola, they have established number of collection centers and many collection bins.

- 8. Coca Cola- yes, we do. Our focus is also to increase the recovery and projection. We work with Eco Spindles as the recycling partner and in most cases collection partner as well. We approached in different ways. We reduce the plastic accumulation in land, and we educate people regarding recycling and packaging and also enhance the collection, we do have a network of collection bins across the country in schools, universities. We are open to partnerships, anyone has the opportunity to establish collection bins. We are open to it and then we can collect and recycle. Therefore, we can sponsor the bins free of charge. We also set up larger scale cargos to clean harbours and we have established collection centers in Batticaloa, Vavuniya, Galle and so on. We are trying different models which suits for Sri Lanka and the infrastructure landscape. And we are focusing on supermarkets as well to increase the collection.**

- 9. (Mr. Mahinda Werahera, M/Env. And Wildlife Resources)- This is a feedback to coca cola. We are happy to see they are establishing these centers. We are proposing to introduce some economic tools in terms of extended producer responsibilities to motivate the customer to return the bottles for those collection centers. We strongly believe that the customer is the component we have to focus. We need to change the behaviour of the customer. In Sri Lankan context, for changing the behaviour, we**

believe not the awareness programme, but the economic instruments, some motivation to return the bottle back. Therefore, we definitely need to do that.

I think this is one area we can also look into and extend into public awareness and education. When we call for proposals for block grants, this type of proposals also can take to consideration like how you can encourage the consumers to return these plastic bottles. Normally what we found was Sri Lankan consumers throw these empty bottles and then garbage pickers are collecting. When collected, those bottles are contaminated. This contaminated plastic is very difficult to recycle than uncontaminated plastic. Therefore, this encouragement will ensure that they do not throw empty bottles to the env. And basically, ensure it will end up in proper collections.

10. After finalizing the projects, how do you release the grant? (Eco Spindles)

When we are selecting the recipient, we screen all the proposals, after we are calling, based on the format we given. SACEP will appoint a selection committee and the committee will screen all the project according to the criteria we given. The selection committee will short list during first round of screening and short listed proponents will be published. Then short-listed proponents will be requested to submit detailed proposals. Again, selection committee will screen the proposals from short-listed proponents and select the eligible projects to receive grants. Final list also be published on SACEP website. The selected candidates should need to have an agreement with SACEP and then only we are releasing the grant.

11. Some materials can be recycled, and some materials cannot. There is a huge issue arising with the materials which cannot be recycled. In the supermarkets also the majority of the plastics are fall into that category. Since it lacks a mechanism to recycle those plastics, the accumulation is increasing day by day and there is no research and development center in Sri Lanka to study about it and in overseas might have such a center. I have developed a small programme regarding these non-recyclable plastic materials and it is successful. Therefore, I received about 7 to 8 boxes daily consisting such materials like toffee and chocolate wrappers. So, I would like to know whether there is a possibility to support such activities like these through the grant?

(Mr. Jayantha- Katana Upcycle)

Some entity who can proposed an alternative to these plastic wrappers definitely could be an ideal project idea. Therefore, we encourage those people to apply for grants or TA support for these kinds of projects. If the plastic is non-recyclable, we only can do is go for an alternative way to deal with those and actually this is a good idea which we can consider.

- When it comes to **e-waste**, the particular project or the organization need to give a specific report regarding the management of the e-waste which means they need to have a proper e-waste management plan.

Presentation 03: Introduction and the presentation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project and discussion (by Dr. Sivaji Patra)

Discussion

- 1. Can you clarify whether like the conditions you have explained is applicable for country wise or project wise in a country?**

(Responded by Mr. Rathnadeera) ESMF which we developed to address the potential environmental and social risk rising from implementing this project. This includes all the components of the project, component 1 to 4. Also, this ESMF includes the sub-projects as well. All grant recipients will have to develop their own sub project ESMF acceptable to SACEP and the WB. This ESMF will have to produced only selected grantees not all applicants. We will request them to produce and submit it to SACEP before signing of an agreement. When we are discussing a sub project those are not considered as small as what you are usually think of. We are thinking to going maximum up to 1.5 million US dollars projects (sub projects). By implementing this scale of projects, we expect them to develop an ESMF for their activities and implement it under sub projects.

- 2. You are trying to do these as environmental and social analysis to the whole thing like country wise. Even without designating a required fund to these sub projects how can you assume? At least if you know these are the projects that going to fund and then you can make some assumptions and prepare the social and environment aspect and then come to a conclusion. If you want to have that vision, what are the projects that we are going to implement how can a country come to a conclusion in environmental and social aspect, are you going to do with existing data and make some predictions or what is the method?**

(Responded by Mr. Rathnadeera) We are not expecting any sub-project proponent to submit the ESMF during the initial stage of application. SACEP will request to prepare sub-project ESMF only the ones who selected by the selection committee. That means they are assured that they have selected to receive a grant. Grantees will have to prepare and submit their own ESMF acceptable to SACEP and the WB before signing the agreement. Not only preparing, they will have to implement sub-project ESMF during the implementation of the sub-project. SACEP will include it to the agreement as a condition. When screening the projects, we consider some of the policies they adapted by own organizations like labour policy, child labour or Gender Based Violence and so on. And also, the equity. But we are not expecting all the people to prepare ESMF when they are applying with the initial application. It is required when they have selected and with the confirmation of the selection.

- 3. Certain waste management and recycling projects need the approval from the CEA under the provisions of the National Environment Act. Initially large-scale projects sometimes may require the approval from the Ministry of Environment and some other projects sometimes require some kind of environmental recommendations depending a particular location. so, do we need to concern about this when receiving funds?**

(Responded by Mr. Rathnadeera) Yes, the grant recipient will have to comply with the national environmental regulations, whether requirement is an environmental impact assessment or whether it needs Environmental Protection Licensee. Not only that you might need to get the permission from the municipal authority, the other authorities as well. Those sub-projects should not violate the existing national laws and regulations.

The ESMF we presented to you is not for the block grant or the technical assistance and it is for the whole project. SACEP will ensure the implementation of the requirement of this ESMF throughout the project. This will guide the Project Implementing Unit to implement the whole project. Whenever the issues arise during the implementation with regard to environmental and social issues, the ESMF will be the solution for how we can manage those potential environmental and social risks.

Presentation 04: Introduction and presentation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (ESP) for the project and discussion. (By Ms. Priyankari Alexander)

Discussion

- 1. At the moment if you consider just to give examples, at the moment in Sri Lanka due to my knowledge 8 projects are focusing on plastic. My proposal is that can you explore the possibility of inviting all these people and sit together and get aware of what everybody is doing. So, then we will be able to streamline those activities and focus into some national objectives. Otherwise we are working in an isolated manner. USA government recently gave a considerable amount of money to NGOs, but I don't know what the activities are they doing. We can support by our end, if you can get together and sit in one place and see what all are doing. Therefore, we can get to know each other and design these activities and then as Priyankari clearly targeted the machine will operate and wheels come together otherwise we all are working isolated. (Mr. Mahinda Werahera, M/Env. And Wildlife Resources)**

(Responded by Mr. Rathnadeera) Thanks for bringing this and I think it's a good idea and in fact one of the objectives of the today's meeting is that we want get your feedback to identify some national initiative already implementing which can complement at least some of the components of the project.

There are activities going on and which can be complement to each other and we are open for discussions.

Stakeholder Identification and mapping

Group One

Government

Ministry of Environment & Wildlife Resources

Central Environmental Authority (CEA)

Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA)

Coast Conservation Department (CCD)
Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC)
Forest Department (FD)
National Zoological Gardens Department (NZGD)
National Botanical Gardens Department (NBG)

Ministry of Industries

Export Development Board (EDB)
Industrial Development Board (IDB)
Chambers of Commerce
Consumer Affairs Authority
Department of Commerce
Sathosa
National Paper Cooperation
Laksala

Ministry of Finance

National Planning Department (NPD)
Board of Investment (BOI)
Customs
Department of Import and Export
Department of Fiscal Planning

Ministry of Science and Technology

National Science Foundation (NSF)
Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)
Sri Lanka Standard Institute (SLSI)
National Engineering Research and Development Center (NERD)

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Public Administration and Local Governments

Provincial Councils
Department of Local Governments
Local Authorities

Ministry of Fisheries

National Aquatic Research Agency (NARA)
National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA)

Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education

Universities
National Institute of Education (NIE)
Schools
Vocational Training Institutes

Ministry of Foreign Relations – Oceans Affairs Division

Ministry of Defence

Environment Police
Navy
Coast Guard
Airforce

Ministry of Mahaweli, Agriculture and Irrigation

Department of Agrarian Services

Department of Irrigation
Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL)
Ministry of Ports
Harbours
Ports Authority

Private Sector

- Plastic Producers
- Recyclers (150 Registered under CEA)
- Packaging Industries
- Beverage and Food Companies
- Printers
- Plastic importers
- Super Markets and other retail Shops (Trade Associations)
- Garment Industries
- Informal Sector – Recyclers, Collectors, Sellars
- Private Waste Management Companies

Other Interested Parties

- INGOS – IUCN, IWMI
- NGOs – Plastic Projects
- CBOs
- Community

Group Two

Direct Beneficiary Government Stakeholders

- Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources
- Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA)
- Central Environmental Authority (CEA)
- Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Governments
- Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
- Waste Management Authorities
- Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation
- Sri Lanka Coast Guard

Direct Beneficiary Private Sector

- Manufacturers
- Importers and Exporters
- Traders
- Collectors
- Pickers
- Recyclers

Other Interested Parties – Government

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Media
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Tourism

Other Interested Parties – Private Sector

- NGOs
- Industrials
- CBOs

Manufactures

- Snakings
- CIC
- American
- Petform
- CBL
- KNEE
- Modern pack
- Elephant House

Brand Owners

- Coca-Cola
- Elephant House
- Pepsi
- Nestle
- CBL
- Maliban
- Uniliver
- Hemas
- Highland
- Kothmale
- Palawatta
- Ambewela

Recyclers

- Eco Spindles
- Sanasuma Lanka
- Dharshana Bio Packaging
- Modern Pack
- Katana Up Cyclers
- Viridis
- Jayamari Plastics

National Initiatives - Private

- Plastic Cycle
- Give Back Life
- Zero Thrash
- No-Kunu
- Eco Friends
- Eco-V
- Waste to Value

National Initiatives – Government

- Plastic Waste Action Plan
- Waste Management Policy
- Chambers of Commerce

US Funded NGO projects

- Sevanatha
- Practical Action
- IUCN
- SLCDF
- Sri Lanka Law Foundation
- Red Cross
- HELP-O

Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia project
First National Stakeholder Consultation for Sri Lanka
11 March 2020
Programme

- 8.30 – 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 – 9.45 Inauguration
- 9.45 – 10.30 Introduction of the Project
- 10.30 – 11.00 Group Picture and Tea/Coffee Break
- 11.00 – 12.30 Introduction and presentation of the key findings and recommendations of the Environment and Social Assessment (ESA) for the project and discussion
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch Break
- 13.30 – 14.30 Introduction and presentation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project and discussion
- 14.30 – 15.15 Introduction and presentation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the project and discussion
- 15.15 – 15.45 Tea/Coffee Break
- 15.45 – 16.30 Group work on Stakeholder Mapping
- 16.30 – 17.00 Report Back of Group Work
- 17.00 Close of the programme

List of Participants

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