

REPORT ON MENTORING OF PROPOSED NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY (NIE) OF MALAWI FOR ACCREDITATION FOR ADAPTATION FUND - MISSION REPORT

15th March to 19th March 2017

1. Background

Adaptation Fund was adopted as UNFCCC funding in 2007 during the 16th meeting of the COP of the Kyoto protocol in Marrakech and focuses on addressing adaptation challenges in the developing Country Parties. Adaptation Fund is accessed through National Implementation Entities (NIE), Regional Implementation Entities (RIE) and Multilateral Implementation Entity (MIEs).

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), as an Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund, submitted a proposal to access grants available to support accreditation of Malawi and Zimbabwe national implementing entities under the South to South Cooperation grants.

The proposal was approved by the Board in March 2016, and the Board has agreed to make grants (Grants) available to NEMA for projects in Malawi and Zimbabwe. The approval agreement provides that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will serve as the trustee of the Adaptation Fund Trust Fund (the Trustee) and, in that capacity, will make transfers of the Grants to NEMA on the written instructions of the Board.

From the foregoing, NEMA was awarded resources under the south to south grant window to mentor the institutions in Malawi and Zimbabwe that are seeking AF accreditation. This is part of Adaptation Fund [readiness Programme for climate finance](#) which aims to help strengthen the capacity of national and regional implementing entities to receive and manage climate financing and promote the accreditation of National Implementing Entities (NIEs) from developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

2. Mission objective

- High level meeting of officials of the DA and potential NIE from Kenya and Malawi in order to plan for mentoring of the potential NIE; MEET for accreditation.

a. Welcome remark by the Chief Director Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

- The Chief Director of Economic affairs welcomed Mr.Sunkuli ,the Permanent Secretary ,Ministry of Environment and Natural resources-Kenya to Malawi and invited him and his delegation to feel at home in Malawi
- She thanked the PS for taking the initiative for mentoring Malawi and reiterated a long history of relationships between the two Nations and promised that Malawi will reciprocate appropriately; she commended Kenya for starting a good programme of mentoring.
- She narrated the vulnerability of Malawi for climate change impacts and cited the recent flooding in Lilongwe, where life's were lost and promised to partner strongly with Kenya through mentoring in order to access adaptation fund.

b. Remark by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya –Mr. Charles Sunkuli.

- The PS appreciated the Welcome by the team from Zimbabwe led by the Ag Principal Secretary Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and reiterated that the Kenya team has come over to assist in mentoring Zimbabwe for accreditation for Adaptation fund.
- The PS highlighted some of the achievement of Kenya in climate change including the enactment of the climate change act 2016, the recent ban on plastic bags and the accreditation of NEMA as an NIE which has enabled the Country access Adaptation Fund from UNFCCC.

c. Remark by the Chair Board of Trusties Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust Fund

- The member of the board welcomed the Kenyan mission to Malawi and stressed that the gathering was at the behest of both Malawian Environment Endowment Trust Fund (MEETF) and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA-Kenya) with a view to facilitate MEETF access Adaptation Fund through accreditation as an NIE.

- MEETF is a fairly old institution having been formed in 1969 and was created to provide financial support for environment initiatives, MEEFT was nominated way back in 2014 for adaptation fund by the Designated Authority (DA).
- Discussion related to South –South cooperation was initiated between Karen Price of Malawi and Wangari Kirumba of Kenya sometimes back in Namibia ,the discussion is bearing fruits now with the first high level visit by the Kenya DA and NIE to Malawi...
- MEEFT had accessed the toolkit and made their submissions on these requirements but gaps still exist, therefore Malawians are ready to take advantage of these efforts from Kenya.

d. Remark by the Chair Board of Management of the National Environment Management Authority

- The chair expressed continued support to NEMA on their quest for accreditation as an NIE and hence he was happy to be in Malawi in a mentoring mission by NEMA to other African NIEs.

c. Remark by Coordinator NIE accreditation process – Ms.Karen Price

- Ms Karen Price the NIE coordinator at MEETF Malawi welcomed the Kenyan delegation to Malawi, indicating that this corporation will yield fruits for the Malawian side culminating in accreditation of MEEFT as an NIE.

d. Presentation by National Implementation Entity, NEMA Kenya – NIE Coordinator – Wangare Kirumba

- Wangare Kirumba, the NIE coordinator, Kenya ably presented the whole idea about the South –South cooperation and the mentoring programme designed by the adaptation fund.
- The presentation covered five key areas including i) Background of adaptation fund and the South –South mentoring co-operation. ii) accreditation success factors iii) why pursue accreditation iv) NEMA accreditation to GCF v) adaptation project in Kenya vi) South –South mentoring support

- The salient features of the presentation included the accreditation requirements, the date NEMA was accredited, NIE, 12th March 2012, and that accreditation is a very intrusive process involving interrogation of systems and processes and documenting them.
- Accreditation requires support from the top management and the political arm of the Government; and requires undertaking appraisals supported by documentation for accreditation and focusing on processes and systems.
- The advantages of pursuing AF accreditation was enumerated to include ,enhanced global rating, increasing potential of attracting resources, strengthening internal capacities , and increasing internal capacities of systems and transcending into opportunities for global climate change finance.
- The NIE coordinator shared on the accreditation of NEMA for GCF as well, the accreditation on GCF was acquired on 9th March 2016, and the accreditation rides on the AF accreditation. The accreditation for GCF is fast tracked if an institution is also accredited for AF.
- The NIE coordinator also shared on the milestone so far achieved in the implementation of Kenya climate change adaptation projects to the tune of USD 10 million.
- A couple of questions and issues arose from the audience for discussions including the length of going through the process, responding, NIE Kenya indicated that that the time for accreditation cannot be indicated easily because it depends on many factors.
- The South –South support is intended to focus on i) high level delegation or mission to the target Countries ii) in country visit by the intended beneficiaries iii) training workshops iv) development of an NIE programme v) development of NIE tools of Governance

e. Lessons learnt

- Malawi selection for accreditation candidacy is the Malawian Environment Endowment Trust Fund (MEETF), this selection may have been informed by the mandate of resource mobilization and fund management. This may present some challenges and therefore requisite for additional effort for accreditation.

- The Malawian team seemed to have underestimated the demand and rigour of accreditation going by the representation of sections and departments during the meeting..
 - a. Hopefully Malawian Environment Endowment Trust Fund (MEETF) is a cooperate entity created by Act of parliament.
 - b. Malawian Environment Endowment Trust Fund (MEETF) is a fund manager and therefore could have the advantage of being fairly strong on financial management and fiduciary standards and the ability to manage large sums of project money this can be taken advantage of.
 - c. There could be a challenge of project appraisal, development and implementation modalities that needs to be focused on for demonstration of competency and due diligence in that particular area.
 - d. There could be a challenge of internal regulations related to safeguards including those of EIA/EA and therefore the need to focus on to demonstration of competency and for due diligence

Way forward

- There is a need for an assessment of the level of readiness of the proposed Malawian NIE in order to provide the baselines for entry in mentoring.
- The observation of political preparedness and engagement of the relevant stakeholders in Malawi and MEEFT need to be understood slightly further.

