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| Mao-Makona’s Local River Basin workshop Report |
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# Introduction

On August 10, 2019, the National Executing Agency conducted a workshop in Foya City, Lofa County, Foya District to establish a local river basin committee of the Mao-Makona River Basin, in keeping with activity 2.12 of the project. The Regional Executing Agency (MRU) could not participate due to insufficient funds on the budget line. The meeting was hosted by Hon. James Dorngah, Commissioner, Foya District, Lofa County.

# Objectives of the Workshop

The Specific objectives of the workshop were to:

* Identify and list all major and secondary stakeholders involved in the management of water resources, its use/exploitation or who carry out activities likely to positively or negatively impact the shared resources in the Moa-Makona river basin;
* Inform the representatives of the communities bordering the basin on the objectives and expected results of the project;
* Elaborate and examine the practical modalities of operation and adopt the legal documents for the establishment of the national river basin platform for the Mao-Makona.

# Expected Results

The results expected after the implementation of this activity are:

* The major and secondary stakeholders involved in the management of water resources are identified at Moa-Makona basin level;
* The national consultative platform at the Moa-Makona basin level is set up and functional;
* All stakeholders are informed about the objectives and results of the project;
* The practical operating procedures of the platform are known at the level of the Moa-Makona basin;
* Legal documents are developed and adopted for the Moa-Makona Basin;
* Approval for the platform is obtained.

# Participation

More than 56 people attended the workshop. There were 40 representatives from the twenty-seven (27) communities of the river basin of which seventeen (17) women and twenty-three (23) men. Two (2) local authorities from Foya District, one (1) Paramount Chief, one (1) Commissioner; Kolahun and Voinjama Districts could not participate due to time factor and deplorable road conduction. One regional officer and One silviculture officer from FDA, one EPA’s representive, one representative of Ministry of Mines and Energy, one representative from the existing Mano River Water basin, (4) representatives of NPCU, including the TA the Junior TA, two representatives from the local radio stations in the basin, and a host of non-invited participants respectively. However, eight towns could not attend the workshop due to time factor and deplorable road condition, and budgetary constraints, since the project team did not know the actual number of towns in the basin prior to the trips. Besides, it was agreed by the all 40 participants from 20 communities that the eight communities that could not attend be added to the list of towns forming the committee. Two positions were also set aside for these eight towns and the head of the just-established local basin committee promised to reach out to the towns so that they will elect officers to occupy the two positions. Once this is done, the leadership will forward the names of those officers to the NPCU and it shall be added to the list of officials.

An Attendance list is attached in the annex.

# Outputs of Workshop

At the end of the workshop, the communities were able to develop their own TOR, criteria, roles and responsibilities (mandate) for the election of their executive officers through the guidance of the local Commissioner and the Paramount Chief of Foya district and staff of the NPCU.

## Session1: Opening ceremony

Three opening statements were made, respectively by the National Project Coordinator, Mr. William Pewu, the host Commissioner, Hon. James Dorngah and Paramount Chief, Momoh S. Taylor both of Foya District. All three speakers highlighted the importance of a joint effort to sustainably and equally manage and protect the transboundary water basin. They advised the communities to sustainably use the water resources, which plays an important role locally, nationally and regionally in the sustainability of peace.

In addition, the Commissioners expressed his satisfaction for the project coming into Lofa and urged participants to take the information seriously and disseminate the information that they got from the workshop to the rest of their communities members who did not have the opportunity to attend.

The Paramount Chief also expressed his gratitude for the project, claiming that his people have been marginalized by the Guineans from acquiring any benefits from the share water basin. “For me, this is a lifesaver project and I cannot wait to see it come true”, the Commissioner said.

Immediately after the remarks, participants were asked to assemble outside for a group photo. Everyone converged in front of the workshop building and the photo was taken by the Project’s TA.

## Session 2: Presentations and discussion

Immediately after a self-introduction session in which all participants introduced themselves, two presentations were made on the project implementing activities in the basin.

### Presentation of the GEF Mano Project

This presentation was done by the National Project Coordinator, William Pewu. During his presentation, he highlighted the objectives of the project, the two components of the project, the outcome, outputs and the activities of the project. After his presentation, the communities said they were pleased with the project and appreciated the government and its international partners for thinking about their problems and coming to their aid.

### Presentation on water resources management and the shared vision of Mano/Mao-Makona River Basin

This presentation was done by **Mr. Anthony D. Kpadeh, Director of Liberia Hydrological Services**, but it was presented by Mr. Daoda S. Carlon, Technical Assistant of the project since Mr. Kpadeh could not go to the basin due to the deplorable road condition. During the presentation, the following were highlighted:

* The need for setting up a coherent framework was considered in the perspective of a Shared Vision in both basins through Resolution number 4 of the 3rd Session of ECOWAS Ministerial
* Follow-Up Committee which recommended that “all required assistance be given to the Mano River Union (MRU) for the development of a Shared Vision of the Mano and Moa Makona basins
* The water resource potential of the country is enormous but lacks adequate and proper management. This situation has been exacerbated by the effects of the civil war over the years
* Types of watersheds in the basin
* Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as defined by the Technical Committee of the Global Water Partnership (GWP)
* 1992 International Conference on Water and the Environment (ICWE) in Dublin, Ireland
* The need to establish a strong Water Resources Authority to stimulate and control cooperation in the water sector
* A description of the current water resources situation in the country (a water resource assessment

In his closing statement, Mr. Carlon emphasized the need for communities along the river to sustainably manage the water resources. For more details on this, see the appendix.

## Session 3 creation of a national water basin committee

### Presentation and review of the committee’s TOR

The Technical Assistant (Mr. Daoda S. Carlon) presented the TOR of The Local Consultative Committee through PowerPoint display and the following points were reviewed and amended by the general assembly (local Communities):

* Introduction
* Objective
* Mission
* Name of the water basin Committee
* Composition Of The water basin Committee
* Criteria
* Organizational Framework
* Roles And Responsibilities Of proposed river basin Committee
* Sensitization / Sharing Of Information /Capacity Building
* Documentation To Legitimize The Committee’s Function, and

Reports

* The committee is named Lofa County Mao-Makona River Basin Management Committee (LCMMC) and it is composed of 56 members from nine (27) local communities in the vicinity of the river basin. These communities also formed a **General Assembly** elected 10 executive officers to head their local committee.
* Some clarifications and suggestions were made to improve the TOR, notably the criteria, and the responsibilities of the committee. Additional criteria were added to the list. For example, *all elected officers shall be eligible to run for a second term from the same town/village*. This was accepted by the general assembly.

The validated TOR of the committee is attached in the annex. FDA shall transform the TOR into a formalized document which will be signed by the relevant local authority (all three commissioners and paramount chiefs from the three districts (Foya, Voinjama, and Kolahun).

###  Election of The Lofa County Mao-Makona River Basin Management Committee (LCMMC)

To ensure transparency and gender balance in the establishment of the LCMMC’s leadership, the local authorities did not have any influence on the decision-making process that led to the establishment of the local water basin committee’s leadership.

However, the local authorities along with NPCU assisted in drafting the TOR which is expected to guide the operations of the LCMMC. The drafting process was opened and done through a PowerPoint presentation for all participants to make their inputs. After this exercise, the TOR which specified the vacant positions to be occupied was accepted and validated by all participants.

The criteria of the membership are as follow:

**CRITERIA**

* Committee members shall be nominated by the council of elders of each community
* Committee members shall be recognized by the community
* Committee members shall be leaders capable to represent their community at all levels
* Committee members shall be transparent and accountable to their communities and Institutions
* All elected leaders, especially, the Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, and Financial Secretary and Secretary for communications should be able to read and write
* All elected positions shall have a two-year duration, where communities shall elect new core of officers under the supervision of the three Paramount Chiefs and three Commissioners of the three districts of the basin communities. However all elected officers shall be eligible to run for a second term from the same town/village.
* The communities shall have the right to replace any of its members in case of death, failure to perform his/her duties, and/or any malpractices.

The local participants conducted the election on their own and filled all of the positions which were vetted by the local commissioner and the local paramount chief.

The leadership of the river basin Committee is composed of the following (see table below):

**ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK of Lofa County River Mao-Makona River Basin Management Committee (LCMMC)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Names**  | **Position** | **Town**  | **District**  | **Sex** | **Contact**  |
| Evangelist Tamba Saah | Chairman | Quimei | Foya  | M | 077909662 |
| William G. Jallah | Co-Chair | Jallamai Waterside  | Voinjama  | M | 0775823233 |
| Edwin F. Manjoe  | Secretary for Adm. And Finance  | Gbessay | Foya  | M | N/A |
| Moses F. Bandiyoe | Secretary of Information, Education and Communication | N’dehuma | Foya | M | 0775890098 |
| **Chair is responsible to give the name of officer** | Executive Officer of Prohibitions and Conflict Management (elected in absential) |  | Kolahun |  |  |
| Fallah Bundoo | Executive Officer for External Relations | Sorlumba | Foya  | M | N/A |
| Sylvester F. Tamba | Executive Officer of Protection, Environment and Health | Mendicorma | Foya  | M | 0777926080 |
| **Co-Chair is responsible to give name** | Executive Community Engagement Officer |  | Voinjama  |  |  |
| Kumba Fayiah  | Executive Treasurer  | Mendicorma | Foya | F |  |
| Kumba Tamba | Senior Executive Advisor  | Kudu | Foya | F |  |

## Session 4: Closing Ceremony

Before the closing remarks were made, the Chairperson of the newly established Committee gave an acceptance speech through an interview with the local radio stations in the county. In his speech, he urged all his colleagues to work with the project and him to achieve the project’s goal. He emphasized his commitment and excitement for the project and promised to work with all the communities for the benefit of all.

Thereafter, the Hon. Commissioner gave his appreciation to the organizers of the workshop and noted that he was happy that everything went well. The commissioner thanked all the participants, including the organizers of the workshop and expressed his excitement about the project in the basin. In conclusion, the commissioner reminded the Committee members that even though local officials of the communities are not allowed to participate in the process, he however assured them of their guidance and support.

The final closing remark was done by the National Project Coordinator who thanked participants for their participation and advised them to disseminate the information learned from the workshop to members in their different communities.