

ABSTRACT ON KAGERA TRANSBOUNDARY AGRO-ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROJECT (KAGERA TAMP) LAUNCHING WORKSHOP

1. Introduction

Rwanda National launching workshop for Kagera TAMP attended by various stakeholders was held on 5th to 6th October, 2010 at Gashora Club House, La Palisse in Bugesera District, Eastern Province. The workshop was attended by stakeholders including the Government staff from Ministries of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Ministry of Lands and Environment (MINELA), Ministry of Trade and Commerce (MINICOM), Ministry of Local Government and Social Welfare (MINALOC), Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN). Other members were drawn from Development Projects intervening in the same areas with Kagera TAMP, United Nations Organizations such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP and District Authorities respectively..

The launching workshop considered among other things; overview of Kagera TAMP Project, and Approaches to Land Degradation Assessment and SLM; review of project objectives and log frame, expected results and Annual work plan, papers presented by the management of development projects including NBI-NELSAP (TIWRMP) and LVEMP2. The two days workshop also reviewed the TOR for Regional Policy Steering Committee (RPSC) and National Policy Steering Committee (NPSC), Project team and District Facilitator. It also discussed the development, adoption and operationalization of Payment of Environmental Services. In view of deliberation on these aspects, the workshop adopted the following recommendation: the need to start advocacy on the importance and functions of payment of Environmental Services (PES) spearheaded by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA); put in place the policy and legal framework of PES before its operationalization; need to carry out study on the cost and benefit of implementing PES and determination of the rate for payment of environmental services.

The workshop also deliberated on establishing mechanism through which participatory planning could be mainstreamed into the national strategies and programme and more so with the District Development Plans. The workshop also considered on how this tool could be harmonized between development projects operating in the same areas with Kagera TAMP, and on how the trans-boundary activities could be planned together between the stakeholder countries.

The workshop meeting considered and approved the Annual Work Plan & Budget 2010/2011. However, it was recommended to establish the lump sum budget for technical assistance on demand for any unanticipated activity. It was also recommended to update the action plans and budget as some of the activities are either underestimated or overestimated.

With regards to the TORs for RPSC and NPSC and District Facilitator, it was recommended to include the potential co-funding partners of Kagera TAMP in its NPSC as this would provide room

to understand and appreciate the importance of co-funding. Finally, it was recommended that the district facilitation services that would be rendered be left to the district authorities to decide and discuss in turn on what kind of support Kagera TAMP would offer to District authorities to facilitate the follow up of Kagera TAMP activities.