



Minutes of the Teleconference held on November 18, 2010

Attending: Conrad Woebong, Mohammed Mahdi, William Critchely, Sabina Di Prima, Tonny Kinsambwe, Stephen Muwuya, Mohamed Sessay, Maxwell Mudhara, Nomaphelo Shezi, and Lydia Bosoga

Apologies: Ilias and Wendy Gail was to join during the discussion of finances but the agenda was not covered. (Saa could not be connected)?

Agenda

1. Country Progress Reports
2. Involvement of partners
3. Website
 - Design
 - Articles/materials
4. Plans for next steps in implementation
5. Finances
6. Plans for the next steps

Dr Mohamed Sessay welcomed everyone to the teleconference.

Country's Reports

1. Ghana

Met with Advec (member of Prolinnova) about sharing information and to coordinate student work.

Sites: Four students have been identified to conduct studies on carbon stocks as part of baseline surveys. The studies seek to understand carbon stocks. The levels of carbon stocks will be monitored throughout the project. Sabina noted that Ghana will be the first country in SCI SLM to measure the carbon stocks. It is necessary that the methodology is shared with others. Mohamed will send the web link site which has methodology on measuring carbon stocks.

2. Morocco

Field characterization has been continuing. The SCI SLM Morocco team was in the field between October 22 and 24, 2010. An additional site was visited and a new innovation was identified. The initiative involves crafts makers who plant fruit tree from money made from crafts. The fruit trees are distributed throughout the village.

Planned activities: Plans remain as presented during the Steering Committee Meeting in Morocco. An updated financial report was submitted to Gail.

3. Uganda

Stephen Muwaya will be the new SCI SLM Coordinator in Uganda. This decision was taken to streamline SLM activities in Uganda. SLM is a bigger programme in government, so that SCI SLM is a unit within this programme. This will result in complementarity.

Stephen reported that steps have been taken to ensure that the contract was signed. A letter was had been received from Mohamed Sessay requesting for urgency in dealing with this matter. Stephen will follow this next week.

Tony reported on the technical issues of the project. He indicated that 10 initiatives have been identified but not yet characterized. Financial resources are needed for undertaking the characterization and the SCI SLM resources would assist.

Contact with communities remain active, though some are on an individual basis. The Uganda team will discuss with TAG which initiatives to take forward and how.

Plan: The SCI SLM team will meet in implementing partners in 2 districts & identify communities early in December.

4. South Africa

Nono indicated that an additional site on indigenous forest had been identified. All three initiatives have been characterised on forms.

Plans:

- To conduct baseline studies on respective communities.
- Engage communities neighbouring those where initiatives have been identified.
- Project Steering Committee in January 2011.
- Training in SLM during last week of January 2011.

Nono reported that she had uploaded her report on the SCI SLM website.

5. TAG Report

- Finalised the Morocco TAG Report.
- Provided guidance to Baseline studies to the country teams.

The TAG Team is planning visits to the counties based on Morocco report.

- Uganda – 26 Nov (Will)
- South Africa – January (end) to coincide with training workshop (Will)
- Ghana – February 2nd week (Sabina)
- Morocco – 1st week April (Wend & Sabina)

Mainstreaming/Institutionalisation

- Lydia asked what processes are being followed to mainstream SCI SLM in the different countries. Conrad mentioned that in Ghana they are at the characterization stage and have not yet moved into mainstreaming.
- In Uganda Tonny indicated that district people identify initiatives as part of their daily work. Field people assist to make people understand that information is not being stolen.

Exchange visits make people free to share. These are some of the ways in which SCI SLM is mainstreamed in Uganda.

6. SCI SLM website

Maxwell reported that the SCI SLM website is now running at <http://SCISLM.ukzn.ac.za>. Individual country pages have been created. Each country will decide how to structure its page(s) based on its context. The detailed instructions of how to get into the website and edit pages are to be send to the country coordinators. Nevertheless, countries will need to indicate where they want documents linked to their texts. Such documents will uploaded to the server and linked by Maxwell.

7. Ending

The teleconference had to be adjourned as several members had been cut off. It was agreed that another date will be identified for a follow up teleconference.