

Announcements

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The Project Advisory Committee meeting 2004

Preamble

We would like to announce that the first meeting of the BGBD Project Advisory Committee (PAC) will be held from the 29th to 30th March, 2004, in Nairobi, Kenya. The PAC is established to provide an objective evaluation of project performance in the context of what might be expected of a project of this type and size and to guide the project on a number of strategic issues and on project implementation. It should be able to stand back from the day to day activities, in contrast to the PSC.

We meant to have the PAC meeting separate from the annual meeting and the PSC meeting, mainly not to confuse the issues of more practical nature with those that are more strategic in importance, and also because the project at this stage will not have much to report on. To hold the PAC meeting a month after the annual meeting is meant to allow the PAC to review the outcomes of the annual meeting and thereby evaluate the progress made by the project. This being the first PAC meeting, more time will be devoted to the introduction of the project to the PAC members. For next year we may consider combining the annual meeting with the PAC meeting due to the fact that during next year's meeting, there will be results to be presented, which will be of direct interest to the PAC members.

Professor Michael Stocking will act as interim Chair of the PAC, pending discussions on the role of the PAC, the way it will operate and possible election of the Chair by the PAC itself. This will probably be the first item on the agenda. The PAC is however intended to meet only three times during the lifetime of the project.

Purpose of meeting

Topics for consideration by the PAC will be the scientific objectives of the project and progress made by the project against its logical framework; positioning of the project and strategic partnerships both at the national and the international level. The PAC meeting will also tackle specific strategic and scientific issues of concern. The PAC will present its findings to the project as a whole and to the Project Steering Committee through the Project Coordinator, the PSC chair, the executing agency (TSBF-CIAT) and the main donor (UNEP/GEF). It is important to mention that as earlier indicated, the rules that govern the operations of the PAC still need to be set.

We may want to take advantage of the opportunity of the PAC meeting in Kenya to officially launch the Kenyan chapter of the BGBD project and to present the Kenyan project to the national press. The plans are however still at a very initial stage.

The next PAC meeting will be very important and instrumental in evaluating the first phase of the project.

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