

Summary of Zambia Inception Workshop – Tuesday 11th September, 2012

The second of ten Inception Workshops was held in Lusaka, Zambia on Tuesday 11th September 2012.09.13

Nineteen representatives attended the workshop, including those from government agencies with key roles to play in the LDCF project, as well as UN agencies, the local university and bi-lateral donors.

After opening comments by Ms. Winnie Musonda, UNDP Acting Resident Representative, the workshop was officially opened by Mr Godwin Fishani Gondwe, Acting Director of the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection on behalf of the Permanent Secretary. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Joseph Kanyanga, Chief Meteorologist at the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), who introduced and facilitated discussions on presentations by Mr Peter Chola (Assistant Director of the Department of Water Affairs), Mr Jacob Nkombi (Director of the Zambia Meteorological Department) and Mr Rasford Kalamatila (Principal Agricultural Specialist at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock). These presentations were followed by a description of the project background (development of the project and the types of interventions that may be funded) and the need for EWS in the African context (including the different aspects of EWS that may need to be strengthened). This led to a broad discussion in which the different aspects of the EWS chain in Zambia were analysed, focussing on which weaknesses could potentially be strengthened by the LDCF project and which on-going activities could be built upon by the LDCF project.

Discussions highlighted some key areas to be addressed by the LDCF project. These included a need to enhance collaboration and harmonisation of efforts between role players and institutions, and to re-package climate and agriculture-related information in a form that is useful to vulnerable populations (e.g. subsistence farmers) as well as policy- and decision-makers in government.

It was emphasised that efforts to effectively identify, monitor and respond to climate-related hazards are challenged by limited capacity and equipment, including insufficient budgets to maintain existing equipment. In this regard the ability of departments and ministries to effectively control and spend budgets, including effective procurement procedures, is critically important. It was also noted that there are many on-going EWS-related projects and effective ways to ensure these projects work together and integrate available information were discussed. The flow of information between ministries and departments in a timely manner was one suggested area for improvement, as well as the use of modern methods for reporting and archiving data from field sites etc.

Several additional institutions and projects that are providing support to the Zambia Meteorological Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and the Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit were consulted through bi-lateral meetings to assess the best means for the LDCF project to facilitate their roles in the different EWSs found in Zambia.