**2018 CIRDA Programme Board Meeting**

28 March, 2018

Minutes

Participants:

- Stephen Gold, Principal Policy and Technical Advisor and Head of Green LECRDS, UNDP

- Bonizella Biagini, CIRDA Manager, UNDP

- Benjamin Larroquette UNDP RTA for Africa

- Tanzila Sankoh, UNDP Programme Specialist Environmental Cluster, Sierra Leone

- Montserrat Xilotl, CIRDA Programme Coordinator

- Annalisa Virray, CIRDA Programme Analyst , UNDP

Meeting Brief:

Stephen Gold, in his role as Chair of the meeting, welcomed all participants to the board meeting, highlighting UNDP’s CIRDA Programme and its relevance to UNDP goals as well as the Programme’s strong results in delivering its objectives. The Programme is now in its 5th year of implementation during which it has provided support to its 11 partner countries, particularly now as they begin to develop national project exit strategies and transition into direct government management. These achievements are very much in line with the Programme’s aim of ensuring long terms sustainable observation networksto provide weather and climate information services for adaptation and outreach to vulnerable communities

Bonizella Biagini, as CIRDA Manager, presented a brief overview of the CIRDA Programme’s progress and the state of it partner countries. Capacity building and training where highlighted as key programme achievement as was the development of knowledge management materials to systemize lessons and analyze the current capacities to develop weather services in Africa to ensure the sustainability of the observations and EW systems that have been developed with CIRDA and CI/EWS Project support. The Programme Manager (PM) briefly illustrated the results achieved so far by the programme, and presented the 2018 annual work plan (AWP) and budget. The 2018 AWP includes: continued country support to partner countries including in supporting the procurement of hydrological equipment and in developing climate products as well as continued communication work and donor outreach including working to systemize lessons learned to be shared within a wider knowledge management effort. In addition, the interest of other countries to join CIRDA was shared as was the case of Guinea whose GEF project will be approved in the coming year. The PM asked the Board to approve the AWP and budget while also soliciting their confirmation of the extension of the Programme to December 2019 to attend the needs of all the CIRDA partner countries including those interested in joining the Programme. **The board proceeded to approve the CIRDA Programme’s 2018 AWP and budget and endorsed the PM’s request to extend the programme to 2019.**

Tanzila welcomed the brief from the PM and mentioned the important work that the CIRDA Programme had guided in its support to the Sierra Leone national CI/EWS project. This has included the reestablishing of the EWS national systems as well as developing a web platform to facilitate climate information sharing. She mentioned that going forward the country will require greater support from the Programme in establishing beneficial cost sharing agreements with technology and service providers as fees will be hard to be accommodated by the Meteorological Department on its own without the national project’s support. The PM and the project team present, stated their continued support in helping Sierra Leone negotiate this issue to find a win-win solution for long term system sustainability. Expert support for this issue will be provided through one of the Programme’s Country Support Specialist.

Stephen thanked the PM for the presentation and mentioned the importance the Programme has had in helping set a baseline for African LDCs particularly as they look to upscale their national CI/EWS projects and other proposals into larger interventions to presented to the Green Climate Fund. He stated the importance of enhancing climate information networks to provide the science that is needed to ensure that LDCs are not left out of international vertical funds due to lack of scientific information required by these funds at a local level.

The present board members, approved the 2018 AWP, budget and the extension request, however requested that these be circulated to all other board members that were not able to be present to ensure their no objection.