

DAC Subgroup on Environment and Natural Resources

Terms of Reference

1. Background

1.1 Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). Tanzania's environment and natural resources provide a source of peoples' livelihoods and play an essential role in the productive sectors (e.g. agriculture, mining and tourism) and are a source for the country's energy and water needs. Tanzania's natural resource endowment includes land, soil, water, minerals, forests, fisheries, and wildlife. Together, these natural resources offer opportunities for long-term economic development and poverty reduction in Tanzania, provided that the resources are managed and utilized in a manner that safeguards the long-term health of the natural systems that support them.

As Tanzania develops, increasing and often competing demands may place unsustainable pressures on its natural resources, threatening the base of Tanzania's economic future. Damage and pollution of the environment from economic activities can place the most vulnerable in the society at risk. For example, pollution and inadequate waste management impacts most on the poor and the vulnerable. Poor environmental planning and management also lead to the increase of health problems and exacerbates the impacts of poverty. Thus, sound management of the country's natural resources and effective environmental management are fundamental prerequisites for long-term sustainable development and poverty reduction in Tanzania.

Support to promote sound management of natural resources can include direct efforts to conserve or to sustainably use natural resource components themselves, the development of improved environmental management in rural, urban and industrial settings, as well as the integration of environmental concerns into development policies and programs. The latter approach, often referred to as the "mainstreaming" of environment, can be a strategic entry point for development partners, because it leverages commitment and investment in ENR across the full range of development policies, programs, and sectors.

1.2 Donor Coordination. Coordination of donor efforts is a precondition to effective development work. In Tanzania, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) forum is a well-established and functional mechanism for overall donor coordination. A number of sector-specific working groups accredited to the DAC serve as useful tools for DAC members as they invest in Tanzania. All DAC members are engaged in programs and activities related to ENR. This engagement may include direct investment in specific natural resource sub-sectors, or support to development programs or sectors where environment is an important cross-cutting issue.

1.3 Historical Perspective. A donor coordination forum, the Informal Donor Group for the Environment (IDGE), was constituted in the early 1990's in response to a call for increased communication between ENR donors. Over time, participation in IDGE broadened beyond "donors-only" to include a wide

range of stakeholders. This was formalized in November, 2000, when IDGE revised its profile into a “*multi-disciplinary, multi-organisational, broad-based discussion group interested in...environmental and conservation issues.*” In instituting this change, IDGE also revised the substance of its acronym to Informal *Discussion* Group on the Environment. Since that time, IDGE has successfully fulfilled its revised function, but also lost some of its ability to serve specific needs of ENR donors. As a result, ENR donors have called for formation of a DAC Subgroup on ENR (“ENR Subgroup”). At the same time, the donors recognized the value of the current IDGE as a forum that serves a useful function for ENR stakeholders, including the donor community.

2. Objectives

The ENR Subgroup provides a forum for communication among DAC partners involved in ENR programs and activities in Tanzania. The overall objective of the ENR Subgroup is to increase the effectiveness of DAC partner efforts to support a concerted ENR agenda in Tanzania. The ENR agenda is understood to encompass promotion of environment as a cross-cutting issue (e.g., as in the integration of environment into Tanzanian development policies and initiatives, as well as into DAC donors’ initiatives programs across all sectors); and development of specific ENR sub-sectors or themes (e.g., forestry, water resources, environmental planning, sanitation, wildlife, etc.).

The specific objectives of the ENR Subgroup are as follows:

- 2.1 Maintain a high level of focus on ENR issues among DAC partners.
- 2.2 Promote information sharing and dialogue among DAC partners on ENR programs and issues, and enhance coordination, effectiveness, and impact of partners’ programs.
- 2.3 Promote and facilitate mainstreaming of environment through the DAC and its accredited sector-specific working groups.
- 2.4 Provide a coordinated contribution to Tanzanian policy, institutional, and legislative reform initiatives on ENR.
- 2.5 Provide a coordinated and strategic input into development policies and initiatives including, Consultative Group meetings, Poverty Reduction Strategy discussions, Public Expenditure Review processes, and poverty monitoring.
- 2.6 Facilitate and promote information exchange and dialogue on ENR among DAC partners, the Tanzania Government, the NGO community, and other stakeholders. This objective includes participation in and coordination with the IDGE.
- 2.7 Perform any other objective that the DAC may decide.

3. Schedule of Meetings and Reporting

The ENR Subgroup will meet on a monthly basis, and strive to keep meetings under two hours in duration. The Chair of the Subgroup is responsible for scheduling meetings and appointing a Secretariat. The Secretariat for the Subgroup is responsible for collaborating with the Chair to set and communicate the agenda; record, circulate, and maintain a file of meeting minutes; share relevant information among members; and perform any other duties as determined by the ENR Subgroup. In order to promote participation of ENR donors in the IDGE, ENR Subgroup meetings will be scheduled immediately following the monthly IDGE meetings. However, any member of the ENR Subgroup may request scheduling of an extraordinary meeting based on need to discuss a specific or urgent issue.

4. Membership

Membership of the ENR Subgroup is open to all institutional members of the DAC. In order to ensure continuity and functionality of the work of the Subgroup, DAC partner members will appoint one permanent representative and one substitute, who will have full authority to speak on behalf of the member. Representatives of the Tanzania Government, NGOs, and other stakeholders will be invited to attend meetings as appropriate.

5. Leadership

To encourage ownership of the Subgroup by all members, the ENR Subgroup will elect a Chair and alternate Chair on an annual, calendar year basis, with each member allowed one vote. It is the responsibility of the outgoing Chair to ensure proper handover to the incoming Chair. The Chair (or alternate Chair) will play an important role in setting the meeting agenda and facilitating meetings. The Chair will be a focal point for donors and other stakeholders to raise issues to the ENR Subgroup, and be the spokesperson for the ENR Subgroup on routine issues with the DAC or other appropriate organizations. Where substantive issues are involved, a delegation of members will represent the ENR Subgroup.

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