

*ORNL Technical Assistance to USAID to Foster Sustainable
Environmental Management in Southern Africa¹*

**Progress Report
January-March, 2009**

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Background

The PASA Agreement between USAID and ORNL is designed to provide technical support to USAID Regional Programs in Southern Africa for: (1) evaluation, monitoring and follow-on design for the regional environment program; (2) the Agreement with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) for the water sector; (3) Okavango basin biodiversity protection; (4) other technical assistance, research and analysis upon request to support the Mission to achieve environmental program objectives; and (5) corresponding reporting. Work is based on an approved scope and written guidance from the USAID Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO)³. Progress reports summarize activities and level of effort (LOE). Reported LOE figures are estimated in progress reports while actual costs are submitted through IPACS and summarized in Quarterly ORNL Administrative reports.

Activities this Quarter

ORNL provided support to USAID's regional program and the Botswana Field Office through phone and email correspondence during this period. Most effort was focused on planning and preparing for the next steps necessary to begin phase two of the Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program (SAREP). Assistance was provided to respond to questions and requests for additional information that arose during the active solicitation process – underway throughout this period - based on the Request for Proposal (RFP) package that was prepared with ORNL support. Comments were provided on considerations for performance based measures and incentives that could be managed without creating undue administrative burdens for subsequent contract management. The RFP describes a modified, \$25 million regional program and activities to be funded with biodiversity, climate change, water and possibly some HIV/AIDS account funds.

Other activities this period included assembling a set of supporting and background documents relevant for SAREP Offerors, and providing planning assistance and draft revisions for related documentation required for next steps, such as Annex 1 of the SADC Agreement and the Activity Approval documentation (AAD).

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² Formerly known as RCSA Strategic Objective 17: Improved Management of Shared River Basins

³ See PASA Statement of Work, section 4.

Future Tasks

Per guidance from the CTO delivered in March, additional tasks under the PASA are not envisioned in the near term. USAID decided to limit use of the PASA as it conducts a competitive process for a US PSC position to manage SAREP and reviews options to best support the Botswana Field Office and SAREP. The PASA remains available for the Mission to provide technical support resources from ORNL if and when desired, across a broad spectrum of technical capabilities.

The SOW for the PASA had contemplated provision of technical services in 2009-2010 to support the Mission as needed to help facilitate a smooth transition to a new contractor and new activity areas. The SOW included potential technical assistance to the mission and program implementing agents for activity areas such as: (a) developing and integrating new water, hygiene and sanitation tasks with biodiversity under the SADC agreement; (b) updating appropriate Monitoring and Evaluation systems; (c) strengthening effectiveness of the biodiversity activities consistent with earmark requirements; (d) support to plan and implement the next activity evaluation; and (e) other program planning, development and assessment tasks. Currently, about \$54k is available (obligated and unspent) in the PASA budget to support the Mission.

The Table below reflects the current (revised) SOW for additional tasks under the PASA in FY2009-2010 and assumes eventual obligation of the full estimated budget. See the prior progress reports for the LOE planned and used each quarter in the first phase of PASA support, and for cumulative LOE through FY2008 in conjunction with the technical assistance provided for program evaluations and design.

Table 1: LOE Planned and Used to Date (per FY2009-10 Amendment)

Progress Report thru March 2009	Total LOE planned* (days)	LOE used to date (days) second phase					% total LOE remaining
		Oct-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2009	Apr-Jun 2009	Jly-Sep 2009	Oct-Dec 2009	
		1. New Design/RFP	42	13.5	9.0		
2. SADC - transition	22	0.5	1.0				93%
3. Biodiversity	16	0.5	0.5				94%
4. Other SO17	18	0.5	1.0				92%
5. Rpts/Admin	16	2.0	1.0				81%
6. Eval or tasks tbd	10						100%
Totals	124	17	12.5	0	0	0	86%
<i>Time Remaining</i>	<i>75%</i>	in second phase: design and TA FY2009-2010					

* To provide the Total LOE Planned in the SOW for the PASA as amended, the remainder of the corresponding planned budget would need to be obligated.

[end rpt]