

CIVIL SOCIETY ASSESSMENT IN THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES (PALOP)

Provision of funds from FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
to ACTUAR - Associação para a Cooperação e o Desenvolvimento
(PR 47110)

Projects: GCP/GLO/297/SPA (ESA) and GCP/GLO/294/SPA (OCE)

FINAL REPORT

Submitted by ACTUAR on July, 2012

1. BACKGROUND

FAO signed a Letter of Agreement with ACTUAR – in the framework of the projects GCP/GLO/297/SPA and GCP/CLO/294/SPA – aiming to support civil society engagement in the formulation process of the ESAN-CPLP, as well as to systematize the REDSAN-PALOP self-organized process in order to identify advantages and constraints regarding CSO/NGO participation at different levels, namely within the CSM/CFS mechanism. The specific purpose of this agreement was:

- i) To facilitate a consultation process within REDSAN-PALOP towards gathering inputs from civil society and systematise the main findings in view of the formulation process of the CPLP regional FNS strategy.
- ii) To produce a policy position paper to influence the implementation process of the CPLP regional FNS strategy.
- iii) To organise a meeting involving representatives from national networks to finalise the policy position paper.
- iv) To produce a case study/reflection on the possible advantages and constraints of self-organising CSOs/NGOs through “multi-thematic” FNS networks.

On 28th November 2011 ACTUAR has submitted to FAO a Mid-term report describing the tasks and achievements concerning activities i), ii) and iii) as well as its respective products. That Mid-term report also mentioned the progress concerning activity iv) and provide a justification for its delay.

The present Final Report follows the previous Mid-term report submitted and it intends to close the contract by submitting the last product concerning activity iv) as well as the final statement of expenditures.

2. ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED

Activity 1 – REDSAN-PALOP consultation process towards gathering civil society inputs for the formulation process of the CPLP regional FNS strategy

This activity was carried out in May and June 2011 and consisted in conducting an assessment to identify the major advances and limitations concerning the national FNS policies from a civil society perspective, as well as gathering preliminary contributions for the formulation process of the CPLP FNS strategy (**Product 1**).

The Mid-term Report provides a detailed description of this activity. The correspondent product was submitted on 30 June 2011.

Activity 2 – Development of the REDSAN-PALOP policy position paper containing proposals and recommendations regarding the CPLP regional FNS strategy

This activity was carried out from July to September 2011. Based on the previous consultation process, ACTUAR developed a draft position paper summarising proposals and recommendations regarding the future implementation of the CPLP FNS Strategy. Later on, the draft was widely circulated within the REDSAN-PALOP national partners in order to gather further inputs.

In the mean time, CPLP and FAO released the first draft of the CPLP FNS strategy which was subsequently circulated by ACTUAR within the REDSAN-PALOP national partners so that its content could be taken into account in the discussion of the position paper. A final version of the position paper was finalised and validated in the REDSAN-PALOP meeting held in Lisbon in early October (see activity 3 below).

The Position Paper (**Product 2**) was presented to FAO and it was also handed over to the CPLP Executive Secretary, Mr. Domingos Simões Pereira, during an official hearing with ACTUAR and REDSAN-PALOP national partners on 6th October 2011 (see Activity 3 below).

The Mid-term Report provides a detailed description of this activity. The correspondent product was submitted on 07 October 2011.

Activity 3 – REDSAN-PALOP meeting (Lisbon, Portugal)

The REDSAN-PALOP meeting was held in Lisbon, Portugal, from the 4th and the 8th October 2011 as part of the internal organisation process aiming to finalise and validate the Position Paper as well as to discuss the work plan for 2012 including the activities related with the engagement in the CPLP FNS strategy. The meeting was promoted and organised by ACTUAR and involved representatives from the REDSAN-PALOP national networks as well as civil society partners from Brazil in view to strengthen civil society joint activities at CPLP level.

The Mid-term Report provides a detailed description of this activity which was completed by 08 October 2011.

Activity 4 – Case Study on REDSAN-PALOP self-organisation

With this activity ACTUAR intends to describe and analyse the process of setting up REDSAN-PALOP and the experience of two selected national networks, including their working modalities, decision making processes as well as level of participation in policy dialogue with governments and other stakeholders. This analysis will be the basis for a case study on the possible advantages and constraints of self-organised CSOs and NGOs through “multi-thematic” networks for FNS and the RtF.

This Activity had several delays due to the fact that the systematisation process and the internal reflection within the REDSAN-PALOP partners on the main advantages and constraints needed more time than initially previewed. Furthermore, following several teleconferences between OCEP/FAO and ACTUAR to discuss the contents of the document it was agreed that several items should be further detailed, and all the national networks should be included. This leads to a more ambitious product than the initially previewed.

The several revisions carried out by ACTUAR and REDSAN partners show significant progress *vis-à-vis* the draft version submitted to the FAO in 2011. Nevertheless, the paper still contains some weaknesses, particularly regarding the institutional mechanisms for policy dialogue and the effective participation of REDSAN in the CPLP governance bodies.

This is due to the process that is currently being developed towards the formal establishment of the Civil Society Mechanism linked to the CPLP Regional FNS Council. REDSAN is leading that process which will be completed by July leading to the first meeting of the CPLP FNS Council that will take place in Maputo in the framework of the CPLP Presidential Summit.

At this stage there is no more time available to further develop that issue in the paper. In this sense, OCEP/FAO and ACTUAR agreed that the final version of the paper will not be published at this moment, but will be disseminated in PDF version through the FAO's, REDSAN's, and ACTUAR's websites.

It was also agreed that in the near future (October/November 2012) OCEP/FAO and ACTUAR will discuss the possibility of further developing the paper in order to include the process of setting up the "Civil Society Mechanism" led by REDSAN, its institutional linkages to the Regional CPLP FNS Council, as well as the participation of REDSAN and national networks in the first meeting of the Council and Presidential Summit and the subsequent implementation of the CPLP strategy.

3. GENERAL OVERVIEW

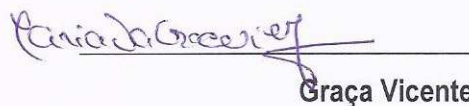
Activity	Product	Deadline	Submission	Status
A.1 – Consultation Process	Product 1 – Report with main findings of the consultation process	30 June	30 June	Submitted
A.2 – Development of the Position Paper	Product 2 – Position Paper	30 August	07 October	Submitted
A.2.1 – REDSAN-PALOP Meeting	Schedule for the last week of September	30 September	Held on the first week of October	Completed
A.3 – REDSAN-PALOP Case Study	Product 3 – Case Study	30 September	12 July	Submitted
Progress Reporting	Mid-term Report	30 June	28 November	Submitted
Final Reporting	Final Report and Statement of Expenditures	15 October	12 July	Submitted

Annex 1

Statement of Expenditures

ITEM	TOTAL BUDGET (USD)	FAO BUDGET (USD)	ACTUAR BUDGET (USD)	EXPENDITURES (USD)
1. CONSULTATION				
1.1 Technical Services	3,000	3,000		3821,38
2.COMMUNICATIONS				
2.1 Communications	500	500		738
3. MEETING				
3.1 Travel costs	13,000	6,500	6,500	16140
3.2 Per diems	21,000		21,000	10604
3.3 Venue, equipments	1,500		1,500	1560
3.4 Facilitator	1,000		1,000	1082
4.POLICY POSITION PAPER				
4.1 Technical Services	3,000	3,000		3324
5.CASE STUDY				
5.1 Technical Services	4,500	4,500		11250
5.2 Translation	2,500	2,500		2475
TOTAL	50,000	20,000	30,000	50994,38

The official accountant of ACTUAR,


Graça Vicente