

Macquarie Sustainability Consultancy Meeting minutes

Date: 29th July 2021

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 13:00Hrs (EAT) with Dr. Jared welcoming all in attendance and thanking them for creating time to attend the meeting. This was followed by a brief introduction of all in attendance.

Introduction

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss on how Macquarie University and the WIOSAP project, we to engaging some students to support the sustainability assessment of a few demo projects. These were one semester projects where students would develop, analyse and report on a project. Students would work in small teams to undertake environmental and sustainability consultancy projects and would need to liaise with and report back .

Min 01: Macquarie University

- Dr.Maina mentioned that the university asked him to work with student on sustainability consultancy for there masters projects. The students were expected to respond to a project brief and write a proposal outlining how they would address the problems in the brief. They would work with the demo project leads and do an analysis, have a final report that would be presented to the client and submit it for grading at their universities.
- The opportunity was to expose the students to a wide range of experiences on the project they would tackle in real world.
- The projects were to run for twelve week and were to be useful to the project lead and result in a report.
- He mentioned that the students would need to meet with the project leads 3-4 times in the course of the twelve weeks.

Min 02: Discussion

- Vicky asked if there would be need for students to travels to their respective project sites or if the students would be working remotely.
- Dr. Maina mentioned that the unit was not designed for travels and that the work would be done all remotely.

- Paul also raised a question if there would be harmonization of research questions by the convention or by the client.
- Dr. Jared mentioned that one person from the convention would be dedicated to work with the client and they would help in supporting the students and the client in case there are issues that needs to be addressed.
- Paul highlighted that a lot of projects fail the sustainability test and wanted to know if there were guiding themes that the students would address in their studies since most sustainability issues always require money.
- Dr. Maina mentioned that the projects would focus on environmental sustainability within the project timeframe. The students would take data generated within this timeframe and manipulate them to come up with a report that touches on the environmental sustainability of the projects.
- Martine wanted to know if the research questions would fit into the course content of the students. Dr. Maina highlighted that his main role was to work with the client to ensure that the questions are aligned to the course work of the students. Dr. Jared mentioned that the students would fit into the work that is already being done in the different countries. Dr. Maina added that the students would make engage with the client once they have read the project brief and develop a proposal with the help of the client.
- Celia mentioned that there are issues the of waste management in their project. She mentioned that if an alternative to the plastic bags used for nurseries could be proposed through this consultancy it would be great.
- Dr. Maina mentioned that a project would be framed around waste management and the students would recommend what would be ideal for the restoration process in the nurseries. On alternative livelihood and development of a business plan, Maina mentioned that students from the MBA school would be at a better position to development a livelihood business plan but added that in foreign regions, they would have challenges developing a business if they don't have enough data.
- Gibeson asked who the respondents would be for the work. Dr. Maina mentioned that the project depended on what the client would ask the students to do. If the data requires needs developing tools such as questionnaires, then they may carry out surveys.
- Dr.Jared mentioned that the implementing partners assign contact persons who would engage closely with Jane and Dr. Maina on the consultancy work.

Closing

There being no other business the meeting ended at 14:00Hrs with Dr.Jared thanking all for creating time to attend the meeting .

In attendance

No.	Name	Affiliation
1.	Celia Macamo	Mozambique
2.	Paul Matiku	Nature Kenya
3.	Gibson Mwatete	Nature Kenya
4.	Martine Goder	Mauritius
5.	Vicky Travens	Seychelles -TRASS
6.	Maina Joseph	Australia -Macquarie
7.	Jared Bosire	UNEP
8.	Jane Ndungu	UNEP
9.	Nathan Majwa	UNEP