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MINUTES
OF LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (LPAC)
“Development of Armenia’s Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC and
Second Biennial Report” UNDP-GEF Project

RA Ministry of Nature Protection

11 August 2016, 11:00 to 12:00

LPAC Members:

C. Medina	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, LPAC Co-chair
S. Papyan	First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of RA, LPAC Co-chair
V. Asaturyan	Head of UN Division, RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Y. Poghosyan	Member of the State Statistical Council, RA State Statistical Service
V. Atayan	Acting head of Renewable energy and energy savings department, RA Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
A. Petrosyan	Head of Silviculture Division, RA Ministry of Agriculture
H. Melkonyan	Deputy Director of “Service of the Hydrometeorology and Active Influence on Atmospheric Phenomena” SNCO of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia
H. Babayan	Chief Specialist of the Local Self-administration Department, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development
H. Aslanyan	Head of public health division, RA Ministry of Health
A. Ghukasyan	Scientific Secretary, Botany Institute of National academy of Sciences of Armenia
A. Gabrielyan	UNFCCC National Focal Point
A. Muradyan	Head of division of protection policy of climate change and atmosphere, Environment protection policy department, RA Ministry of Nature Protection
N. Hovhannisyan	Head of division of International project management and monitoring, Department of international cooperation, RA Ministry of Nature Protection
T. Koloyan	Sustainable Growth and Resilience Portfolio Associate, UNDP Armenia

Purpose:

Discussion of the “Development of Armenia’s Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC and Second Biennial Report” UNDP-GEF Project Document draft prior to the approval of the project.

Documents presented:

- Project Document (Armenian and English);
- PP Presentation.

Reporting:

Welcome remarks were delivered by Mr. Simon Papyan, First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia and Ms. Claire Medina, UNDP CO Deputy Resident Representative.

Ms. Diana Harutyunyan:

- presented the project background, legal framework of the Fourth National Communication (4NC) and Second Biennial Update Report (2BUR) under latest decisions of UNFCCC submission, aims and objectives of the Project, as well as project implementation and reporting arrangements;
- emphasized the importance of activities related to the development of the action plan of the RA Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), as well as collaboration of stakeholders for acceleration of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system, and establishment of the legal and institutional framework for continuous development of the National Inventories.
- highlighted the Project importance within the context of the country development priorities and joining Paris Agreement.

Questions and comments:

Mr. Yu. Poghosyan:

- raised a question about the information provision registries and highlighted the Project further cooperation on this mostly with regard to the GHG Inventory.

Ms. D.Harutyun replied to the question stating that:

- the Project should attach high importance to the information collection and exchange procedures by fostering the institutional bases for GHG Inventory. Thus, she mentioned that the cooperation with the established registries is very important and there are already some proposals developed within the 1BUR.

Ms. V.Asaturyan:

- asked if the cooperation with the regions is envisaged within the Project and how this cooperation should be provided.

Ms. D.Harutyunyan, in response to this question, mentioned that:

- there is a good experience on cooperation with regions already established within the Third National Communication Project and it’s also planning to continue the established cooperation within this Project. Mostly, the efforts should be directed to mainstream climate change issues into community development plans and thus cooperation with regional and

local administration bodies, in that context the agriculture support centers, regional centers of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Hydromet Service may play a great role.

Mr. S.Papayan addressing the question mentioned that:

- cooperation with local self-governing bodies is of great importance.

Ms. H. Babayan:

- stated that the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development is willing to support to the Project by posting the developed materials on the Ministry webpage and making them accessible for the communities.

Mr. A. Gabrielyan:

- stated that the preparation of the 2BUR and its submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2018 is planned within the Project. He went on with the question that considering that the Project should last up to 2020 so he asked if 3BUR is also planned to be developed within this Project.

Ms. D.Harutyunyan, answering the question, mentioned that:

- 2BUR preparation is planned within the Project, as for the 3BUR it should be submitted as an annex to the 4NC.

Mr. H. Melkonyan:

- asked about the role of Yerevan city in the Project as well as raised a question about Project's support to climate change related scientific studies.

Ms. D.Harutyunyan, addressing the question, mentioned that:

- there is no specific issue of Yerevan City integration in the Project, as for the Project interconnection with science, she mentioned that scientific studies can't be implemented within the Project, however, the Project will support to the organization of the scientific conferences, workshops and seminars by promoting to mainstream climate change issues into the scientific studies.

Mr. H.Aslanyan:

- asked if a special study on climate change impact on children and women is planned within the Project.

Ms. D.Harutyunyan mentioned that:

- within the previous national communications as well a specific section was on the climate change impact on human health, however, within the 4NC special attention should be paid to the gender issues, as the gender dimension is well elaborated in the Project ProDoc.

Ms. N.Hovhannisyan:

- asked to specify about the progress reports, mostly to whom they are submitted and to what extent they are accessible for the public.

Ms. D.Harutyunyan answered that:

- quarterly reports in a very brief format are submitted to GEF, as for the semi-annual reports they are submitted to UNDP and RA Ministry of Nature Protection.

Ms. C. Medina:

- asked to specify how many expert groups are to be formulated within the Project, and if they are planned to have the Project task leaders; as well as what is the role of the Climate Change Interagency Coordinating Council established by the Prime Minister Decree.

Ms. D.Harutyunyan, addressing the questions, mentioned that:

- there will be 2 expert groups in the Project responsible for the 2BUR and 4NC preparation. The expert groups will work in parallel and should cooperate with each other. As for the expert team leaders they will not be engaged in the Project on full time basis (IC contract modality will be used). The Climate Change Interagency Coordinating Council will act as the Project Steering Committee which according to the Project ProDoc should meet at least once a year.

Mr. V.Atayan:

- mentioned that there have been amendments in the Renewable Energy, aimed at promotion of solar energy usage among the population and for this purpose - the individuals can generate solar energy without license and can be connected to grid based on net metering principle. He also mentioned that Energy Balance for 2015 was developed and submitted to the RA Statistical Service.

Mr. S.Papayan:

- mentioned that the Project is similar with other enabling activities projects, but the special attention should be paid that within this Project both 2BUR and 4NC should be developed. He also highlighted importance of the project in supporting the processes under the Paris Agreement and is vital for the INDC Action plan development.

Conclusions:

Based on the results of the discussions and positive feedback from the Project partners and stakeholders, considering the importance of the Project outcomes, LPAC recommended the Project document for signing.



Claire Medina
UNDP Deputy Resident Representative



Simon Papayan
First Deputy Minister,
RA Ministry of Nature Protection