



**“DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENIA’S FOURTH NATIONAL COMMUNICATION TO THE UNFCCC  
AND SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT”**

**UNDP-GEF/00096445 PROJECT**

**“ARMENIA'S THIRD BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORT TO THE UNFCCC”**

**UNDP-GEF/00112638 PROJECT**

**BOARD MINUTES  
MARCH 4, 2021**

Participants	
<b>Project Board Members</b>	
1.	<i>Ms. Mihaela Stojkoska, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Armenia</i>
2.	<i>Ms. Anna Mazmanyanyan, Deputy Minister of Environment</i>
<b>Meeting Participants</b>	
3.	<i>Mr. Hovhannes Ghazaryan, UNDP CER Portfolio Team leader</i>
4.	<i>Ms. Diana Harutyunyan, UNDP Climate Change Programme Coordinator</i>
5.	<i>Ms. Marina Sargsyan, UNDP-GEF Project Task leader</i>
6.	<i>Ms. Anahit Ispiryanyan, UNDP-GEF Project assistant</i>

**Presented Documents / Materials:**

- FNC Progress report: Completed project activities and expenses
- FNC Project 2021 workplan and budget
- FNC Project presentation
- BUR3 Progress report: Completed project activities and expenses
- BUR3 Project 2021 workplan and budget
- BUR3 Project presentation

## **Presentation**

Ms. Anna Mazmanyanyan, Deputy Minister of Environment and Ms. Mihaela Stojkoska, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Armenia opened the board meeting and welcomed the participants. The approved the board agenda and Project presentations followed.

## **FNC**

Ms. Diana Harutyunyan, UNDP Climate Change Program coordinator presented the "Development of Armenia's Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC and Second Biennial Report" UNDP-GEF Project (FNC) results of the project for entire period of implementation. Since this is the Final Board meeting, its provisions cover the extension period, too.

In more details were presented outputs for 2020:

- The BUR 2 was prepared and submitted to UNFCCC in May 2018, the project pass ICA process and Technical Expert Team Review is published on UNFCCC web-site.
- 4th National Communication of Armenia was consulted with Ministry of Environment and other ministries, translated and officially submitted by Ministry to UNFCCC on 17 of May 2020, as was initially planned.
- 4NC published. Project supported the distribution of publication to key state authorities, international organizations and embassies.

Capacity Building Outputs concluded in 2020:

- Draft NDC update developed in cooperation with EU4Climate Project, based on projections for sectoral emissions and submitted to the Ministry of Environment
- 7th International Renewable and Clean Energy Conference organized, 26 presentations, including from Armenia and abroad, November 26-27, the proceedings compiled.
- Booklet on planting guidelines for users developed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment.
- Local expert supported tailoring the study on the irrigation norms revision for the pilot- Ararat valley area. The International Expert worked under NAP project.
- Support provided for revision of "Building Armenia's national transparency framework under Paris Agreement" project document, signed by MoE and UNDP on December 16 2020.
- The proposal developed and funding received from the UNDP HQs for engagement of NDC Partnership Facilitator to support Ministry of Environment in its coordinating functions.
- Community based solutions for promotion of RES conducted for 8 communities. The assessment served as a base for investments of rooftop PV stations and SWH installations in total for 300,000 USD.
- Stocktaking conducted and report prepared to be used for Lessons learned report preparation and proposal development for 5th NC for requesting funding from GEF.
- Education and awareness raising in cooperation with "Climate Box" Regional Program underway, the training for teachers-trainers organized.
- Support provided to MoE on reporting under UNFCCC and participation in Climate Dialogue:
  - Note on Armenian ambition under Paris Agreement prepared for the President Armen Sargsyan (12 of December, Heads of states event)
  - Presentation of the follow-up steps on technology transfer (01 December UNFCCC workshop).

She also presented the FNC 2021 workplan as the project has extended its timelines for ensuring the dissemination of results and addressing capacity building needs:

- Series of public hearings on the Armenia's commitments under Paris Agreement
- National workshop on the results of the 4th National Communication
- 3 Regional workshops presenting and discussing the outcomes of the 4th National Communication
- National lunch of the Climate Box to the educational authorities and teachers
- Consultations and training on improving the data collection and reporting under UNFCCC (Ministry of Environment and Statistics Committee)
- Development of the Final Report
- Development of Lessons Learned Report and Project Closure.

### **Conclusions / Recommendations of the Project Board**

- The project key objective - supporting the country in development its BUR2 and 4NC reports are done timely and on good quality level.
- The national consultations and capacity building activities conducted by the project contributed to meeting commitments of the country under UNFCCC.
- In remaining 4 month period of the project's implementation to finalize consultations and conduct awareness rising activities.

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### **BUR3**

Ms. Marina Sargsyan, UNDP Project task leader presented the "Armenia's Third Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC" UNDP-GEF Project (BUR3) results of 2020.

The main outputs of 2020 included:

- 1990-2017 National GHG Inventory Report was developed, agreed with the Ministry of Environment and the stakeholder institutions and submitted to the MoE. The NIR was published in both Armenian and English languages and uploaded to the Ministry's website.
- Data on IPCC sectors mitigation measures implemented in the country have been collected and the impacts have been assessed.
- Mitigation measure's impact projections on GHG emissions in Energy sector up to 2030 have been done applying the LEAP model, which was also used for 2020 NDC update.
- The Grid Emission Factor for the electricity system of the Republic of Armenia was developed and submitted to the UNFCCC to be reviewed and approved by the CDM Executive Board as Standardized Baseline which besides for CDM projects will be applied as MRV tool for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects to ensure common approach in assessing GHG emissions reductions from mitigation measures implementation.
- 2019 Energy balance was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Territorial administration and infrastructure.
- Expert training, participation in international workshops.
- The available gender statistics affected by/or contributing to climate change are collected and analyzed.

She also presented the BUR3 2021 workplan, which includes:

- Submission of the BUR3 to the MoE and the key stakeholders followed by the submission to the Intergovernmental Council
- Finalization of the BUR3 considering comments and recommendations, translation, design and support to the MoE in submission of the report to the UNFCCC
- National workshop for presenting the outcomes of BUR3 to the key stakeholders
- Implementation of postponed activities due to Covid-19 restrictions for the face-to-face trainings, consultations and capacity building activities:
- Capacity building and discussions with the key stakeholders, including the Statistics Committee, on formulating requirements for domestic MRV arrangements.
  - a. Consultations, capacity building and support to the Ministry of Environment for organizing the stocktaking on current needs and gaps for reporting under Convention considering enhanced transparency requirements under Paris Agreement, followed by the corresponding trainings on GHG Inventory development and mitigation measures impact assessment, as needed.
  - b. Support to MoE in consultations with the UNFCCC experts nominated for assisting Armenia in building capacity for establishment of institutional arrangements for National GHG Inventory and in ICA process of the Armenia's Third Biennial Update Report
- Development of the Final Report of Armenia's Third Biennial Update Report Project, including Gaps and Lessons Learnt Report and discussion of the findings outlined in the Final report during the Project Board meeting.

## **Discussions**

### **FNC**

Ms. Anna Mazmanyan noted that both projects have many capacity building and awareness raising activities, and asked if there is a tool for assessment of trainings being effective and any mechanisms for making them more efficient. To which Ms. Diana Harutyunyan replied that usually there are pretests before starting the workshops and post-training tests done for more technical workshops. However, this recommendation will be taken into consideration and these tests can be refined.

Ms. Mihaela Stojkoska asked how can we popularize the work we do and create discussion platforms between different institutions, as different institutions need to get buy-in into the thematic of the both projects, by creating national dialogue over these issues. To which Ms. Diana Harutyunyan replied that we should take into account the dedicated institutions - think tanks that support different ministries. As an example, she noted that the Project hired an NGO to organize round tables and an expert platform was created to have discussions. Ms. Harutyunyan asked Ms. Mazmanyan on the expert platform created under the Ministry of Environment and suggested that one meeting of the expert platform can be dedicated to the presentation of the Projects. Also, different topic discussions can be organized in Universities to popularize these issues. She also suggested that Projects can support the Ministry of Environment (hereafter Ministry) to organize events in marzes, where they can speak about climate change in April or May. To which Ms. Stojkoska agreed. Ms. Harutyunyan asked Ms. Mazmanyan to inform Mr. Simonyan as UNFCCC focal point on these possibilities that Project can provide support. Ms. Harutyunyan also mentioned that the Project can support the closing workshop for Forest Project, that was finalized in 2020, which outcomes (3 forest plans developed, new methodology for assessing forest areas and etc.) can be shared with wider community. These outputs can also be advertised during these workshops in marzes. Mr. Ghazaryan agreed on the importance of this issue and asked Ms. Mazmanyan to inform the Minister on this opportunity. Ms. Mazmanyan noted that working with

marzes and educating them is very crucial, and that local authorities can nominate focal points in marzes to communicate with them. The Forest Plans are important for work of Hayantar and for “the 10 mln Trees” project of Armenia.

### **BUR3**

Ms. Mihaela Stojkoska asked what can be done in the frames of the Project to create more influence in terms of policy making and national dialogue, by using the possibilities of the Project as a platform for discussing climate change. To which Ms. Marina Sargsyan replied that a lot of specialists were present during a very informative training on GHG Inventory organized by UNFCCC in November 2019 and government officials are very interested in future trainings. Ms. Harutyunyan added that the project’s main objective is to give accurate and transparent data, but the outcomes of the project can be used to raise interest on global issues like low carbon development, energy policies, waste sector improvement and etc. Ms. Marina Sargsyan also noted that Project creates very important output, as assessments on 3 scenarios of GHG emissions were used for NDC update document target setting.

Ms. Mazmanyanyan asked how we can organize that information sharing activities with other Ministries. To which Ms. Harutyunyan replied that the re-establishment of the Intergovernmental council for climate change is very crucial. The Council will be regularly updated on developments under climate change convention implementation. So, data can be provided to higher officials thus ensure cross-sectoral discussions. Besides, under new structure of Council is planned to establish working groups comprised from representatives of ministries, instead of the current practice of working informally with them. As for now, is the practice of circulating reports developed by project with ministries and governmental agencies by the Ministry as the project implementing partner.

### **Conclusions / Recommendations of the Project Board**

- recorded the progress in the Projects’ implementation and approved the work done in 2020 for FNC and BUR3 projects
- approved the AWP for 2021 with the comments for FNC and BUR3 projects

Prepared by: Anahit Ispiryan, Project assistant

Approved by:

Ms. Mihaela Stojkoska  
UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Armenia

  
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Signature

Ms. Anna Mazmanyanyan  
Deputy Minister of Environment

  
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