

**UNDP EEG and GEF
Annual Performance Report (APR)
Project Implementation Review (PIR)
2008-09**

ENABLING ACTIVITIES FOR NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Reporting Period = 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS

1. Basic Project Data

Official Project Title: Enabling Activities for the Preparation of Azerbaijan's Second National Communication to the UNFCCC.

Project Summary (as in PIMS and Project Document) The preparation of the Second National Communication (SNC) of Azerbaijan is the continuation of work done within the framework of the Initial National Communication (1997-1999) and activities of phase II (2000-2002) and aimed at the strengthening of the capacities built for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) principles. The project enables Azerbaijan to present the information in a consistent, transparent and comparable manner taking into account specific national circumstances. All principal aspects from the Guidelines for the Preparation of National Communication from Parties Not Included in Annex I to the Convention (17/CP.8) will be considered in the SNC. In the project implementation special efforts will be made in order to strengthen dialogues, information exchange and cooperation with all stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific and private sectors, data gaps will be covered, data reliability and accessibility will be improved to the extent possible. Different approaches for the different sectors and components according to their prioritization and vulnerability level will be used in the SNC. The main components of the project are: description of national circumstances; national inventory of GHGs and sinks; assessment of vulnerability and planning of adaptation; mitigation of GHGs; capacity building for technology transfer. Beside the preparation of the SNC, the project is aimed to continue the enhancement of general awareness and knowledge on climate change related issues in Azerbaijan.

Country Republic of Azerbaijan	PIMS Number	
	Atlas Project Number	00042809

Project timeframe:

Date of Delegation of Authority Letter	25 July 2005	Planned Project Duration	36 months
Project Document Signature Date	24 March 2006	Original Planned Closing Date	24 March 2009
Date of First Disbursement	June 28, 2006	Revised Planned ¹ Closing Date	30 April 2010
Is this the Terminal APR/PIR?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date Operationally Closed (if applicable)
			n/a

Project documentation and information:

¹ Please explain any entry here in section 8

<p>List documents/ reports/ prepared about the project.</p>	<p><u>Technical Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft report on national circumstances. ▪ Draft report on climate scenarios ▪ Draft report on of the Vulnerability and Adaptation: Water recourses, Coastal zone, Agriculture, Health ▪ Draft report on GHG Inventory for 1990-2005 ▪ Draft report on mitigation, GHG baseline scenario up to 2030 ▪ Draft Report on activities on public awareness under the SNC, ▪ Summary report on SNC <p><u>Progress Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Project Progress Reports for 2008 ▪ Annual Project Work Plan ▪ Quarterly Progress Reports to GEF ▪ 2 questionnaires on the status of implementation of the Second National Communication
<p>List the Website address (URL) of project.</p>	<p>n/a</p>

2. Progress towards addressing project priorities and in delivering expected products

Questionnaire on Status of Implementation of National Communication Project.

Rating of Project Progress

	<i>2009 Rating</i>	<i>Comments²</i>
National Project Manager/Coordinator	S	<p>Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few which are subject to remedial action.</p> <p>Following sections of the draft SNC have been prepared: national circumstances, GHG Inventory for 1990-2005, climate scenarios, Vulnerability and Adaptation, mitigation, public awareness.</p> <p>During the year the project continued to build partnership with sectoral ministries and sensitized them on the climate change issues. In particular, the mitigation group closely collaborated with the Ministry of Industry and Energy. This collaboration played a positive role in the Ministry's decision to establish a National Agency on Alternative Energy Sources.</p> <p>The awareness raising efforts resulted in the introduction of the Climate Change course into the curriculum of natural sciences faculties at the Azerbaijan's State University.</p> <p>Official statistical data available in the country do not comply with the IPCC accepted format. To overcome this obstacle the project team has to involve experts from relevant sectors and rely of the experts' assessments. The project team has also developed national coefficients that will be used in the future.</p>
UNDP Country Office	MS	<p>Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.</p> <p>While the project has produced the expected deliverables and the quality of the draft SNC</p>

² Comment on the rating for 2008 and also on any observable trends from 2006 – 2008.

		<p>represents improvement compared to the Initial Communication, the project team did not comply with the timeline for completion of the project as was discussed and agreed at the Steering Committee meetings. The project team should urgently concentrate on the finalization of the draft SNC.</p> <p>Building on the results of the SNC, UNDP is about to start the Regional Climate Impacts project, with participation of the three South Caucasian countries. The project will improve understanding of the regional climate change impacts and risks by comparing climate change scenarios outputs received by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, make necessary adjustments. The project results will be critical for addressing the existing uncertainties with regard to the climate change risks facing the region.</p>
UNDP Regional Technical Advisor	S	<p>The project has delivered its outputs and moved towards the finalization. Its overall performance is therefore satisfactory. The project experienced delays and has not complied with an agreed timeframe. However, it had proactively sought for external feedback from the RCU and NCSP and strived to improve the final result. The project will receive the top-up resources from the Environment and Security initiative of UNDP in order to facilitate the scenario related consultations across the three countries of the South Caucasus and address some of the technical difficulties in relation to climate and socio-economic scenarios. This additional exercise will play an important role in refining the V&A analysis during the TNC. These top-up funds however, should not delay the finalization of SNC report and its submission to the Secretariat. Finalisation of the report should be prioritized and completed as per the Steering Committee recommendation.</p>

Action Plan to Address Marginally Unsatisfactory, Unsatisfactory or Highly Unsatisfactory Rating

Where a rating of MU, U or HU is noted above describe the actions to be taken to address this:

<i>Action to be Taken</i>	<i>By Whom?</i>	<i>By When?</i>
N/A	N/A	N/A

3. Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project or the project work schedule has been adjusted since project approval please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes.

<i>Change</i>	<i>Reason for Change</i>	<i>Scope of delay (in months)</i>
Change of the end date	<p>The delay in completing the project as schedules is caused by several reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the time of the project start there was no capacity existent in the country for the application of PRECIS regional climate model. More time than anticipated initially, was spent on running the climate change models. Hence, output from climate scenarios group was delayed with a cascading effect on the work of the Vulnerability and Adaptation group. 2. Second major delay occurred in the process of finalizing the SNC by addressing the recommendations of the international consultant who reviewed draft SNC. 3. More time than planned was spent on data collection for the GHG inventory, mitigation and vulnerability assessment. Data collection is a challenging task as in many cases, data were not readily available and had to be obtained through surveys and extrapolations. 4. Due to UNDP procurement rules and procedures, more time was spent to hire national and international consultants. 	12 months

4. Financial Information: cumulative since project started to 30 June 2009.

<i>Name of Contributor</i>	<i>Amount committed in Project Document³ US\$</i>	<i>Estimated Total Disbursement to 30 June 2009 US\$</i>	<i>Expected Total Disbursement by end of project US\$</i>
GEF Contribution	420,000	409,000	420,000

5. Good Practice in this reporting period.

Were any problems encountered? If so, how were they addressed?

<i>Problem</i>	<i>Solution</i>
Absence of long term forecasts and integrated concept of economic development in Azerbaijan impede long term emission reduction forecasting that are required for the mitigation analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is planned to address this problem during coming years in consultation with experts of the Ministry of Economic Development. The solution lies beyond the control of the project.
The working group on the Adaptation faced some difficulties as data on some regions of the country were not considered reliable. The data generated by the PRECIS regional climate model reflected only 1 out of 4 possible scenarios (three other scenarios were applied in other countries of the region). Unfortunately, there was no opportunity for cross-checking the results of all scenarios.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Along with the data generated by the modeling, experts projections were used to assess the vulnerability and develop adaptation measures. At the same time, we hope that as a follow-up to this project there will be an opportunity to overcome the existing uncertainties.

General Comments:

Is there anything noteworthy/special/critical that was learned this year that is important to share with other projects so they can avoid this mistake/make use of this opportunity?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building partnership with relevant institutions to help achieving progress and better results such as Ministry of Industry and Energy; Ministry of Agriculture, Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of the Ministry of Health, State Oil Company etc. Exchanging experience and good practices with other national communication teams of the region is key to the national communication preparation; Participation in international workshops and other forums helps not only in capacity building and development but is a way to exchange experience, lessons learnt and good practices with the colleagues from the region and sub-region;
--

³ Committed amounts are those shown in the approved Project Document. In the case of national communication enabling activities, the total amount would be \$420,000 in most cases (e.g. \$15,000 for the self-assessment + \$405,000 for the project)

- Raising awareness of all stakeholders is key to their involvement in the process of integration of the climate change issues into national development planning and strategies. (This is the case of the inclusion of the climate change into the university curricula after a round of trainings held from the national communication team of experts with the lecturers from universities).

What would you do differently if you were to begin the project again?

We would have given more realistic estimation of the duration of the project and would have extended it by 10-12 months.

More attention should be given to the high level awareness raising and advocacy work to lobby for the development of the national climate change strategy and integration of the climate change issues into national/sectoral plans and programmes.

More critical approach to selection of experts.