Closure Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved	
Overall Rating:	Highly Satisfactory
Decision:	
Portfolio/Project Number:	00085866
Portfolio/Project Title:	CLME+ SAP
Portfolio/Project Date:	2015-01-26 / 2021-12-31

Strategic

Quality Rating: Exemplary

1. Did the project pro-actively identified changes to the external environment and incorporated them into the project strategy?

- 3: The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives, assumptions were tested to determine if the project's strategy was valid. There is some evidence that the project board considered the implications, and documented the changes needed to the project in response. (all must be true)
- 2: The project team identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives. There is some evidence that the project board discussed this, but relevant changes did not fully integrate in the project. (both must be true)
- 1: The project team considered relevant changes in the external environment since implementation began, but there is no evidence that the project team considered these changes to the project as a result.

Through Smartsheet software, the project followed u p the project milestones. Any relevant change, coul d it be internal or external was assessed by the PM U, and discussed in order to see how it could affect t he project planning. When relevant, opportunities a nd threats were presented to the PSC for their consi deration and approval in case of changes in what ha s been planned. As evidence the resolutions of the PSC can be reviewed.

List of Uploaded Documents

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No	documents available.		

2. Was the project aligned with the thematic focus of the Strategic Plan?

- 3: The project responded to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan (SP) and adopted at least one Signature Solution .The project's RRF included all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)
- 2: The project responded to at least one of the developments settings1 as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF included at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)
- 1: While the project may have responded to a partner's identified need, this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

Evidence:

The project contributed directly and indirectly to the 3 macro-level development settings of the UNDP SP 2018-2021: eradicating poverty, supporting the grow th of sustainable economies, and strengthening resilience to shocks and crisis. As we

Il as adopted at least 5 of the 6 signature solutions (except energy), all this mainstreamed in the project results framework. See the final results of the projec t in the final report attached.

-	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	20211109-FinalImplementationReport_10740 _302 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQ A/QAFormDocuments/20211109-FinalImple mentationReport_10740_302.docx)	anamaria.nunez@undp.org	11/22/2021 5:09:00 PM

Relevant

Quality Rating: Exemplary

3. Were the project's targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, to ensure the project remained relevant for them?

- 3: Systematic and structured feedback was collected over the project duration from a representative sample of beneficiaries, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, as part of the project's monitoring system. Representatives from the targeted groups were active members of the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) and there is credible evidence that their feedback informs project decision making. (all must be true)
- 2: Targeted groups were engaged in implementation and monitoring, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized. Beneficiary feedback, which may be anecdotal, was collected regularly to ensure the project addressed local priorities. This information was used to inform project decision making. (all must be true to select this option)

1: Some beneficiary feedback may have been collected, but this information did not inform project decision making. This option should also be selected if no beneficiary feedback was collected

Not Applicable

As CLME+ is a regional project, with regional appro ach and results, not specific target groups were defi ned, beyond the countries and IGOs involved.

With an extra cooperation from the Government of C anada, targeted applications were done in term of g ender mainstreaming. The final report of this interve ntion is attached as evidence.

In any case, although the project approach was regi onal, every single feedback from National Focal Poi nts, as well as from IGOs was collected and duly pro cessed and presented during the PSC meetings. A great example of such feedback management is the last PSC meeting minute in which the final text to cr eate the CLME+ Regional Coordination Mechanism was agreed between countries and IGOs (attached).

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	PSCOctober2021report_10740_303 (https://i ntranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDo cuments/PSCOctober2021report_10740_30 3.docx)	anamaria.nunez@undp.org	11/22/2021 5:27:00 PM
2	20210308Gendermainstreamingend-of-proje ctreport_10740_303 (https://intranet.undp.or g/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/20210 308Gendermainstreamingend-of-projectrepor t_10740_303.docx)	anamaria.nunez@undp.org	11/22/2021 5:21:00 PM

4. Did the project generate knowledge, and lessons learned (i.e., what has worked and what has not) and has this knowledge informed management decisions to ensure the continued relevance of the project towards its stated objectives, the quality of its outputs and the management of risk?

- S: Knowledge and lessons learned from internal or external sources (gained, for example, from Peer Assists, After Action Reviews or Lessons Learned Workshops) backed by credible evidence from evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, analysis and monitoring were discussed in project board meetings and reflected in the minutes. There is clear evidence that changes were made to the project to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)
- 2: Knowledge and lessons learned backed by relatively limited evidence, drawn mainly from within the project, were considered by the project team. There is some evidence that changes were made to the project as a result to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)
- 1: There is limited or no evidence that knowledge and lessons learned were collected by the project team.
 There is little or no evidence that this informed project decision making.

The project used the UNOPS platform to record less ons learned (evidence attached). Based on the prev ious, it can be said that the project clearly assessed and applied the lessons learned and good practices along implementation. All this was applied in the dai ly planning and operation, and if changes were need ed, they were presented for the PSC approval. In terms of knowledge management, although the pr

oject did not prepared a document called 'sustainabil ity strategy', many actions were carried out to guara ntee the project sustainability in time. One of such a ctions were the knowledge management with key pr oducts and documents of the project which are avail able permanently online. The CLME+ Project websit e is available at clmeproject.org and provides inform ation specific to the project, including all documents prepared for Project Steering Committee Meetings a nd a Results Dashboard that lists the main results of the project per component, with links to the relevant outputs and deliverables. Both meetings documents and dashboard can be accessed through the project intranet at:

https://www.clmeproject.org/intranet/

Password: CLME+

In addition, many documents listed in the Results Da shboard are also made available in the CLME+ Hub Documents Library. In order to filter-out documents f rom the CLME+ Project, please select "CLME+" und er the "Featured Projects and Organizations" option i n the search menu.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	Lessonlog-CLMEProject_10740_304 (https:// intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormD ocuments/Lessonlog-CLMEProject_10740_3 04.xlsx)	anamaria.nunez@undp.org	11/22/2021 9:41:00 PM

5. Was the project sufficiently at scale, or is there potential to scale up in the future, to meaningfully contribute to development change?

- 3: There was credible evidence that the project reached sufficient number of beneficiaries (either directly through significant coverage of target groups, or indirectly, through policy change) to meaningfully contribute to development change.
- 2: While the project was not considered at scale, there are explicit plans in place to scale up the project in the future (e.g. by extending its coverage or using project results to advocate for policy change).
- 1: The project was not at scale, and there are no plans to scale up the project in the future.

Evidence:

The project reached the expected beneficiaries, but most importantly it has created the basis for the crea tion of a Regional Coordination Mechanism, which w ill be in charge of the SAP implementation and updat e, as well as other important issues around the regio n, beyond what was covered by the project. See the final MOU for the creation of the Regional Coordinati on Mechanism agreed by countries and IGOs in the last PSC meeting, which is currently reconciling the I anguages (SP and FR) to proceed with signatures.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	211004-CoordinationMechanismdraftMoUEN SP_10740_305 (https://intranet.undp.org/app s/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/211004-Co ordinationMechanismdraftMoUENSP_10740 _305.docx)	anamaria.nunez@undp.org	11/22/2021 5:48:00 PM

Principled

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

6. Were the project's measures (through outputs, activities, indicators) to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant and produced the intended effect? If not, evidence-based adjustments and changes were made.

- 3: The project team gathered data and evidence through project monitoring on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. Analysis of data and evidence were used to inform adjustments and changes, as appropriate. (both must be true)
- 2: The project team had some data and evidence on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. There is evidence that at least some adjustments were made, as appropriate. (both must be true)
- 1: The project team had limited or no evidence on the relevance of measures to address gender inequalities and empowering women. No evidence of adjustments and/or changes made. This option should also be selected if the project has no measures to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant to the project results and activities.

Evidence:

The project counted with extra support by the Canad ian Government to mainstream gender issues in targ eted countries. See above the final report of such in terventions.

The PMU tracked the mentioned intervention and w hen needed adjustments were made.

For the project in general, the PMU was requested t o report on gender mainstreaming during PIRs base d on some data and evidence to address gender ine qualities and empower women.

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7. Were social and environmental impacts and risks successfully managed and monitored?

- Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed for identified risks through consultative process and implemented, resourced, and monitored. Risks effectively managed or mitigated. If there is a substantive change to the project or change in context that affects risk levels, the SESP was updated to reflect these changes. (all must be true)
- 2: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed, implemented and monitored for identified risks. OR project was categorized as Low risk through the SESP.
- 1: Social and environmental risks were tracked in the risk log. For projects categorized as High or Moderate Risk, there was no evidence that social and environmental assessments completed and/or management plans or measures development, implemented or monitored. There are substantive changes to the project or changes in the context but SESP was not updated. (any may be true)

The social and environmental risks were tracked in t he risk log. As the SESP was medium risk, no extra assessments or management plans were required. No updates were required in the SESP and all risks were managed as planned.

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8. Were grievance mechanisms available to project-affected people and were grievances (if any) addressed to ensure any perceived harm was effectively mitigated?

- 3: Project-affected people actively informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism (SRM/SECU) and how to access it. If the project was categorized as High or Moderate Risk through the SESP, a project -level grievance mechanism was in place and project affected people informed. If grievances were received, they were effectively addressed in accordance with SRM Guidance. (all must be true)
- 2: Project-affected people informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism and how to access it. If the project was categorized as High Risk through the SESP, a project -level grievance mechanism was in place and project affected people informed. If grievances were received, they were responded to but faced challenges in arriving at a resolution.
- 1: Project-affected people was not informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism. If grievances were received, they were not responded to. (any may be true)

U 0\	ne partners of this project were informed about the NDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism and w to access it, during the inception workshop. Ur	h htil	
	osure, no grievances were received by the project		
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3: The project had a comprehensive and costed M&E plan. Baselines, targets and milestones were fully populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was reported regularly using credible data sources and collected according to the frequency stated in the Plan, including sex disaggregated data as relevant. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, fully meet decentralized evaluation standards, including gender UNEG standards. Lessons learned, included during evaluations and/or After-Action Reviews, were used to take corrective actions when necessary. (all must be true)

- 2: The project costed M&E Plan, and most baselines and targets were populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF was collected on a regular basis, although there was may be some slippage in following the frequency stated in the Plan and data sources was not always reliable. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, met most decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were captured but were used to take corrective actions. (all must be true)
- 1: The project had M&E Plan, but costs were not clearly planned and budgeted for, or were unrealistic. Progress data was not regularly collected against the indicators in the project's RRF. Evaluations did not meet decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned were rarely captured and used. Select this option also if the project did not have an M&E plan.

The PMU used SmartSheet software for the M&E of this project, complemented by TTs, financial manage ment and PIRs. Baselines, targets and milestones w ere fully populated in a regular basis and when requi red RRF progress was reported regularly with evide nce and sex disaggregation, as relevant. The projec t was evaluated obtaining good results, as evidence is the TE which obtained a Satisfactory rating. Finall y, as the project tracked the lessons learned in the U NOPS platform (see the evidence above), every sin gle lessons was applied to improve the planning in t he project and guaranteeing the completion of result s, as well as the sustainability in time.

As evidence, pls find the final TTs attached and the f inal PIR. The above uploaded final report includes al I the achievements in the project.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	PSCOctober2021report1_10740_309 (http s://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFor mDocuments/PSCOctober2021report1_1074 0_309.docx)	anamaria.nunez@undp.org	11/22/2021 6:33:00 PM
2	20211021RevisedCLMEAnnex11-GEFIWTra ckingToolfinal_10740_309 (https://intranet.un dp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2 0211021RevisedCLMEAnnex11-GEFIWTrac kingToolfinal_10740_309.xlsx)	anamaria.nunez@undp.org	11/22/2021 6:33:00 PM
3	2020GEFPIRforproject5247submitted_10740 _309 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQ A/QAFormDocuments/2020GEFPIRforprojec t5247submitted_10740_309.msg)	anamaria.nunez@undp.org	11/22/2021 6:34:00 PM

10. Was the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) function as intended?

- 3: The project's governance mechanism operated well, and was a model for other projects. It met in the agreed frequency stated in the project document and the minutes of the meetings were all on file. There was regular (at least annual) progress reporting to the project board or equivalent on results, risks and opportunities. It is clear that the project board explicitly reviewed and used evidence, including progress data, knowledge, lessons and evaluations, as the basis for informing management decisions (e.g., change in strategy, approach, work plan.) (all must be true to select this option)
- 2: The project's governance mechanism met in the agreed frequency and minutes of the meeting are on file. A project progress report was submitted to the project board or equivalent at least once per year, covering results, risks and opportunities. (both must be true to select this option)
- 1: The project's governance mechanism did not meet in the frequency stated in the project document over the past year and/or the project board or equivalent was not functioning as a decision-making body for the project as intended.

Evidence:

The project had a very active PSC. PSC met at leas t once per year, following the defined ToRs for its fun ctioning. The PSC reviewed project progress, knowl edge management, risks, results, opportunities, less ons, evaluations, and others. It was involved in man agement decisions as work plan, budget, strategic is sues and other required to guarantee the completion of the project, as expected.

How the PSC was managed in this project can be co nsidered as a model, which was proposed as examp le for other initiatives at UNDP.

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No documents available.

11. Were risks to the project adequately monitored and managed?

- 3: The project monitored risks every quarter and consulted with the key stakeholders, security advisors, to identify continuing and emerging risks to assess if the main assumptions remained valid. There is clear evidence that relevant management plans and mitigating measures were fully implemented to address each key project risk and were updated to reflect the latest risk assessment. (all must be true)
- 2: The project monitored risks every year, as evidenced by an updated risk log. Some updates were made to management plans and mitigation measures.
- 1: The risk log was not updated as required. There was may be some evidence that the project monitored risks that may affected the project's achievement of results, but there is no explicit evidence that management actions were taken to mitigate risks.

The project duly tracked the risks and project duly tracked the risks and project duly tracked the risks and the project of th	lated continuously t	
register the mitigation actions pr	oposed.	
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12. Adequate resources were mobilized to achieve intended results. If not, management decisions were adjust expected results in the project's results framework. Yes No Evidence: Extra resources were mobilized for gender mainstre aming, activities in particular that were not included i n the GEF Prodoc. For the GEF Prodoc, no extra re sources were required. List of Uploaded Documents # File Name Modified By Modified Optimized For a contract of the formation o	e taken to
No Evidence: Extra resources were mobilized for gender mainstre aming, activities in particular that were not included i n the GEF Prodoc. For the GEF Prodoc, no extra re sources were required. List of Uploaded Documents	
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aming, activities in particular that were not included i n the GEF Prodoc. For the GEF Prodoc, no extra re sources were required.	
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3. Were project inputs procured and delivered on time to efficiently contribute to results?	
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- 3: The project had a procurement plan and kept it updated. The project quarterly reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)
- 2: The project had updated procurement plan. The project annually reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addressed them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)
- 1: The project did not have an updated procurement plan. The project team may or may not have reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs regularly, however management actions were not taken to address them.

PMU continuously tracked the procurement plan, sp ecially with IGOs which were in charge of implement ing part of the project. Any bottleneck or risk was pre sented during the PSC meetings, in order to take the actions needed to guarantee the completion of the p roject as expected.

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14. Was there regular monitoring and recording of cost efficiencies, taking into account the expected quality of results?

- 3: There is evidence that the project regularly reviewed costs against relevant comparators (e.g., other projects or country offices) or industry benchmarks to ensure the project maximized results delivered with given resources. The project actively coordinated with other relevant ongoing projects and initiatives (UNDP or other) to ensure complementarity and sought efficiencies wherever possible (e.g. joint activities.) (both must be true)
- 2: The project monitored its own costs and gave anecdotal examples of cost efficiencies (e.g., spending less to get the same result,) but there was no systematic analysis of costs and no link to the expected quality of results delivered. The project coordinated activities with other projects to achieve cost efficiency gains.
- 1: There is little or no evidence that the project monitored its own costs and considered ways to save money beyond following standard procurement rules.

Evidence:

Procurement policies and procedures from UNOPS as Implementing Partner were applied for this projec t, guaranteeing the best value for money.

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No documents available.					

Effective	Quality Rating: Exemplary	
15. Was the project on track and delivered its expected	d outputs?	
YesNo		
Evidence:		
See the final report attached above as evidence.		
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No documents available.		

16. Were there regular reviews of the work plan to ensure that the project was on track to achieve the desired results, and to inform course corrections if needed?

- 3: Quarterly progress data informed regular reviews of the project work plan to ensure that the activities implemented were most likely to achieve the desired results. There is evidence that data and lessons learned (including from evaluations /or After-Action Reviews) were used to inform course corrections, as needed. Any necessary budget revisions were made. (both must be true)
- 2: There was at least one review of the work plan per year with a view to assessing if project activities were on track to achieving the desired development results (i.e., outputs.) There may or may not be evidence that data or lessons learned were used to inform the review(s). Any necessary budget revisions have been made.
- 1: While the project team may have reviewed the work plan at least once over the past year to ensure outputs were delivered on time, no link was made to the delivery of desired development results. Select this option also if no review of the work plan by management took place.

RTA provided a quarterly oversight of te inancial progress in the project. When in ns were applied to guarantee the impler he annual work plans.	needed actio	
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17. Were the targeted groups systematically identified and engaged, prioritizing the marginalized and excluded, to ensure results were achieved as expected?

- 3: The project targeted specific groups and/or geographic areas, identified by using credible data sources on their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. There is clear evidence that the targeted groups were reached as intended. The project engaged regularly with targeted groups over the past year to assess whether they benefited as expected and adjustments were made if necessary, to refine targeting. (all must be true)
- 2: The project targeted specific groups and/or geographic areas, based on some evidence of their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work.
 Some evidence is provided to confirm that project beneficiaries are members of the targeted groups. There was some engagement with beneficiaries in the past year to assess whether they were benefiting as expected. (all must be true)
- 1: The project did not report on specific targeted groups. There is no evidence to confirm that project beneficiaries are populations have capacity needs or are deprived and/or excluded from development opportunities relevant to the project area of work. There is some engagement with beneficiaries to assess whether they benefited as expected, but it was limited or did not occurred in the past year.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

As indicated above, the project has a more regional approach, no target groups were defined for this proj ect.

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sta	inability & National Ownership	Quality Rating	g: Exemplary
	Nere stakeholders and national partners f project?	ully engaged in the decisior	n-making, implementation and monitoring
	monitor the project. All relevant stakehold playing a lead role in project decision-ma		
	 2: National systems (i.e., procurement, m project (such as country office support or stakeholders and partners were actively making, implementation and monitoring. 1: There was relatively limited or no enga making, implementation and/or monitoring. Not Applicable 	nonitoring, evaluation, etc.) project systems) were also engaged in the process, pla (both must be true) agement with national stake	were used to implement and monitor the o used, if necessary. All relevant aying an active role in project decision-
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A d, ly pi	project (such as country office support or stakeholders and partners were actively making, implementation and monitoring. 1: There was relatively limited or no enga making, implementation and/or monitorin <i>Not Applicable</i> idence: s a regional project, no national systems of but all relevant stakeholders and partner and actively engaged in the implementation roject, playing a lead role in project decision	nonitoring, evaluation, etc.) project systems) were also engaged in the process, pla (both must be true) agement with national stake og of the project. were use s were ful ion of the	were used to implement and monitor the o used, if necessary. All relevant aying an active role in project decision-

No documents available.

19. Were there regular monitoring of changes in capacities and performance of institutions and systems relevant to the project, as needed, and were the implementation arrangements⁸ adjusted according to changes in partner capacities?

- 3: Changes in capacities and performance of national institutions and systems were assessed/monitored using clear indicators, rigorous methods of data collection and credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Implementation arrangements were formally reviewed and adjusted, if needed, in agreement with partners according to changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)
- 2: Aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems were monitored by the project using indicators and reasonably credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Some adjustment was made to implementation arrangements if needed to reflect changes in partner capacities. (all must be true)
- 1: Some aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems may have been monitored by the project, however changes to implementation arrangements have not been considered. Also select this option if changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems have not been monitored by the project.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

As this project is implemented by UNOPS, their polic ies and procedures were used in monitoring the cap acities and performance of partner institutions in this project.

List of Uploaded Documents

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No documents available.

20. Were the transition and phase-out arrangements were reviewed and adjusted according to progress (including financial commitment and capacity).

- 3: The project's governance mechanism regularly reviewed the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan. The plan was implemented as planned by the end of the project, taking into account any adjustments made during implementation. (both must be true)
- 2: There was a review of the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project remained on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan.
- 1: The project may have had a sustainability plan but there was no review of this strategy after it was developed. Also select this option if the project did not have a sustainability strategy.

The PSC had in the last two years of implementation a continuous update about the sustainability strategy of the project. When needed adjustments were don e to guarantee that sustainability was guaranteed. P lease check the sustainability actions in the correspo ndent item in the final report.

List of Uploaded Documents

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No documents available.

QA Summary/Final Project Board Comments

The project has finished its activities as expected on 31 Oct. 2021, obtaining a Satisfactory rating in the TE, agreeing the final text of the MoU for the creation of the regional coordination mechanism, extending the ICM and obtaining th e approval of a new project to give continuity to the CLME+ activities. From the final report, programmatically 93.4% was implemented and 99% was executed financially.