Closure Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved	
Overall Rating:	Satisfactory
Decision:	
Portfolio/Project Number:	00102216
Portfolio/Project Title:	Minamata initial assessment
Portfolio/Project Date:	2017-01-01 / 2019-06-30

Strategic

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

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.

Changes analysis was implemented by the Project o n regular basis throughout the project implementatio n to timely identify and follow the contextual and nati onal priorities changes with new opportunities to the project's ability to achieve its objectives and scale u p it's achievements.

As such the review was prepared for existing of nati onal legislation on mercury handling (managing) and the assessment of the existing regulatory legal acts i n the field of mercury handling was made.

The following recommendations were prepared on t he required changes and amendments to the legislat ion for the purposes of ratification of the Minamata C onvention on Mercury

Report was prepared on determination of roles and responsible parties on mercury management issues.
Key parties on the treatment and management of m ercury were considered and assessed. Recommend ations on their institutional interaction are submitted.
Proposals were prepared for inclusion in strategic documents, legislative and regulatory acts of additio ns to mercury management issues.

All these activities allowed to identify new opportuniti es to expand the project's objectives within the next project on strengthening the national capacity of the Republic of Kazakhstan to regulate chemicals throu gh ensuring compliance with obligations under intern ational multilateral environmental agreements.

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2. Wa	as the project aligned with the thematic focus of t	he Strategic Plan?		
	3: The project responded to at least one of the de adopted at least one Signature Solution .The pro must be true)	1 0 1	0 ()	
	2: The project responded to at least one of the d project's RRF included at least one SP output inc	, ,	0	

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.

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ev es	reement and other international agreeme elopment plans and budgets, and to analy s towards the SDGs, using innovative and n solutions".	/se progr	
ut ov	e project clearly responded to Strategic P "1.1.1 Capacities developed across the w ernment to integrate the 2030 Agenda, th	hole of g e Paris	

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)

In the second second

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

Three targeted groups were identified as the most v ulnerable from the effects of mercury: the unborn chi ldren, small children and people who are regularly e xposed (chronic exposure) to high levels of mercury (such as populations that rely on subsistence fishin g, people who are exposed through their occupation s (e.g. mercury mining) or those exposed to mercury containing products.

As mercury is passed on from the mother to the chil d (in utero and during breastfeeding), and fetuses an d children are most susceptible to developmental eff ects from mercury, the MIA paid particular attention t o assessing national capacity to keep such risk grou ps safe.

Recommendations on how to address gender dimen sions related to mercury and priority actions in this a rea were also highlighted in the MIA report.

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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 data collection including accumulation of knowle dge and lessons learnt were initially identified amon g the main project results to be achieved. Througho ut its implementation the project used official statistic al information (annual reports of governmental bodie s).On top of this the project initiated direct communic ation with the potential emitters to send the official re quests to the interested organisations. Representati ves of industrial enterprises had a neutral attitude to ratification of the Minamata Convention and ignored project's requested. To change the attitudes, the proj ect conducted a number of workshops for represent atives of industrial enterprises, explaining the neces sity of ratification of Minamata convention and neces sary measures. These capacity building activities re sulted in the intensive cooperation with the industry with more than 300 responses for the project's requ ests with practical information. This information beca me the basis for the 2-nd level of mercury inventory i n the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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

③ 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.

Achievements of the project allowed to scale up its r esults within the forthcoming the new project on che micals . The main objective of this new project is to s upport the country efforts in strengthening the capac ity to implement an integrated approach to the mana gement of chemicals at the national level to effective ly implement the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam C onventions, Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemi cals Management (SAICM) and promote the ratificati on of the Minamata Convention. achieve Sustainabl e Development Goal №12 of Agenda 2030. This main objective will be achieved through improv

ed interagency coordination among government age ncies, improvement of the legislative base for intern ational multilateral environmental agreements (MEA s), capacity building and stakeholder information on chemical safety, a system for the classification and I abelling of chemicals.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	ProjectBoardMinutes_July2019_472_305 (htt ps://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFor mDocuments/ProjectBoardMinutes_July2019 _472_305.pdf)	zhanetta.babasheva@undp.org	9/30/2019 1:36:00 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.

The project team regulary gathered data and eviden ce on the relevance of the measures to address gen der inequalities and empower women through the or ganization of gender focused events and side sectio ns within all events, organized within the project acti vities. For example:

- A round table entitled «Chemical and Hazardous W astes: Integrating Gender Aspects into Safe Handlin g» was held as part of the GEWR'18 Green Growth Forum. During the Round Table, many factors affecti ng health of the population, especially women and c hildren were discussed. Promotion of the gender poli cy in the field of safe handling of chemical and hazar dous wastes has not been raised up to this day. One of the results of the Round Table was the possibility of including such session as a permanent componen t of the program of the annual Forum".

- At the seminar in Pavlodar (November 2018), a rou nd table was held on «The Role of Central Asian Wo men in Preventing Mercury Pollution of Lake Balkyld ak effects on the health of women and children in Pa vlodar region». Global gender policy and gender mai nstreaming in environmental issues at the local level were considered. An active discussion took place on advancing gender equality in the issues of public he alth and welfare and measures were proposed to pr event the effects of mercury pollution of Lake Balkyl dak on the health of women and children.

- A video clip was shot called «Equal opportunities». It encompasses issues on gender in chemicals and chemical safety.

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

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е	roject was rated as Low risk through the SESP. Th risks were visited regularly in Atlas. No major risks ere identified throughout the project implementatic	S	
Evi	in the context but SESP was not updated. (any m		
	1: Social and environmental risks were tracked in Risk, there was no evidence that social and envir or measures development, implemented or monit	onmental assessments complet	ted and/or management pla
	required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact A social and environmental assessment for Modera management plan(s) developed, implemented an Low risk through the SESP.	ate risk projects as identified thro d monitored for identified risks.	ough SESP). Relevant OR project was categorize
	2: Social and environmental risks were tracked in		
	management plan(s) developed for identified risks and monitored. Risks effectively managed or mitig in context that affects risk levels, the SESP was u	gated. If there is a substantive c	hange to the project or cha
		- · ·	and implemented, reso

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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)
- I: 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)

Evidence:

All the project stakeholders and beneficiaries were ti mely informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism during the meetings at the working level.

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Management & Monitoring	Quality Rating: Satisfactory
9. Was the project's M&E Plan adequately implement	ented?
populated. Progress data against indicators in sources and collected according to the freque relevant. Any evaluations conducted, if releva gender UNEG standards. Lessons learned, in used to take corrective actions when necessa	
indicators in the project's RRF was collected following the frequency stated in the Plan and	aselines and targets were populated. Progress data against on a regular basis, although there was may be some slippage in d data sources was not always reliable. Any evaluations d evaluation standards. Lessons learned were captured but were
 1: The project had M&E Plan, but costs were Progress data was not regularly collected aga 	not clearly planned and budgeted for, or were unrealistic. ainst the indicators in the project's RRF. Evaluations did not meet learned were rarely captured and used. Select this option also if
Evidence:	
The project has developed and followed M&E P All monitoring activities were implemented in lin h UNDP monitoring policy. The project regularly updated risks and issues le n Atlas project management module. No major risks and issues were identified. All annual reports were timely prepared and rep d during the annual Project Board meetings. The project was evaluated as a part of the relate PD Outcome evaluation as well as ICPE evaluated	e wit ogs i porte ed C

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1	UNDPKazakhstanCPDOutcomeEvaluationR eport_472_309 (https://intranet.undp.org/app s/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/UNDPKaza khstanCPDOutcomeEvaluationReport_472_ 309.pdf)	zhanetta.babasheva@undp.org	9/30/2019 1:35:00 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:

A detailed schedule of project reviews meetings was developed by the project management, in consultati on with project implementation partners and stakeho lder representatives and incorporated in the Project I nception Report. All the meetings were organized in accordance with a schedule for Steering Committee Meetings within the adopted advisory and coordinati on mechanisms. The project board was the steering group that provided the forum for participation by mu Itiple actors and their engagement in all phases of pr eparation of the project, including active roles within the Project Board in order to steer the project imple mentation parallel to national circumstances related to this thematic area.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	ProjectBoardMinutes_472_310 (https://intran et.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocum ents/ProjectBoardMinutes_472_310.pdf)	zhanetta.babasheva@undp.org	9/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

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.

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a qua No m	er monitored and updated the risks quarterly on arterly basis in Atlas. najor risks were identified during the project imp ntation.		

ficie	ent	Quality Rating: Exemplary	
	dequate resources were mobilized to achieve in st expected results in the project's results framew		decisions were taken to
-	Yes No		
Evi	dence:		
an	ne project mobilised sufficient resources committed allocated by GEF for the entire cycle of the pro		
ec	t lifespan.		
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- S: 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.

Evidence:

The procurement plan was developed on annual bas is and updated on a monthly basis. The operational bottlenecks were reviewed and addressed in a timel y manner.

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No documents available.

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

- S: 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:

The cost efficiency is ensured through thorough plan ning of the project results and costs mainly based on the lessons learnt and best practices of other project s in the country office. The project regularly monitore d planned vs expended costs through Atlas reports. The project prepared it procurement plan on annual basis and monitored its implementation on a monthl y basis to ensure efficient and effective financial proj ect management.

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ect	ive	Quality Rating: Sa	tisfactory
5. V	Vas the project on track and deliver	ed its expected outputs?	
	Yes No		
=VI	dence:		
Tŀ	ne project was on track and all plan		
Th er			
Th er	ne project was on track and all plan e completed on time. All planned pl		
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Li:	ne project was on track and all planne e completed on time. All planned pre- ere fully achieved as scheduled. st of Uploaded Documents File Name documents available. Vere there regular reviews of the work ts, and to inform course corrections 3: Quarterly progress data informer implemented were most likely to ack (including from evaluations /or After necessary budget revisions were most 2: There was at least one review of track to achieving the desired devie or lessons learned were used to inter-	Modified By Modified By Modified By Modified By dregular reviews of the project work pl chieve the desired results. There is evid wr-Action Reviews) were used to inform nade. (both must be true) f the work plan per year with a view to a	on track to achieve the desired an to ensure that the activities dence that data and lessons learned course corrections, as needed. Any assessing if project activities were on may or may not be evidence that data get revisions have been made.

Evidence:

The Project monitored its Annual work plans and ac hievement of relevant indicators to ensure the Proje ct's objectives to be delivered in line with the approv ed plans. To overcome emerging challenges and to r espond to changes in the development context the P roject quarterly revisited the annual work plans, indic ators achievement plan to adjust it accordingly.

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1	AWP2019Minamata_472_316 (https://intrane t.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocume nts/AWP2019Minamata_472_316.pdf)	nina.gor@undp.org	8/14/2019 11:52:00 AM

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

Generally, three groups are most vulnerable from th e effects of mercury. The unborn child, small childre n and people who are regularly exposed (chronic ex posure) to high levels of mercury (such as populatio ns that rely on subsistence fishing, people who are e xposed through their occupations (e.g. mercury mini ng, ASGM) or those exposed to mercury containing products.

As mercury is passed on from the mother to the chil d (in utero and during breastfeeding), and fetuses an d children are most susceptible to developmental eff ects from mercury, the MIA paid particular attention t o assessing national capacity to keep such risk grou ps safe.

Recommendations on how to address gender dimen sions related to mercury and priority actions in this a rea were also highlighted in the MIA report.

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Sustainability & National Ownership	Quality Rating: Satisfactory
18. Were stakeholders and national partners fully engather the project?	ged in the decision-making, implementation and monitoring of
 monitor the project. All relevant stakeholders and playing a lead role in project decision-making, imp 2: National systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring project (such as country office support or project s stakeholders and partners were actively engaged making, implementation and monitoring. (both multiplementation and monitoring) 	g, evaluation, etc.) were used to implement and monitor the systems) were also used, if necessary. All relevant in the process, playing an active role in project decision- est be true) with national stakeholders and partners in the decision-

	, and assessment of the an dent evaluation of the procu		
	DP provided the support in		
one and a	versight activities as outline	d in the ProDo	
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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

The changes with which the project contributed to th e national system would include compilation of offici al information and inventories and creating capacitie s within the existing system in order to appropriately deal with obligations brought on by the convention. For example, for strengthening of capacity and awar eness of stakeholders in the field of mercury and ch emicals, as well as the presentation of the Project, t he following activities were carried out:

-In collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, a worki ng meeting was held with associations of environme ntal stakeholders to determine the impact of the ratifi cation of the Minamata Convention on industries in t he Republic of Kazakhstan.

- Together with the Ministry of Energy and RSE «Info rmation and Analytical Center», seminars were held on the "Emission of pollutants and mercury into the environment: methods for determining, inventorying and including in the pollutant release and transfer re gister of the Republic of Kazakhstan". In the course of the work, the issues of application of methods for estimating emissions of heavy metals in Kazakhstan were discussed. Recommendations for solving the p roblems of mercury pollution in Kazakhstan and reco mmendations on the development of a system to co ntrol emissions of pollutants, including the improvem ent of software for reporting on PRTRs were made. Also, every capacity building activity included test ini tiatives, allowing to evaluate the impact of organized activity on the capacity of focus group.

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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).

- S: 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 project worked at the systemic, institutional and individual levels of capacity, providing multiple lever age points to further self-sufficiency of the waste ma nagement sector, in particular management of merc ury wastes. It used strategies that work at the policy, planning, programme and community implementatio n levels. It worked at both national and local levels, t o stimulate mutually reinforcing "top-down" and "bott om-up" activities. Interventions at the national level f acilitated the improvement of the enabling environm ent for implementing capacity building and increased the knowledge and skills of project beneficiaries, incl uding government and non-government organization s. Interventions at the local level motivated sub-natio nal government offices and civil society to address p ressing waste management issues that have both n ational and local implications.

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On	
1	FinalReport_472_320 (https://intranet.undp.o rg/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/Final Report_472_320.pdf)	nina.gor@undp.org	8/14/2019 12:47:00 PM	

QA Summary/Final Project Board Comments

The Final Project Board considered the project as successfully achieved its planned results and targets.