

**UNDP  
Istanbul Regional Hub**

**Minutes of the Virtual Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting**

**Duration: 28 July - 31 August 2017**

**Subject: Climate Change Education and Awareness Project - Climate Box**

**1. Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Mr. Gerd Trogemann	Istanbul Regional Hub Manager, LPAC Chair
Mr. Dmitry Mariasin	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Armenia, LPAC Member
Mr. Alessandro Fracassetti	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Azerbaijan, LPAC Member
Ms. Tuya Altangerel	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Kazakhstan, LPAC Member
Ms. Aliona Niculita	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Kyrgyzstan, LPAC Member
Mr. Stefan Liller	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova, LPAC Member
Ms. Steliana Nedera	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Serbia, LPAC Member
Mr. Jan Harfst	Country Director, UNDP Tajikistan, LPAC Member
Mr. Vitalie Vremis	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Turkmenistan, LPAC Member
Mr. Farid Garakhanov	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Uzbekistan, LPAC Member
Mr. Vladimir Mamaev	Regional Coordinator, UNDP-GEF Team IRH, LPAC Member
Mr. Andrey Pogrebnyak	Operations Manager, UNDP IRH, LPAC Member
Ms. Ekaterina Paniklova	Senior Programme Coordinator, Quality Assurance, UNDP IRH
Mr. Armen Grigoryan	Cluster Leader, Climate and Disaster Team, UNDP IRH
Mr. Natalia Olofinskaya	Programme Specialist, UNDP IRH, Ex-Officio
Ms. Marina Ten	RBM Specialist, UNDP IRH

2. **Secretary of the meeting:** Natalia Olofinskaya, Programme Specialist
3. **Project Proposal is presented by:** Armen Grigoryan, Cluster Lead and Natalia Olofinskaya, Programme Specialist, Climate and Disaster Team
4. **Background information on the project:**

Total project budget: US\$ 949,800, including

Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development: US\$ 469,800

TCCC-UNDP NW programme (parallel): US\$ 280,000

UNDP COs and beneficiary governments (parallel and in-kind): US\$ 200,000

Planned project starting date & duration: 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2019.

Project implementation modality: DIM

Geographic Coverage: Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Major counterparts of the project:

- UNDP Country Offices
- GCF National Designated Authorities in beneficiary countries
- GCF project proponents in the beneficiary countries

## 5. Review of the Project “Climate Change Education and Awareness Project - Climate Box”

### Key Highlights:

The awareness and understanding of drivers behind climate change, climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation options are still insufficient among general public. Climate change education is key for empowering the youth for climate action. In 2014-2015, UNDP developed and piloted in Russia a new innovative interactive learning toolkit on Climate Change - “Climate Box”. The toolkit was developed by an interdisciplinary team of Russian experts. The Climate Box consists of an illustrated textbook, the Climate Quiz game, a wall map illustrating the possible effects of climate change on nature and mankind, a poster with tips on how to reduce your carbon footprint, and a disk with all of the toolkit materials. Already in 2015 the Climate Boxes were successfully piloted in 157 secondary schools in the Russian cities of Moscow and Sochi. Over 11,300 school children have already been using the Climate Box. Over 500 teachers were trained and have been engaged into what they felt was a new, innovative and exciting learning process. In 2015, the Climate Box was translated into English and presented at the Educational Day of the international climate conference in Paris (COP-21). Initial success of the Climate Box in Russia, appreciation of climate change experts and teachers and numerous inquiries from other countries brought up an ambition to make it a truly international educational kit uniting children and teachers across the borders.

In 2016, UNDP started replication of Climate Box project in Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Localized versions of the toolkits have been prepared, a team of Russian experts and teachers conducted training and experience sharing workshops with local teachers and educators in the three countries. The proposed project will (1) scale-up piloting of the Climate Box at the regional level including four more countries in the ECIS region - Armenia, Moldova, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, (2) support piloting and monitoring of the toolkit in seven ECIS countries - Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and (3) support cross-country exchanges and learning initiatives including an international student contest on climate change.

The **goal** of the project is to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the ECIS region by facilitating changes in consumer behavior and a shift towards low-carbon and resilient societies.

The project **objective** is to promote education and awareness on climate change impacts and drivers among ECIS youth and general public through scaled up implementation of the innovative interactive learning toolkit on climate change - the Climate Box.

### **Component 1:** Replication of the Climate Box toolkit in four new ECIS countries

The following activities will be implemented under this component:

Activity 1. Identification of key stakeholders for adaptation and piloting of the CB in the four new ECIS countries.

Activity 2. Organization of a series of expert and stakeholder consultations to present the CB and identify needs for adaptation to local language/context. Roadmap for adoption of the local CB into the national curricular or off-curricular activities.

Activity 3. Adaptation of the CB to local context in the four ECIS countries

Activity 4. Presentation of the project and draft materials to the ministries of education and other relevant authorities in the beneficiary countries. Recommendations for the adoption into curricular/off-curricular activities.

**Component 2: Introducing the Climate Box in the educational process in seven ECIS countries through piloting support and capacity building**

The following activities will be supported:

Activity 1. Selection of pilot educational institutions and teachers to partner up for the project in consultations with educational authorities and local consultants.

Activity 2. Organization of a series of teachers' workshops in all seven countries with an international trainers' team.

Activity 3. Support to the CB piloting at the selected schools and educational institutions, setting up and implementing an impact monitoring programme led by educational experts.

**Component 3: Climate change awareness and advocacy and enhancing regional cooperation based on the Climate Box platform**

The following activities will be supported:

Activity 1. Support to regional cooperation across ECIS educational institutions, teachers and students.

Activity 2. Implementation of the CB communication and awareness action plan.

Activity 3. Dissemination/sharing other educational materials and training modules on climate change and energy efficiency developed with UNDP projects in Russia with educational institutions (universities, colleges, etc.) in beneficiary countries.

Activity 4. Development and implementation of a monitoring programme to track climate change impacts from the application of the Climate Box (reduced GHG emissions and improved resilience/knowledge of climate risks at schools and at households level).

The draft project document has been designed by the IRH Climate Change and DRR Team in close cooperation with participating Country Offices respectively. The project was also consulted with the IRH GEF Team.

The project will be managed by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub in close cooperation with Country Offices in beneficiary countries involved. The country based activities will be coordinated by designated staff in each participating country, who will work closely with UNDP IRH (Regional Hub for Europe and CIS) and national counterparts. Following the approval of the project document, during the inception process the project team will consult with all COs on representation of selected COs in the Project Board to represent interests of all benefiting countries.

The project has undergone the mandatory QA Assessment for design and appraisal and the results of this assessment are also available online on the QA space. Overall, the Project received highly satisfactory rating due to a strong theory of change, alignment with the current Strategic Plan and Regional Programme, gender analysis, and the fact that the knowledge and lessons learned are backed by credible evidence. Strong analysis has been conducted on the role of the involved partners to build an efficient and effective implementation strategy. The project has been exempt from the Social and Environmental Screening as the project activities only include training/workshop, publications and mostly focus on knowledge management related work.


**6. Summary of LPAC member comments**

- The Project is supported by all LPAC members.
- LPAC members acknowledged that the project document is well defined and structured.
- The Project is fully supported by the LPAC members subject to some comments (annexed to the Minutes) to be addressed in the final project document.

**7. Final LPAC recommendation:**

LPAC recommends to approve the project which is of high quality to continue as planned. The comments made by the LPAC member will be addressed in the project document prior to its final approval and signature.

Cleared by:



Armen Grigoryan, Cluster Leader, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

Cleared by:  
Coordinator



20.09.17

Ekaterina Paniklova, Senior Programme

LPAC recommendation is approved by:



(Chairperson of the meeting)  
Gerd Trogemann  
Istanbul Regional Hub Manager

## Annex 1. Comments Log during LPAC Review

Comments from LPAC Members	Response from the Presenter
<p><b>UNDP Armenia:</b> I am confirming full support from Armenia CO for both proposals. As for the <i>Climate Box</i> project, we have inserted some mostly technical suggestions in the attached.</p> <p>The key comments are summarized here:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CB materials are more appropriate for schools. Suggested removing universities from potential institutions to work with the CB.</li> <li>2. Stakeholder Engagement section, primary stakeholders: In theory of change under Assumptions and Risks national Governments are mentioned as the sustainability of the project can be ensured if the Climate Box is included as recommended material for secondary school environmental education support material. Suggested to reflect national governments in this section too.</li> <li>3. Multi-year workplan: budget discrepancies highlighted; requested to include component totals.</li> </ol>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. All questions raised by the CO are addressed/clarified in a separate file. All comments requiring changes to the project document are included in the final draft of the document.</p> <p>Suggested changes made in the project document.</p> <p>Suggested changes made in the project document.</p> <p>Noted with thanks. Budget discrepancies fixed; component totals added.</p>
<p><b>UNDP Azerbaijan:</b> We have no further questions and support the appraisal of the projects.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><b>UNDP Kazakhstan:</b> We are already benefitting from the climate box developed by UNDP project in Russia. At the EXPO-2017, the climate box is featured as one of the exhibits (of UNDP) which is generating interest from the visitors, especially educators and children. Moreover, prior to the EXPO, in May 2017 UNDP has signed an agreement with the Nazarbayev Intellectual School networks (of 22 schools around Kazakhstan) to integrate climate box and other environmental education tools into regular learning/curricula. In this regard, we're looking forward to furthering our partnership through the new regional project through concrete activities with NIS and other schools, and utilizing post-EXPO platforms such as the Green Technologies Centre (under consideration to be established with the support of the 5 UN agencies, including UNDP). Thank you very much for the great opportunity presented to our office, and we look forward to closely cooperating with you within the framework of both regional projects.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><b>UNDP Kyrgyzstan:</b> With regards to the regional projects, I have no objection to the project documents and recommend them for signature.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><b>UNDP Moldova:</b> I have reviewed the two proposals and found them highly relevant for Moldova and the region. They are also well written. Therefore, I do not have any specific comments.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>

<p><i>UNDP Serbia:</i> I have reviewed the documentation for the 2 new projects and I do not have any comments to contribute. It is great to see that the Climate box is popular and getting disseminated in more countries.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>UNDP Tajikistan:</i> Both project documents were elaborated in consultation with our CO, so there is no comments pertaining to the programmatic interventions envisaged. However, it would be good to have a better understanding of the budgetary allocation per country, management and administrative arrangements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As we understand IRH will allocate the ASL according to the approved work plan and budget to CO by providing OU and Dept ID of the corresponding CO. Thus, it would be good to understand the budget breakdown per country, to have an understanding of the workload per CO.</li> <li>2. As it is understood from the project documents shared, the project management will be carried out by existing staff of UNDP IRH, and by respective UNDP Country Offices (through UNDP DPC arrangement), so DPCs are to be recovered on the basis of actual costs or transaction fees and include the costs of any activities over and above the project cycle management services.</li> <li>3. In case of projects with similar management arrangements, there was a maximum amount of DPCs chargeable by each CO pre-estimated in the project budget. Is there any estimation of DPCs that is made for these projects at this point?</li> </ol>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No changes to the project document required.</p> <p>Summary budget from the approved project proposal is presented in the Annex 2. Planned CO Allocations are marked yellow.</p> <p>As the donor's allocations for the country-based project activities are very small linked to co-financing, and according to the original COs co-financing commitments, it is expected that DPC costs for this project are covered by COs as co-financing.</p>
<p><i>UNDP Turkmenistan:</i> We have reviewed the project documents. Our office supports them and nominates Rovshen Nurmuhamedov, Portfolio Manager, as designated staff to work closely with IRH in their implementation. The projects, indeed, are much needed and well written in our view. Congratulations.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated and well noted. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>UNDP Uzbekistan:</i> On behalf of the Uzbekistan CO, I am pleased to inform you that we don't have any further comments and suggestions to the proposed project documents of the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Enhancing access to climate finance in the ECIS region"</li> <li>• "Climate Change Education and Awareness Project - Climate Box"</li> </ul> <p>We are considering embedding these projects under our Adaptation Fund project. We are also working on identifying country office focal points for these two projects, and will inform you in due course. We look forward to productive collaboration.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>Andrey Pogrebnyak:</i> I welcome both projects and fully recommend their approvals.</p> <p>I noted that info on pages 13 and 19 (18) is almost the same - on the project management; and thus I suggest to consolidate it.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated.</p> <p>The text in the project document follows the requirements of the corporate template, with 2 sections which cannot be consolidated.</p>

I noted that the NW/TCCF funding is mentioned as a parallel one (USD 280K). While the NW will be over this year; it may be suggested to further consider an application for a new call for proposals and apply for new funds from the TCCF.

The recommendation is highly appreciated and will be followed.

## Annex 2.

**CLIMATE BOX SUMMARY BUDGET**

<b>Component description</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Co-financing</b>
<b>Component 1: Replication of the Climate Box tool-kit in four new CIS countries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Translation and adaptation of the tool-kit to local languages/context in four new countries (managed by beneficiary COs)</li> <li>- Advice and coaching for the CB adaptation process (IC)</li> </ul>	<b>US\$ 150,000</b>  USD35,000 * 4 = US\$ 140,000  US\$ 10,000	<b>USD 25,000</b>
<b>Component 2. Introducing the Climate Box in the educational process in seven CIS countries through piloting support and capacity building</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 Teachers training workshops (through “Moscow Children and Youth Center for Environment, Regional Studies and Tourism”)</li> <li>- CB Piloting, monitoring and reporting (managed by beneficiary COs)</li> <li>- Advice and coaching for the CB piloting process (IC)</li> </ul>	<b>US\$ 180,000</b>  US\$ 60,000  US\$ 15,000 * 7 = US\$ 105,000 US\$ 15,000	<b>US\$ 190,000</b>
<b>Component 3: Climate change awareness and advocacy and enhancing regional cooperation based on the Climate Box platform</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student contest</li> <li>- Regional teachers and student exchanges</li> <li>- National and regional CB advocacy events</li> <li>- Promotion of low carbon and resilient lifestyle with CB in social media</li> </ul>	<b>US\$ 86,000</b>  US\$ 16,000 US\$ 35,000 US\$ 25,000  US\$ 10,000	<b>US\$ 113,000</b>
<b>Project Management, monitoring and evaluation</b>	<b>US\$ 19,000</b>	<b>US\$ 152,000</b>
<b>GMS (8%)</b>	<b>US\$ 34,800</b>	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>US\$ 469,800</b>	<b>US\$ 480,000</b>