# MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

**Terminal Evaluation of the UNDP, GEF/SCCF and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan joint Project “Supporting climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in drought-prone areas of Turkmenistan”**

**Project Title:** Supporting climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in drought-prone areas of Turkmenistan

**UNDP PIMS ID:** 5459

**GEF ID:** 6960

**Terminal Evaluation Completion Date:** 20 February 2022

**Date of Issue of Management Response:** 31 March, 2022

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| **Terminal Evaluation recommendation 1. *Completing Pending Activities***As a first and urgent step, the Project Team and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP) should complete all pending activities before the closure of the project. Key priorities that require the project’s attention in the next few weeks are the following:* The project should finalize the preparation of the “Concept note on modelling the AEZs”.
* The project should focus on obtaining from the Government the adoption of the MRV road map.
* Finalize the conceptual methodological guidelines on the use of gender-disaggregated data in adaptation planning and budgeting for water and agriculture.
* Finalize the AIC Presentation Package.

In the last Project Board meeting, project stakeholders should take note of all pending tasks and activities and make a decision on what is feasible to complete by the time of the project’s closure. Whatever activities will not be possible to complete by that time should be handed over for completion to MAEP with a clear action plan that outlined the steps that are necessary for their completion. |
| **Management response:[[1]](#footnote-1)** The recommendation is accepted and addressed through the key actions below: UNDP CO will ensure that the Project team finalizes all remaining project activities, including capturing the results by the end of the project to be presented to all national partners and other stakeholders during the final Project Board in March 2022. |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking[[2]](#footnote-2)** |
| **Status[[3]](#footnote-3)** | **Comments**  |
| 1.1 The project team to finalize the preparation of the “Concept note on modelling the AEZs” based on the materials provided by international consultant  | 31 March 2022 | SCRL Project Team & MAEP | Completed  | The “Concept Note on Modelling the AEZ” is prepared based on the materials of the international consultant on AEZ modelling. The finalization of the Concept Note was delayed due to the end of the year reporting. However, the drafting activities were completed at the end of February 2022, and on March the Concept Note was submitted to the MAEP for review and approval. |
| 1.2 The project team to submit the MRV road map through official channel to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection for further consideration and adoption  | 31 March 2022 | SCRL Project Team & MAEP | Completed  | The project developed Road map and recommendations for the design of a domestic monitoring and reporting system taking into account the new Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). The document has been submitted to the MAEP and other stakeholders for review. As a result of the review, the MAEP requested that this document be merged with the MRV Roadmap designed for climate change mitigation prepared by the UNDP Sustainable Cities project, as adaptation measures can be used in the future as one of directions the overall MRV system. |
| 1.3 The project team together with International consultant A. Ilyasova to finalize the conceptual methodological guidelines on the use of gender-disaggregated data in adaptation planning and budgeting for water and agriculture and present it at the National workshop to be held on February 2022 | 31 March 2022 | SCRL Project Team & MAEP | Completed  | The project engaged the International Consultant A. Ilyasova for the preparation of the conceptual methodological guidelines on the use of gender-disaggregated data in adaptation planning and budgeting for water and agriculture. Number of comments have been presented by the project team to be addressed to improve the structure of the report and its consistency. On February 17, 2022, a workshop was held on the presentation of conceptual methodological guidelines with the participation of all stakeholders. The document was finalized and submitted to the MAEP for consideration. |
| 1.4 Project Team to complete the Presentation Package on the best climate change adaptation / climate-resilient measures and present it to the interested parties including members of the private sector.  | 31 March 2022 | SCRL Project Team & MAEP | Completed  | The project team has prepared the Presentation package (PP) in consultation with the Country Office and the MAEP. At the final meeting of the Project Management Board, held on March 30, 2022, the PP was presented to all meeting participants and interested parties. The digital (saved on flash drives, CD disks) and printed versions of the PP and were distributed among the participating ministries and institutions, farmers' associations and representatives of the private sector of the pilot regions of the project. |
| **Terminal Evaluation recommendation 2. *Recommendation 2: Strengthen the sustainability of the project by further institutionalizing project outputs and promoting the dissemination of project approaches and technologies***To strengthen the sustainability of project results, the project team and the MAEP should focus in the last few weeks of the project more intensively on the way in which some of the structures created by the project will be operated going forward and how the experiences and results of the project will be disseminated in other locations. In the remaining period of this project, the two partners should take a more proactive approach for the upscaling and replication of the adaptation project measures in other etraps and velayats. The following are some key recommendations for the attention of the Government of Turkmenistan (GoT) that will strengthen the sustainability of project results by further promoting the experience of the SCRL project:1. GoT is recommended to widen and strengthen the formal responsibilities and engagement of the Interdepartmental Commission on Environmental Protection in the coordination of sectoral policy development and implementation, to ensure the proper uptake, and promotion and sustainable use of best practice experiences, including those of the SCRL project.
2. GoT is recommended to create an institutional framework for the implementation of the AEZ modelling as a tool for collecting and storing data on land inventory, for agriculture planning and investment. AEZ modelling will also facilitate operations related to the Land Cadastre, the development of the Agro-industrial complex, etc.
3. GoT is recommended to pay particular attention to the sustainability of AICs. GoT should continue the functional operation of AICs established by the project as a key structure supporting the transfer of knowledge and skills on climate change adaptation to the local farmers and community at large. The project should seek to obtain a formal decision by the Government on who will take responsibility for the operation of AICs upon the project’s completion. If such a decision is not obtained in time, the project team must organize a handover to MAEP with a clear action plan for MAEP’s attention.
4. Following the handover of Multi-cluster maps (MCLM) to MAEP, and in acknowledgement by MAEP that the maps are a useful tool for the climate change adaptation planning process, it is recommended that the GoT considers investing in the neccesary capacity building and awareness raising among decision-makers and experts on the usefulness of MCLM, the requirements and conditions for the application of this sophisticated tool necessary for incorporating the digital tool on climate change adaptation into policy development and planning.
5. GoT is recommended to incorporate the MRV Road Map into agriculture and water sector policies, which will further promote adaptation planning processes towards ensuring meeting Turkmenistan’s commitments under the Paris Agreement with regards to the enhanced framework transparency.
6. GoT is recommended to adopt the guidelines on mainstreaming climate change adaptation in the agriculture and water sectors developed through the project and integrate them into national policies/strategies.
7. GoT is recommended to take over from the project the responsibility for the dissemination of project results in other localities in the country. The project team and MAEP should develop an action plan for the dissemination of project results, underpinned by specific actions and timelines, and the commitment of the Government to carry out this work.
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| **Management response:** The recommendation is partially accepted and addressed through the actions below. UNDP CO will continue to closely work with the Government of Turkmenistan within its environment portfolio projects on most of the recommended actions to strengthen the sustainability of the project results.  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| 2.1 Support capacity building and awareness raising among national stakeholders to ensure proper implementation, promotion and sustainable use of best practices on climate change adaptation, including the experience of the SCRL project within the GCF NAP Project | 2022-2023 | UNDP CO Environment Portfolio | Initiated  | The scope of the climate change actions is multisectoral and multilevel. Awareness raising and capacity building activities on climate change adaptation with the relevant national stakeholders will be continued throughout 2022 and 2023 within the Green Climate Fund Readiness Project on Developing National Adaptation Planning Process, implemented in partnership with the MAEP. |
| 2.2 Support to the sustainability of Agro-Information Centers (AICs) through new collaborative initiatives with the MAEP within the exiting projects of environment portfolio. | 2022-2023 | UNDP CO Environment Portfolio, MAEP | Not initiated | Continuation of the capacity building work for Agro-Information Centers (AICs) will be discussed with the MAEP through new initiatives and newly launched GCF NAP and GEF Amudarya Projects and whenever possible, training seminars and other capacity building field activities will be conducted at the AICs.  |
| 2.3 Facilitate the application of the Guidelines on the Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into the Agriculture and Water Sectors as well as disseminate the results of the project within the GCF NAP Project | 2022-2023 | UNDP CO Environment Portfolio, MAEP | Not initiated  | The guidelines received by the MAEP in October 2021 are considered as a useful tool for the adaptation planning process. UNDP CO will promote the guidelines, its information, lessons learned and other key project results on adaptation during the relevant activities within the GCF NAP Project implementation. |
| **Terminal Evaluation recommendation 3. *Stronger Results Frameworks**** In future projects similar to the SCRL project, project stakeholders should identify more meaningful indicators that allow the project team to track and measure progress in a meaningful way. Care should be taken to identify indicators that meet the SMART criteria. These indicators should be defined in clear terms, so that the project team is able to track them effectively.
* Also, sound monitoring systems need to be put in place. The verification of data obtained from the field should be done on the basis of well-defined methodologies that do not leave room for interpretation or uncertainty.
* Similar projects should be designed with a greater focus on the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data to guide and monitor project interventions.
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| **Management response**: The recommendation is partially accepted and addressed through the action below. UNDP will continue to work closely with the national partners in identifying clear and measurable indicators during the project development phase, including incorporation of gender-focused indicators. |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| 3.1 Enhance the work and engagement of national project partners on identifying, discussing and selecting relevant indicators for the CGF NAP Project. Conduct a specific gender analysis to incorporate gender focused issues and activities in the implementation of the GCF NAP Project. | 31 July 2022 | UNDP, NAP Project team, MAEP | Not initiated  | A great attention will be given to define project indicators and ensure that project teams have a clear and correct understanding of each target indicator, how to measure it and effectively track/document achievement. This will be done during the discussion of relevant indicators within the GCF NAP Project. |
| **Terminal Evaluation recommendation 4. *Engagement with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Justice***In future projects similar to the SCRL project, project stakeholders should be careful to engage more closely the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice to avoid delays with budget approvals and endorsement of draft laws and regulations.In projects that involve investments from the public sector, it will be essential to have the commitment and involvement of the Ministry of Finance right from the start.In projects that involve changes in the legal framework, it will be important to have the engagement and commitment of the Ministry of Justice. |
| **Management response**: The recommendation is accepted. UNDP CO actively engages both the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Ministry of Justice in all relevant project and specific activities implementation. The CO has a successful working relationship with the Ministry of Finance and Economy in implementation of a number of Government co-financed projects. |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| 4.1 Enhance cooperation and engagement with the Ministry of Finance and Economy on environmental issues. More specifically, conduct a baseline study, including the assessment of climate finance by the Government within the GCF NAP Project to assess the level of government climate financing and enhance the engagement of the Ministry of Finance and Economy in cooperation with potential international donors on climate related matters. | 31 August 2022 | UNDP CO and Ministry of Finance and Economy | Not initiated  | UNDP CO has discussed with the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MF&E) conducting the assessment of climate financing, which will enable identify government co-financing opportunities *vis-a-vis* climate change and environmental programmes funded by the international donors and engage more proactively in the implementation of such programmes and projects.  |
| 4.2 Invite the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Ministry of Justice (Adalat) into the Project Board Membership of the two new similar Projects – the GCF NAP Project and the GEF Amudarya Project  | 30 November 2022 | UNDP CO and the MAEP | Not initiated  | During the LPAC meetings of both projects, the idea of including the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Ministry of Justice has been discussed and supported by LPAC participants. UNDP CO in consultation with the MAEP will make sure to include these ministries into a PB membership.  |
| **Terminal Evaluation recommendation 5. *Strengthen Engagement with SDGs at the Sub-national Level***In future projects related to climate change adaptation, GoT and UNDP should consider linking more effectively some of the project activities to the SDG-related activities going on in the country. Project stakeholders should explore how to use the adaptation platform to promote more actively the SDGs at the sub-national level. Such linkages could be ensured by linking adaptation measures to local governance processes, as described earlier in this report. |
| **Management response**: The recommendation is accepted. UNDP will continue cooperation with relevant stakeholders at national and sub-national levels on effectively linking the project activities and results to the relevant SGDs and its indicators adopted by the Government of Turkmenistan within its two new projects funded by the GCF and the GEF.  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| 5.1 Use positive experience of the SCRL Project on adaptation measures and solutions in the implementation of the GCF NAP and the GEF Amudarya projects with the emphasis of linking the results to relevant SGD indicators adopted by the national partners.  | 2023 | UNDP and the MAEP | Not initiated  | New projects activities will be designed and implemented to take into account their contribution to the achieving those (sub) national SDG targets adopted in the country that are relevant to a specific project. |
| **Terminal Evaluation recommendation 6. *Greater Focus on Gender Mainstreaming***In future projects similar to the SCRL project, project stakeholders should include a dedicated gender expert in the design of the project. The involvement of a gender specialist in the project will contribute to a more effective mainstreaming of gender in the project and a more even distribution of responsibilities within the team, allowing other specialists to focus on other priority areas |
| **Management response**: The recommendation is accepted. All new projects are being developed fully in-line with and supportive of both the GEF’s and UNDP’s gender mainstreaming policies. A gender consultant is recruited during the project development phase to develop a Gender Action Plan to be implemented during the project and gender issues are being regularly raised and discussed with the key national partners. |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| 6.1 Conduct a gender analysis to incorporate gender focused issues and activities in the implementation of the GCF NAP Project | 31 July 2022 | UNDP, NAP Project team | Initiated  | The Terms of Reference has been developed by the GCF NAP team for recruitment of national gender consultant to conduct a gender analysis. The position has been announced and the assignment is expected to be conducted in My-June 2022.  |

1. Select one: Fully Accept, Partially Accept, Reject [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Status of implementation is tracked electronically in the Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Select one: Not initiated, Initiated, Completed, Completed, No longer applicable [↑](#footnote-ref-3)