MINUTES

Of the Local Program Advisory Committee (LPAC) Meeting for

The UNDP-GEF Medium-Sized Project "Strengthening National Capacity in Rio Convention Implementation through Targeted Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development"

Date: April 6, 2009
Time: 11:30-13:00
Venue: UNDP CO, Tashkent
Conference Room

The purpose of the LPAC meeting was to (i) discuss initial concepts and partnership patterns of project proposal "Strengthening National Capacity in Rio Convention Implementation through Targeted Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development", and to (ii) launch it after approval by majority of partners.

Introduction to LPAC meeting was done by Mr. Farhod Maksudov, Environment Specialist of the Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP CO.

Welcoming speech of Ms. Kyoko Postill, DRR, UNDP CO Uzbekistan, was read by Mr. Abduvakkos Abdurahmanov, Head of the Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP CO.

Welcoming speech by Mr. Samoylov, Deputy Head of the State Committee for Nature Protection. In his speech Mr. Samoylov stressed out the environmental issues in Uzbekistan, which require special attention both from side of the Uzbekistan Government and from development agencies.

Short project presentation by Mr. Farhod Maksudov, Environmental specialist of Environment and Energy Unit of UNDP CO. In his presentation Mr. Maksudov made a brief project overview and stressed related issues, such as cooperation and budget scheme, planning and implementation phases etc.

Discussion. The agenda contained discussion of the project, points of the check-list, and finally, the decision-making (questions, comments, recommendations).

Comment/Question	*Answer*
1. **S. Myagkov**: In your presentation you mentioned that there will be only two main outcomes in the project, however, in the log-frame there are three outcomes. Why there is this incompliance?	**Alexey Volkov**: According to the GEF format of the log-frame, the outcome #3 is, actually, the budget lines for the project administration.
2. **R. Taryannikova**: Why the Rio Conventions are not mentioned in the log-frame?	**Farhod Maksudov**: The project will be directly dealing with the Rio Conventions and the project funds will be used for implementation of activities, which will eventually lead the country to meet the requirements under the Conventions. In the outcomes it is written that the project is designed to meet the global environmental objectives and the global environmental financing, which directly relates to the Rio Conventions.
3. **S. Myagkov**: What is the purpose of this gathering, I mean, if the project was already approved by the GEF, what can we do now?	**Ajiniyaz Reimov**: We have to decide on the local level, whether the project is feasible and important for the country or not, however, we should be aware that the project log-frame can be changed only up to the level of baselines, targets and indicators. The objectives and outputs cannot be changed.
4. **R. Taryannikova**: Why the contribution of Uzhydromet is removed form the project document?	**Farhod Maksudov**: In the initial version of the project document, it was foreseen that the Uzhydromet will host the project implementation unit, but the Government decided that the State Committee for Nature Protection will be the Implementing Agency for the project and this agency provided us with a letter of contribution. Now we have to decide which agency will host the PIU and provide with premises, equipment, etc. **S.Samoylov**: I think, since the project will be implemented by the State Committee for Nature Protection, the PIU should be located at this agency to ease up the activities. Of course, the PIU will closely collaborate with other stakeholders.
5. **A. Vakhitov**: How will the agencies and other stakeholders be involved in coordination of the project activities?	**Farhod Maksudov**: According to our procedures, as soon as the project is launched, it will form the Steering Committee comprised of representatives from all stakeholder organizations. The idea of forming the SC is very important for the project management and coordination of activities of the project as well as the partners. **Alexey Volkov**: Unfortunately, the SCs usually are passive, which is the reason they loose their chance of managing the project activities.

Participants provided comments on the conceptual and structural points of the project document. In particular, on the structural side they discussed some parts of the project proposal and agreed on the following:

- log-frame should be revised according to the goals and the objectives;
- planned activities and functions of project partners should be properly revised;
- tables and charts need to be updated;
- contact details of Coordinators for three Rio Conventions are to be included; and
- project budget was commented shortly.

Concluding the discussion the participants agreed to review the proposal again and prepare their detailed comments for the next inception phase of the project.

On project organization and conceptual matters the participants actively discussed below aspects and agreed on the following:

- to launch the project as soon as possible and speed it up, as well as to shift the project dates respectively as the project was delayed since 2006;
- project has to be revised accurately and statistical/contextual changes have to be updated on the final document, since the project proposal was delayed;
- the project should not include too many activities which could be unrealistic to achieve within the given timeframes;
- necessity on drawing special attention on weaknesses and lacking activities, and to address them while formulating the final document for inception phase;
- active participation and strong decision-making power are necessary for Steering Committee members in order to support effective implementation of the project;
- the Uzgydromet requires indication of it's inputs on the project document during the inception phase based on the comments submitted by Uzhydromet;

Summarizing this part of the LPAC meeting the participants agreed that every additional comments and ideas should be proposed in detailed written form and submitted to UNDP CO. These comments and additions would be included in project proposal and approved by Steering Committee during the inception phase of the project.

*	**Question of the PAC check list**	**Opinions of the participants**
1.	Relevance	Affirmative.
2.	Stakeholder participation and partnership-building	Affirmative. All key stakeholders are involved and more partners can be included during the project implementation.
3.	Contribution to poverty reduction.	Affirmative. The project will ensure sustainable use of natural resources.
4.	Gender equality and the advancement of women	Affirmative. Wording in the announced TORs of the project positions will contain the idea that female candidates with similar qualifications will be given priority.
5.	Protection and regeneration of the environment	Affirmative.
6.	Feasibility and technical soundness.	**Farhod Maksudov** noted that there will be an Inception Workshop, which will revise the project log-frame, strategy and indicators in course of discussions and the corresponding changes can be made.
7.	Management arrangements	Affirmative.

8.	Integration, synergies, complementary	Affirmative. The project will: 1) take into account the experience of ongoing projects on biodiversity, land degradation and climate change; 2) involve stakeholders in all three fields to joint seminars; 3) actively use lessons learnt from the UNDP-GEF projects in the fields of biodiversity conservation (Conservation of Tugai Forests, Sustainability of Protected Areas), land degradation (CACILM-Ecosystem Stability) and climate change (Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings).
9.	Result orientation	Affirmative.
10.	Resources and inputs	Affirmative.
11.	Governance	Affirmative. According to the project document it is prerequisite that State Committee for Nature Protection will cooperate with Uzhydromet, Ministry for Agriculture and Water Resources and District (Second Administrative Level Divisions) Municipalities.
12.	Most promising strategy (risks and external factors)	The Risk Log is provided in the project document.
13.	Incorporation of lessons learned	Affirmative
14.	Capacity development and sustainability	Affirmative

LPAC decision and immediate follow-up actions

The participants agreed on approval of the project in the current stage, and to launch it by taking into account abovementioned comments to be elaborated. Finally, the LPAC Meeting Resolution confirming approval of the participants' decision has been formed:

1. Approve the project at current stage and take into account the above-mentioned comments during the inception phase.
2. Submit the Project Document to the State Committee for Nature Protection for endorsement and signing.
3. Launch the project as soon as the project documents are signed and hold the inception workshop within the first month after personnel recruitment in order to finalize the Log-Frame.

Mr. Abduvakkos Abdurahmanov
Head of Environment and Energy Unit
UNDP CO in Uzbekistan

List of Participants:

Representatives of Ministries and Agencies:

1. Mr. B.Sh. Kadirov – First Deputy General Director, Uzhydromet;
2. Mr. N. Nodirov – Senior Specialist on Economic Affairs, Goskomzemgeokadastr;
3. Mr. E. Mavlyanov - Senior Specialist, Goskomgeologiya;
4. Mr. Z. Abdullaev – Deputy Director, Goskomgeologiya;
5. Ms. N. Kamilova - Senior Specialist, Goskomgeologiya;
6. Mr. B. K. Muradov – Senior Specialist, Development Department, Ministry of Economy;
7. Mr. A. Vakhitov – Specialist, Environmental Protection Program, Aral See Genofund Protection NGO;
8. Ms. L. Aksyonova – Head of International Office, State Agency for Nature Protection;
9. Mr. S. Samoylov – 1st Deputy Director, State Agency for Nature Protection;
10. Mr. S. Myagkov - Deputy Director, Uzgidromet / GEF focal-point for Uzbekistan;
11. Ms. R. Taryannikova – National Secretariat, CACILM;

UNDP:

12. Mr. Abduvakkos Abdurahmanov, Head of Environment and Energy Unit;
13. Mr. Farhod Maksudov, Environmental Specialist, Environment and Energy Unit;
14. Mr. Alexey Volkov, National Coordinator GEF SGP;
15. Mr. Ajiniyaz Reimov, UNDP RBEC representative, Slovakia;
16. Ms. Rano Baykhanova, International Environment Expert, RBEC;
17. Mr. Khalilulla Sherimbetov, Manager of "Conservation of "Tugay Forest" and Strengthening of Protected Areas System in the Amu Darya delta of Karakalpakstan" Project;
18. Ms. Irina Bekmirzayeva, Manager of "Achieving Ecosystem Stability on degraded land in Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum Desert" Project;
19. Mr. Akmal Ismatov, Manager of "Strengthening Sustainability of National Protected Area System by Focusing on Strictly Protected Areas" Project;
20. Mr. Kakhramon Usmanov, Manager of "Piloting Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy Solutions in Rural Health Clinics of Uzbekistan" Project;
21. Ms. Lilya Zavyalova, Manager of "Capacity Building for Clean Development Mechanism" Project;
22. Mr. Janpolat Kudaybergenov, Manager of "Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings of Uzbekistan" Project;
23. Mr. Abdurazzak Khujabekov, Manager of "Support to the Sustainable Livestock Development in Uzbekistan" Project.