**Minutes of the Virtual Project Appraisal Committee approval for Award 50458 “Promoting Climate Change, Adaptation, and Energy & Environment”**

## Background:

In the course of this project, the regional Energy and Environment Practice team will focus on assisting Country Offices to help their respective countries to meet their commitments under the UNFCCC by building low carbon future strategies that involve the improvement of energy efficiency and increased utilization of renewable energy through projects financed by the GEF and/or through CDM and voluntary carbon markets, to enhance their capacities to engage effectively in negotiations leading to a post-Kyoto carbon emission regime, and to assist their country counterparts to access resources from the Adaptation Fund.

The Regional Programme of Latin America & the Caribbean (RPLAC) for 2008-2014 covers work on an ongoing set of projects funded by Spanish Funds, UNDP TRAC funds, Multi-donor Trust Fund, UNEP and other funds. During 2014, RPLAC will continue its work on issues for the LAC region, which have led to the need to revise and adjust the original documents so that UNDP can take full advantage of potential synergies and use of funds to respond better to emerging country office challenges in MICs, upper-MICS and SIDS, while also focusing on fewer and more strategic interventions reflecting new global UNDP priorities. This revision will result in the use of the remaining funds for more impact and greater efficiency.

**Description of the process:**

On The 29 of November 2013, the Director of the Regional Service Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Freddy Justiniano, invited the PAC members to forward their comments regarding the extension of award 50458 for the years 2014. The substantive revision documentation included the following projects:

Award 50458 “Promoting Climate Change, Adaptation, and Energy & Environment”

* Output 1.1 00062376- Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development Strategies (LECRDS) Preparation Support at the National Level
* Output 1.2 00062377- Carbon 2012 Sectoral Market Mechanism Initiative. SMMI-LAC
* Output 1.3 00062378 – Adaptation Program for COs and Governments (TACC – Territorial Approach to Climate Change)
* Output 1.4 Establishment of a LAC Regional Technical Facility for the Sustainable Energy for all Initiative (SE4ALL)

The following country offices’ (CO) and staff members were invited to participate in the virtual PAC:

Costa Rica CO: Yoriko Yasukawa, Resident Representative; Kifah Sasa, Environmental Focal Point

Peru CO: Rebeca Arias, Resident Representative; James Leslie, Technical Advisor.

Colombia CO: Fabrizio Hochschild, Resident Representative; Silvia Rucks, Country Director; Jimena Puyana, Environmental Focal Point.

Mexico CO: Marcia De Castro, Resident Representative; Verania Chao, Environmental Focal Point.

Paraguay CO: Cecilia Ugaz, Resident Representative; Veronique Gerard, Environmental Focal Point.

Argentina CO: Martin Santiago, Resident Representative; Daniel Tomasini, Environmental Focal Point.

BDP: Yamil Bonduki, LECB Programme Manager; Matilde Mordt, Practice Manager; Adriana Dinu, GEF Deputy Executive Coordinator

RBLAC: Alfredo Gonzalez, Programme Specialist

Bhanu Shrestha, ICT Analyst

Carlos Benitez, Programme Specialist

Consuelo VIDAL-BRUCE, Chief Strategic Monitoring

Crispin Gregoire, Chief Monitoring Caribbean

Emma Torres, Senior Advisor

Fernando Hiraldo, Programme Advisor

George Ronald Gray , Chief Economist

Gerardo Noto, Programme Specialist

Igor Garafulic, Senior Policy Advisor

Javier Sagredo, Advisor

Karina Servellon, Chief Finance

Kenroy Roach, Programme Manager Caribbean

Lorena Acevedo Narea, Special Assistant to Regional Director

Pablo Gago, Policy Specialist

Paloma Morazo Perez, Management Specialist

Soledad Bauza, Programme Specialist

Sonia Ortiz Arcos, Programme Specialist

Ugo Blanco, Special Assistant Deputy Director

RSC LAC: Ines Brill, Team Leader

Pablo Ruiz Hiebra, Team Leader

Gonzalo Pizarro, Team Leader

Carmen De La Cruz, Team Leader

Gerardo Berthin, Policy Advisor

Maria Tallarico, Team Leader

UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre:

 Martin Krause, Regional Practice Leader for Environment, Climate & Energy

UNEP: Jason Spensley, Programme Officer Climate Change Adaptation; Gabriel Labbate, REDD and PEI Regional Coordinator

UN-REDD Secretariat: Mirey Atallah, Senior Officer

The period allowed for comments was from November 29 to December 4th, 2013. During that period, no objections were received against the documentation presented. Below are the main comments received:

1. *The Project must ensure that knowledge products that are generated are widely distributed and disseminated, in particular through virtual means. Support from the Knowledge, Innovation and Capacity can be provided in case the Project requires support for dissemination methodology.*
2. *The Project should consider providing technical inputs for the preparation of the CARICOM Climate Change Strategy.*
3. *The Project should continue promoting south-south cooperation as a way to strengthen collaboration across countries within the region.*
4. *The Risk Analysis should be revised and updated.*
5. *The Country office of Argentina has submitted (by Daniel Tomasini) the following specific comments:*
	1. *Output 1.1 00062376: We agree on the diagnostic for Argentina and we would like to know if we will continue to receive support for the work we have been jointly programming, in particular for the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions. (Response: Yes, this activity will be pursued)*
	2. *Output 1.3 00062378: We are developing a new project in the province of Mendoza (with IDB funds) and would like to evaluate the possibility of complementing some initiatives with TACC. (Response: The initiative currently being developed in Mendoza (with BID funds) by CO Argentina could be included under the TACC work framework. The TACC methodology which aims at developing a climate roadmap at a subnational-level composed of prioritized mitigation and adaptation measures based on a comprehensive stakeholder involvement will be shared to CO Argentina. RCU Panamá will follow-up to explain the TACC methodology and will provide with concrete examples based on TACC projects currently being implemented in Las Segovias (Nicaragua), Region Tumbes (Peru), Region Cundinamarca (Colombia) and Montevideo (Uruguay).)*
	3. *Output 1.4 SE4ALL: The Country Office played a key role in developing the first diagnostic document in the framework of SE4ALL. It is not clear how the dynamics of this initiative will evolve at the country level during 2014. (Response: The SE4All Rapid Assessments in LAC were supported through a collaborative effort between UNDP and IDB. The following steps would consist in the promotion of a country dialogue and the development of a SE4ALL country action plan. However the support framework to perform these next steps is not yet established. IDB has been requested by the SE4All Secretariat to establish a Regional Hub for SE4All in LAC. UNDP is proposing that the HUB include a Technical Facility, to provide technical support at the country level. During the course of 2014, it is expected that a Regional Hub will be establish.)*

The above comments were duly included in the final substantive revision document, and responses were provided for the specific questions.

December 17th, 2013