

MINUTES
of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting
for UNDP/GEF Project on "INTEGRATING RIO CONVENTION PROVISIONS
INTO UKRAINE'S NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK"

26 November 2013, UN House

Agenda:

1. Presentation of the Project Document
2. Discussion of LPAC members' comments and recommendations
3. Conclusions/recommendations

Present:

- Vadym Pozharskiy, Deputy Head of the State Environmental Agency, GEF OFP
- Liudmyla Musina, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Tetyana Tymochko, Head, All-Ukrainian Environmental League
- Gennadiy Marushevskiy, PostDoc Fellow, State Public Administration Academy
- Ricarda Rieger, UNDP Country Director
- Sergei Volkov, UNDP Programme Manager
- Olena Ovchynnikova, UNDP Programme Analyst
- Alla Tynkevych, UNDP Programme Associate
- Olga Bulygina, UNDP Programme Assistant a.i.
- Uliana Bila, UNDP Programme Assistant a.i.
- Yevgeniy Zelenko, UNDP Communications Manager
- Niyara Ablyamitova, UNDP Procurement Manager
- Jaysingh Sah, UNDP Project Manager, Community Based Approach to Local Development
- Natalia Sitnikova, UNDP Project Manager, Acceleration of the MDGs Progress in Ukraine
- Natalia Olshanskaya, UNDP Project Manager, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands
- Vasyl Kostiusyn, UNDP Project Manager, EMBLAS

The LPAC was convened to review the Project Document of the UNDP/GEF "Integrating Rio Convention Provisions into Ukraine's National Policy Framework." The Project Document was presented by Olena Ovchynnikova, UNDP Programme Analyst. The objective of the Project is to catalyze Ukraine's implementation of the three Rio Conventions on a strengthened policy and institutionally sustainable development baseline.

This new project will build upon the recommendations on Ukraine's National Capacity Self-Assessment (2004-2007), supported by UNDP and GEF, and directly responds to the Main Principles (Strategy) of the National Environmental Policy. This project will be implemented in three linked Components:

- I. Integrating Rio Conventions into a Sustainable Development Strategy
- II. Developing institutional and technical capacity
- III. Enhancing awareness and understanding

The main points discussed/suggested:

- The Project is a timely and important intervention that will help the country to integrate the provisions of the Rio Conventions into its sectoral policies;
- In view of the preparation of the Draft Law of State Strategies, it is desirable for the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine to include into their comments to the Draft Law a recommendation on integrating the provisions of the Rio Conventions into the sectoral policies.
- The approach suggested in the Project Document is appropriate as it helps to avoid the so-called 'environmental fragmentation' and promotes to coordinate numerous efforts by different stakeholders on promoting the principles of sustainable development and their inclusion into the state policies;

➤ All three Project Components were highly supported:

- Component I will help to make the best practices of policy development available for Ukraine and will ensure that many changes that are taking place sector-wise (i.e. in manufacturing, energy supply, etc.);
- Component II, which will take learning-by-doing approach, to the integration of the Conventions provisions, was commended as the one that will help base the Sustainable Development Strategy on the deep analysis and practical experience and will ensure that the roadmap to the SDS implementation will be evidence-based;
- Component III, which will underpin the first two Components through public awareness activities, will help to promote a greater understanding of the complex and dynamic inter-dependencies among environment, economy and social development policies.

➤ The project should ensure wide participation and engagement of all stakeholders at all stages of the project implementation, in particular, a request was made to involve governmental officials of all levels into the project activities to ensure that 'good governance' principles are adhered to and that the day-to-day activities of the ministry staff are informed through the project implementation; in addition, the project team should closely liaise and work with the Conventions Focal Points;

➤ The project has been designed with the active participation of non-governmental organizations and the implementation should ensure that the NGOs will remain active partners of the project;

➤ There is a room for synergies with other UNDP projects: with the Community Based Approach to Local Development Project in their work with universities and education on sustainable development; with the Acceleration of the MDGs Progress in Ukraine in their work of developing strategic documents;

➤ The questions were raised with regard to the involvement of stakeholders from the industrial sector into the project and the scenario-based calculations of the transition to the sustainable development policies in Ukraine. The project foresees the engagement of the private sector into the project activities. While the project does not envisage that any economic models will be built within the scope of this particular project, a UNDP-implemented project on Low Carbon Development is working on producing such calculations and they will become available in the nearest future;

➤ Operationally, no barriers or risks are foreseen with the project implementation.

Resolved that:

- I. The Project is considered to be a timely initiative.
- II. The Project Document was generally endorsed by the members of the LPAC meeting taking into account the comments and suggestions
- III. The Project could unfold its activities.

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