PROJECT QA ASSESSMENT: DESIGN AND APPRAISAL

VANUATU LECB-II PRODOC_FINAL DRAFT FOR LPAC

OVERALL PROJECT

Exemplary (5)	HIGHLY SATISFACTORY (4)	Satisfactory (3)	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (2)	INADEQUATE (1) ©OOOO
At least four criteria are rated Exemplary, and all criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	All criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and at least four criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	At least six criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only one may be rated Needs Improvement. The SES criterion must be rated Satisfactory or above.	At least three criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only cour criteria may be rated Needs Improvement.	One or more criteria are rated Inadequate, or five or more criteria are rated Needs Improvemen t.

DECISION

- APPROVE the project is of sufficient quality to continue as planned. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
- APPROVE WITH QUALIFICATIONS the project has issues that must be addressed before the project document can be approved. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
- DISAPPROVE the project has significant issues that should prevent the project from being approved as drafted.

RATING CRITERIA

STRATEGIC

- 1. Does the project's Theory of Change specify how it will contribute to higher level change? (Select the option from 1-3 that best reflects the project):
 - 3: The project has a theory of change with explicit assumptions and clear change pathway describing how the project will contribute to outcome level change as specified in the programme/CPD, backed by credible evidence of what works effectively in this context. The project document clearly describes why the project's strategy is the best approach at this point in time.
 - 2: The project has a theory of change. It has an explicit change pathway that explains how the project intends to contribute to outcome-level change and why the project strategy is the best approach at this point in time, but is backed by limited evidence.
 - 1: The project does not have a theory of change, but the project document may describe in generic terms how the project will contribute to development results, without specifying the key assumptions. It does not make an explicit link to the programme/CPD's theory of change.

*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1

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Evidence (pages 2-4 of project document)

The Theory of Change is well-explained in the first 2 sections of prodoc where issues (relating to environment, development, natural disasters, and climate change) are articulated together with efforts by Government, donors and development partners to address these issues. The strategy section clearly explains what this project will bring about (i.e. the business unusual case) and how it links with ongoing activities in Vanuatu (e.g. NAMA, etc).

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- 2. Is the project aligned with the thematic focus of the UNDP Strategic Plan? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects the project):
 - 3: The project responds to one of the three areas of development work¹ as specified in the Strategic Plan; it addresses at least one of the proposed new and emerging areas2; an issues-based analysis has been incorporated into the project design; and the project's RRF includes all the relevant SP output Indicators, (all must be true to select this option)
 - 2: The project responds to one of the three areas of development work¹ as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true to select this option)
 - 1: While the project may respond to one of the three areas of development work¹ as specified in the Strategic Plan, it is based on a sectoral approach without addressing the complexity of the development issue. None of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF. This answer is also selected if the project does not respond to any of the three areas of development work in the Strategic Plan.

EVIDENCE.

Project outcome indicators (1: development of NDC implementation plans and institutional frameworks completed, 2: Established MRV systems to support NDC implementation; 3: Completion of NAMA feasibility studies) will contribute to SP IRRF output indicator 1.4.2 (Number of countries with comprehensive measures - plans, strategies, policies, programmes and budgets - implemented to achieve low-emission and climate-resilient development objectives).

Evidence

3: Project is aligned with UNDP's first Area of Work on Sustainable Development Pathways and will contribute to the realization of IRRF outcome 1 on 'growth and development are inclusive and sustainable...'.

RELEVANT

- 3. Does the project have strategies to effectively identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of targeted groups/geographic areas with a priority focus on the excluded and marginalized? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects this project):
 - . 3: The target groups/geographic areas are appropriately specified, prioritising the excluded and/or marginalised. Beneficiaries will be identified through a rigorous process based on evidence (if applicable.) The project has an explicit strategy to identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of specified target groups/geographic areas throughout the project, including through monitoring and decision-making (such as representation on the project board) (all must be true to select this option)
 - 2: The target groups/geographic areas are appropriately specified, prioritising the excluded and/or marginalised. The project document states how beneficiaries will be identified, engaged and how meaningful participation will be ensured throughout the project. (both must be true to select this option)
 - 1: The target groups/geographic areas are not specified, or do not prioritize excluded and/or marginalised populations. The project does not have a written strategy to identify or engage or ensure the meaningful participation of the target groups/geographic areas throughout the project.

*Note: Management Action must be taken for a score of 1, or select not applicable.

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Select (all) targete down)	d groups: (drop-

Evidence

Refer to project document: pages 7-8, and 12-16 describe how stakeholders will be engaged and what stakeholders will be involved.

¹ 1. Sustainable development pathways;	Inclusive and effective democratic	governance; 3. Resilience building
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² sustainable production technologies, access to modern energy services and energy efficiency, natural resources management, extractive industries, urbanization, citizen security, social protection, and risk management for resilience

- 4. Have knowledge, good practices, and past lessons learned of UNDP and others informed the project design? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects this project):
 - 3: Knowledge and lessons learned (gained e.g. through peer assist sessions) backed by credible evidence from evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, and monitoring have been explicitly used, with appropriate referencing, to develop the project's theory of change and justify the approach used by the project over alternatives.
 - <u>2:</u> The project design mentions knowledge and lessons learned backed by evidence/sources, which inform the project's theory of change but have not been used/are not sufficient to justify the approach selected over alternatives.
 - 1: There is only scant or no mention of knowledge and lessons learned informing the project design. Any references that are made are not backed by evidence.

*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1

- 5. Does the project use gender analysis in the project design and does the project respond to this gender analysis with concrete measures to address gender inequities and empower women? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects this project):
 - 3: A participatory gender analysis on the project has been conducted. This
 analysis reflects on the different needs, roles and access to/control over
 resources of women and men, and it is fully integrated into the project
 document. The project establishes concrete priorities to address gender
 inequalities in its strategy. The results framework includes outputs and
 activities that specifically respond to this gender analysis, with indicators
 that measure and monitor results contributing to gender equality. (all must
 be true to select this option)
 - <u>2:</u> A gender analysis on the project has been conducted. This analysis reflects on the different needs, roles and access to/control over resources of women and men. Gender concerns are integrated in the development challenge and strategy sections of the project document. The results framework includes outputs and activities that specifically respond to this gender analysis, with indicators that measure and monitor results contributing to gender equality. (all must be true to select this option)
 - 1: The project design may or may not mention information and/or data on the differential impact of the project's development situation on gender relations, women and men, but the constraints have not been clearly identified and interventions have not been considered.

*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1

- 6. Does UNDP have a clear advantage to engage in the role envisioned by the project vis-à-vis national partners, other development partners, and other actors? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):
 - 3: An analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and credible evidence supports the proposed engagement of UNDP and partners through the project. It is clear how results achieved by relevant partners will contribute to outcome level change complementing the project's intended results. If relevant, options for south-south and triangular cooperation have been considered, as appropriate. (all must be true to select this option)
 - 2: Some analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners where
 the project intends to work, and relatively limited evidence supports the
 proposed engagement of and division of labour between UNDP and
 partners through the project. Options for south-south and triangular

Evidence

Knowledge and lessons learned are referenced in the Strategy section of the project document (pages 3-5).

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Evidence

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The project document (page 7), in describing stakeholder engagement briefly states that existing governance mechanisms will be used to up-scale gender equality through the project. However, a gender analysis has not been conducted during project formulation. The project will undertake a gender analysis as part of the stakeholder analysis at project start-up (ref. multiyear work plan, output indicator 1.1).

Evidence

As referenced on page 8 of project document, some analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners where the project intends to work including also options for south-south co-operation.

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- cooperation may not have not been fully developed during project design, even if relevant opportunities have been identified.
- 1: No clear analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area that the project intends to work, and relatively limited evidence supports the proposed engagement of UNDP and partners through the project. There is risk that the project overlaps and/or does not coordinate with partners' interventions in this area. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have not been considered, despite its potential relevance.

*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

- 7. Does the project seek to further the realization of human rights using a human rights based approach? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):
 - 3: Credible evidence that the project aims to further the realization of human rights, upholding the relevant international and national laws and standards in the area of the project. Any potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were rigorously identified and assessed as relevant, with appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true to select this option)
 - 2: Some evidence that the project aims to further the realization of human rights. Potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were identified and assessed as relevant, and appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into the project design and budget.
 - 1: No evidence that the project aims to further the realization of human rights. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were considered.

*Note: Management action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1

Although the project document does not contain specific HRBA terminologies (such as rights holders and duty bearers), the Social and Environmental Screening template makes reference to the mainstreaming of HRBA through the participation of marginalized individuals.

The strategy section could state for each specific project outcome indicators that capacities of project beneficiaries (i.e. the rights holders) will be strengthened through institutional arrangements that will be established through the project.

In addition, the strategy section could also state that a specific project outcome indicator will strengthen the capacities of government (i.e. the duty bearers) through implementation of institutional frameworks.

- 8. Did the project consider potential environmental opportunities and adverse impacts, applying a precautionary approach? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):
 - 3: Credible evidence that opportunities to enhance environmental sustainability and integrate poverty-environment linkages were fully considered as relevant, and integrated in project strategy and design. Credible evidence that potential adverse environmental impacts have been identified and rigorously assessed with appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true to select this option).
 - 2: No evidence that opportunities to strengthen environmental sustainability and poverty-environment linkages were considered. Credible evidence that potential adverse environmental impacts have been identified and assessed, if relevant, and appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget.

3 2 1 Evidence

Refer to page 28 of project document

3 2

Evidence

The project document includes a completed Social Environmental Screening template, which did not identify potential risks to any identified categories including Environmental Sustainability.

1: No evidence that opportunities to strengthen environmental sustainability and poverty-environment linkages were considered. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse environmental impacts were adequately considered. *Note: Management action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1 Yes (3) No (1) 9. Has the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) been conducted to identify potential social and environmental impacts and risks? The SESP is not required for projects in which UNDP is Administrative Agent only and/or projects comprised solely of reports, coordination of events, trainings, workshops, meetings, **SESP Not Required** conferences and/or communication materials and information dissemination. [if yes, upload the completed checklist. If SESP is not required, provide the reason for the exemption in the evidence section.] de a MANAGEMENT & MONITORING 3 2 10. Does the project have a strong results framework? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project): Evidence 3: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate The results framework has been revised to level and relate in a clear way to the project's theory of change. Outputs are incorporate correct statements relating to accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure all of the outcomes, outcome indicators, and key expected changes identified in the theory of change, each with credible applicable outputs of the UNDP Strategic data sources, and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate. (all must be true to select this option) 2: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level, but may not cover all aspects of the project's theory of change. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators, but baselines, targets and data sources may not yet be fully specified. Some use of gender sensitive, sex-disaggregated indicators, as appropriate. (all must be true to select this option) 1: The results framework does not meet all of the conditions specified in selection "2" above. This includes: the project's selection of outputs and activities are not at an appropriate level and do not relate in a clear way to the project's theory of change; outputs are not accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the expected change, and have not been populated with baselines and targets; data sources are not specified, and/or no gender sensitive, sex-disaggregation of indicators. *Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of Correct statements are included in the results framework table: Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: (Sub-regional programme outcome 4 (UNDAF outcome 1.1)): Improved resilience of PICTs, with a particular focus on communities, through the integrated implementation of sustainable environmental management, climate change adaptation and/or mitigation and disaster risk management. Outcome Indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, Including baseline and targets: i) Share of budget resources earmarked for environmental sustainability, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and mitigation; ii) share of population with sustainable access to improved water sources and to renewable energy (disaggregated by gender and age); and iii) area protected to maintain biological diversity. Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: i) Output 1.4. Scaled up action on climate

change adaptation and mitigation across sectors which is funded and implemented.

collection so	a comprehensive and costed M&E plan in place with specified data urces and methods to support evidence-based management, and evaluation of the project?	Yes (3)	No (1)
Evidence: The ncludes cost	e project document contains an M&E plan (page 18), which also		
12. Is the pro	्कः pject's governance mechanism clearly defined in the project	3	2
locument, i	ncluding planned composition of the project board? (select from that best reflects this project):		ence
e om gove Proj spec atta	the project's governance mechanism is fully defined in the project position. Individuals have been specified for each position in the ernance mechanism (especially all members of the project board.) ect Board members have agreed on their roles and responsibilities as diffied in the terms of reference. The ToR of the project board has been ched to the project document. (all must be true to select this option). The project's governance mechanism is defined in the project document; disc institutions are noted as holding key governance roles, but widuals may not have been specified yet. The prodoc lists the most protect responsibilities of the project board, project director/manager quality assurance roles. (all must be true to select this option) are project's governance mechanism is loosely defined in the project ument, only mentioning key roles that will need to be filled at a later. No information on the responsibilities of key positions in the ernance mechanism is provided.	The project document includes the following Project Board members, in accordance with UNDP: Senior Supplier (Country Director, UNDP PaO); Senior Beneficiary (Director-General of key stakeholder ministries). Key roles including the Project Assurance role are also included.	
2. 11-11-46-4	project risks been identified with clear plans stated to manage and	3	2
	h risks?		1
the of cl anal in pi opti. 2: Pr proj 1: So of al also	roject risks related to the achievement of results are fully described in project risk log, based on comprehensive analysis drawing on the theory nange, Social and Environmental Standards and screening, situation ysis, capacity assessments and other analysis. Clear and complete plan ace to manage and mitigate each risk. (both must be true to select this con) operated to the achievement of results identified in the initial ect risk log with mitigation measures identified for each risk. Other risks may be identified in the initial project risk log, but no evidence nalysis and no clear risk mitigation measures identified. This option is selected if risks are not clearly identified and no initial risk log is used with the project document.	Evidence The project document makes references to risks and assumptions (pages 7, 12-16), and draws from the 2014 HACT assessment (page 38) that was undertaken for the same implementing partner but for another UNDP/GEF project. Since the overall risk rating was considered low, the project implementation will follow the same NIM arrangement.	
Note: Mana	gement Action must be taken for a score of 1		G. 11.500 C. 11.11.11
EFFICIE	NT .		
explicitly theory of maximur manager other int	ecific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources been mentioned as part of the project design? This can include: i) using the change analysis to explore different options of achieving the n results with the resources available; ii) using a portfolio nent approach to improve cost effectiveness through synergies with erventions; iii) through joint operations (e.g., monitoring or nent) with other partners.	Yes (3) Evidence: Refer to activity result-level budget on page 20 of project document.	No (1)

15. Are explicit plans in place to ensure the project links up with other relevant ongoing projects and initiatives, whether led by UNDP, national or other partners, to achieve more efficient results (including, for example, through sharing resources or coordinating delivery?)	Yes (3) Evidence: The project document proposes to use existing governance mechanism of the Vanuatu S/TNC and building on the Vanuatu NAMA consultation that was undertaken in 2014.	No (1)
16. Is the budget justified and supported with valid estimates?	3 1	2
 3: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, and is specified for the duration of the project period in a multi-year budget. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects or activities. Cost implications from inflation and foreign exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget. 2: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, when possible, and is specified for the duration of the project in a multi-year budget. Costs are supported with valid estimates based on prevailing rates. 1: The project's budget is not specified at the activity level, and/or may not be captured in a multi-year budget. 	Evider Refer to activity result- budget on page 20 of p	level multi-year
17. Is the Country Office fully recovering the costs involved with project implementation?	3 .1	2
 3: The budget fully covers all project costs that are attributable to the project, including programme management and development effectiveness services related to strategic country programme planning, quality assurance, pipeline development, policy advocacy services, finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services, information and communications based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL.) 2: The budget covers significant project costs that are attributable to the project based on prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL) as relevant. 1: The budget does not adequately cover project costs that are attributable to the project, and UNDP is cross-subsidizing the project. 	Evider The project budget nov costs i.e. General Mana cost (US\$28,000) and E (US\$8,000) as part of p management.	v includes UNDP gement Support lirect Project Cost
*Note: Management Action must be given for a score of 1. The budget must be revised to fully reflect the costs of implementation before the project commences.	,OI	
EFFECTIVE	3	2
 18. Is the chosen implementation modality most appropriate? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project): 3: The required implementing partner assessments (capacity assessment, HACT micro assessment) have been conducted, and there is evidence that options for implementation modalities have been thoroughly considered. There is a strong justification for choosing the selected modality, based on the development context. (both must be true to select this option) 2: The required implementing partner assessments (capacity assessment, HACT micro assessment) have been conducted and the implementation modality chosen is consistent with the results of the assessments. 	The project document makes references to the 2014 HACT assessment (page 38) that was undertaken for the same implementing partner but for another UNDP/GEF project. Since the overall risk rating was considered low, the project implementation will follow the same NIM arrangement.	

• 1: The required assessments have not been conducted, but there may be evidence that options for implementation modalities have been considered.		
*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1		
	3	2
19. Have targeted groups, prioritizing marginalized and excluded populations that	î	
will be affected by the project, been engaged in the design of the project in a	Evidence	
way that addresses any underlying causes of exclusion and discrimination?	There was no engager	nent at project
 3: Credible evidence that all targeted groups, prioritising marginalized and excluded populations that will be involved in or affected by the project, have been actively engaged in the design of the project. Their views, rights and any constraints have been analysed and incorporated into the root cause analysis of the theory of change which seeks to address any underlying; causes of exclusion and discrimination and the selection of project interventions. 2: Some evidence that key targeted groups, prioritising marginalized and 	formulation. However document recognizes inclusion during proje (ref. pages 7-8).	the importance of
excluded populations that will be involved in the project, have been		
engaged in the design of the project. Some evidence that their views,		
rights and any constraints have been analysed and incorporated into the		
root cause analysis of the theory of change and the selection of project		
interventions.		
1: No evidence of engagement with marginalized and excluded 1: No evidence of engagement with marginalized and excluded		
populations that will be involved in the project during project design. No		
evidence that the views, rights and constraints of populations have been incorporated into the project.		
incorporated into the project.		
20. Does the project conduct regular monitoring activities, have explicit plans for evaluation, and include other lesson learning (e.g. through After Action Reviews or Lessons Learned Workshops), timed to inform course corrections if	Yes (3)	No (1)
needed during project implementation?		
21. The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2 or GEN3, indicating that gender has been fully mainstreamed into all project outputs at a	Yes (3)	No (1)
minimum.	Evide	
*Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of	Gender marker is ye ATL	
"no"	Bit	
	3	2
22. Is there a realistic multi-year work plan and budget to ensure outputs are	1	
delivered on time and within allotted resources? (select from options 1-3 that	Evide	
best reflects this project):	Refer to activity resul	
 3: The project has a realistic work plan & budget covering the duration of the project at the activity level to ensure outputs are delivered on time and within the allotted resources. 	budget on page 20 of	project document.
 2: The project has a work plan & budget covering the duration of the project at the output level. 		
• 1: The project does not yet have a work plan & budget covering the		
duration of the project.		
SUSTAINABILITY & NATIONAL OWNERSHIP		
23. Have national partners led, or proactively engaged in, the design of the	3	2
project? (select from options 1-3 that best reflects this project):	1	
3: National partners have full ownership of the project and led the process	LINDR commissioned	
of the development of the project jointly with UNDP.	UNDP commissioned formulation exercise, of an international co	using the expertise
 <u>2:</u> The project has been developed by UNDP in close consultation with national partners. 	or an international co	nsultarit.
 1: The project has been developed by UNDP with limited or no engagement with national partners. 		

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Evidence

Through the project, specific capacities will be assessed as follows:

For activity result 2 (i.e. MRV systems have been designed to support implementation and evaluation of NDCs), the project will identify capacity gaps and country needs with regards to creating systems for data collection and tracking progress toward NDC targets.

For activity result 3 (i.e. NAMAs designed/strengthened in the context of NDC implementation), detailed feasibility studies will be undertaken for micro-grid at Wintua village community located in South West Bay on Malekula and grid extensions for East Ambae (from Lolowai to St. Patricks College) and Maweo (Nasawa to Vonda).

identified activities that will be undertaken to strengthen capacity of national institutions, but these activities are not part of a comprehensive strategy to monitor and strengthen national capacities.

2: A capacity assessment is planned after the start of the project. There are plans to develop a strategy to strengthen specific capacities of national institutions based on the results of the capacity assessment.

1.5: There is mention in the project document of capacities of national institutions to be strengthened through the project, but no capacity assessments or specific strategy development are planned.

1: Capacity assessments have not been carried out and are not foreseen. There is no strategy for strengthening specific capacities of national institutions.

25. Is there is a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying how the project will use national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.,) to the extent possible?

26. Is there a clear transition arrangement/ phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results (including resource mobilization strategy)?

Yes (3) Evidence

Refer to page 10 pf project document.

Yes (3)

No (1) Evidence Some references are made on project document (pages 8-9) where convention reporting will be institutionalized.

No (1)

Winiferett Nainoca RSD Deputy Team Leader UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji)

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