

## Annual Project Progress Report

**Project title: Developing a National Adaptation Planning Process in Turkmenistan**

**Award ID: 00102379**

**Project ID: 00104476**

**Implementing partner: UNDP**

**Period covered in this report: 1 January – 31 December 2022**

**Date of last Annual Report: n/a**

**Date of the last Project Board meeting: 4 October 2022**

**Date of last Quality Assurance and rating: n/a**

### 1. Project Performance

**Please state the expected Output of the Project, set indicators and corresponding CP Outcome (as per project document/AWP):**

**Project Output 1:** Output 3.1: Policy and regulatory framework is strengthened to facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and monitoring mechanisms.

**Output indicators:** Indicator 3.1.1. Number of policies, regulatory acts, and monitoring mechanisms developed to promote climate adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction

**Output targets: 2**

b) Were the indicators and output achieved?    Yes                       No                       Partially X

c) If no or partially, please explain why?

The project is in its first year of implementation. Therefore, the results were only partially achieved.

**Project Output 2:** Output 3.2: Strategic plans and investments are designed and implemented to promote water efficiency, sustainable land use, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems management, restoration of degraded lands, disaster risk reduction, sustainable energy, use of renewables, and green urban development with gender equality and women's empowerment considerations.

**Output indicators:** Indicator 3.2.3. Number of urban and agri-rural communities benefiting from implementation of mitigation, adaptation, disaster and climate risk programmes, plans and measures

**Output targets: 1 urban and 2 agri-rural communities**

b) Were the indicators and output achieved?    Yes                       No X                      Partially

c) If no or partially, please explain why?

The project is in its first year of implementation. Therefore, the results are yet to be achieved.

## **2. Progress Reporting**

**Please summarize the main achievements during the project cycle:**

### **Project Output 1:**

Under the 1<sup>st</sup> outcome it is planned to strengthen the policy and regulatory framework of Turkmenistan related to implementation of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement. The project has started implementation of Activity 1.1.1 aimed at designing a coordination mechanism for adaptation planning. The team of experts prepared possible options for the coordination mechanism that will be presented during the validation workshop on 20 December 2022. As the next step the project will support with elaboration of necessary draft legal documents to institutionalize the coordination mechanism. This activity is planned for the next year along with the development of M&E framework for adaptation actions.

### **Project Output 2:**

Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> outcome it is planned to conduct climate risks assessments on the water resources in Ashgabat and the province of Dashoguz using multi-criteria analysis that takes into account the unique impacts on particularly vulnerable groups including women. The results of the study will inform, and support adaptation planning in two pilot areas and could be used for scaling up in other regions of Turkmenistan. Urban and agri-rural communities will benefit of climate risks assessments for which adaptation actions shall be taken to address.

The project team has elaborated ToR, and plans to advertise tender either in December 2022 or January 2023 with implementation of works in 2023

## **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

Analyse and report with the support of evidence concrete results achieved and/or unachieved towards gender equality and women's empowerment during the year.

Gender Analysis was initiated as the first step in project implementation. It proposes the concept of gender mainstreaming in the project, which is based on the idea of complementing planned project activities with a gender equality component. Report on Gender Issues.

In 2022 the project conducted its first four workshops. The project team ensured that there are equal opportunities for men and women to participate in the project events. Gender focused entity, like the Women's Union, were invited to many project events. During the Project Board meeting the idea of including representative of Women's Union was brought up. By the next meeting, the Project Board will consider this issue, and will decide level of responsibility of the Women's Union (status of decision-maker or observer) if the latter is accepted to the Board (meeting Protocol is stored in Atlas).

## **4. Project Risks and Issues**

**The project Risk Log is maintained throughout the project implementation to capture potential risks to the project and associated measures to mitigate risk. The Project Manager shall maintain and update the Risk Log and ensure that risks are identified,**

**communicated and managed effectively.**

**A number of potential risks are listed below.**

Description of risk	Type and category	Risk management actions	Current situation
Potential for delays in implementation at start-up possibly from the procurement project staff, consultants and other elements. Other delays could arise from inadequate institutional coordination and or participation of stakeholders.	Political Organizational Operational	The procurement process will be carefully monitored by the project team through the conducting of internal meetings related to implementation of the project and regular meetings with operations unit and UNDP management. The project will have procurement plan which will be regularly updated upon changing circumstances. Where necessary, UNDP management interventions will be made order to speed up the process.  Additionally, the UNDP Country Office will ensure that adequate allocation of staff from UNDP and the government are provided and in a timely manner. The CO has significant experience in successfully managing complex projects. As a precautionary measure, activities in the first quarter of the project are kept to a minimum	The risk is still valid. There are delays in project implementation due to very long recruitment processes. NAP project team is still not complete, which causes certain delays in implementation.  The risk is ongoing, valid until July 2023. Impact - medium
A limited ability to collect data. This leads to an incomplete data collection could lead to delays / challenges in the completion of the outputs / activities.	Political Organizational	Clear commitment will be obtained from across government agencies to contribute to data collection and dissemination of data.	The risk is valid until the end of project cycle (August 2024) Impact - moderate
Low institutional capacities lead to ineffective execution of the project that undermine the project.	Organizational	Enhancement of institutional capacity has been identified as critical to the success of the project and is the focus of Outcome 3. Involvement of the stakeholders through consultations, training and workshops during the assessments, planning and policy stage is envisaged to support capacity building	The risk is valid until the end of project cycle (August 2024) Impact - moderate
Conflicts emerge between stakeholders concerning roles in the NAP process leading to an uncoordinated approach to tackling climate change and a NAP process that is ineffective or suboptimal.	Political Organizational	Government stakeholder involvement is to be detailed early and clearly in stakeholder involvement plan. Support from central government will be engaged if needed. Consistent and active involvement of stakeholders is envisaged to support ownership of the project and minimize conflicts.	The risk is valid until the end of project cycle (August 2024) Impact - low
Lack of political will to support the project endangers the sustainability of the project.	Political Strategic	Awareness-raising among the key decision-makers of the near and long-term risks of climate impacts to national and sectoral development should help build support for the project and an ongoing NAP process.	The risk is valid until the end of project cycle (August 2024) Impact - low

		Support will be given to government to organize consultations on project progress at key stages to maintain government ownership and interest in the project. Collaboration with other cooperation projects which will help to maintain political visibility.	
Insufficient focus/commitment to adaptation due to other immediate development pressures threatens the sustainability of a NAP process beyond the project.	Political Strategic	The development of the NAP process, and governance framework as well as integrating adaptation into water planning should ensure the sustainability of the project and the NAP process	The risk is valid until the end of project cycle (August 2024) Impact - low
Certain stakeholder groups are excluded from fully participating in NAP processes and decisions that may affect them. This leads to a NAP process that does not reflect the vulnerabilities and needs of certain stakeholder groups. This is a particularly a risk in Dashoguz.	Political Operational	Special care will be taken to ensure that all stakeholder groups are informed and given the opportunity to participate in the NAP process. This is especially true for communities in Dashoguz. Additionally, the project implementing team will conduct real-time monitoring and evaluation of each stakeholder engagement activity to ensure that these processes are fully inclusive. Management processes (e.g. budgets and work plans) will be adjusted should country circumstances prevent any affected stakeholder groups from engaging in the process	The risk is valid until the end of project cycle (August 2024) Impact - low
The COVID-19 pandemic may lead to a variety of impacts on the project including, but not limited to, delays in procurement, difficulty is conducting stakeholder consultations.	Operational	The number of COVID-19 infections in Turkmenistan has been comparatively low so far. Regardless, the project will be particularly vigilant about potential and actual impacts resulting from the pandemic and seek to factor in specific mitigation options in each case. The project will continue to monitor situation closely and take early actions and adjustments a needed.	The risk is ongoing, valid until March 2023. Impact - high

### **5. Lessons learned and follow-up steps (if applicable)**

#### **a) Please provide the lessons learned and further steps after the project's closure.**

There were significant delays in recruitment of project team and project implementation. GCF approved the project in May 2021. The Government of Turkmenistan officially endorsed the project in December 2021, which is a must for formal interaction with national stakeholders and project implementation in Turkmenistan. Project Manager and Project Assistant assumed their duties only in February 2022. One of the key technical experts were hired in September 2022, whereas the second technical expert will assume her duties not earlier than January 2023. This was caused mostly by the lack of qualified, skilled and experienced administrative and technical personnel (certain positions were re-advertised), but also by the long recruitment procedures at UNDP.

Thus, over the past reporting period the project management team had to tackle programme related tasks without input from the technical staff: elaboration of AWP for 2022, Procurement Plan, ToRs, etc.

**Lessons Learned**

Project design implies implementation of activities by the teams of IC and NC or international service provider supported by local consultants. It is important to ensure that both positions/ tenders advertised around the same time, and contracts prepared around the same dates to the extent possible to avoid delays in implementation.

Considering substantial delays in implementation of planned measures, the team needs to get mobilized and optimize the planning to ensure that the bulk of project activities are implemented as planned in 2023 starting from January onwards.

Partnership with other development agencies and project working in similar area proved to be beneficial in several ways: better coordination of actions and optimal use of allocated resources; wider audiences, hence, larger impact and greater coverage in media; inclusion in NAP process those sectors that are beyond the scope of the current project (migration and climate change nexus, for example). This is especially important for the NAP project in its initial phase, when the big attention is given to awareness raising and capacity building activities.

Engagement of private sector in NAP process is challenging yet has untapped potential. Agricultural producers implement adaptation activities, but the impact of those adaptation measures is yet to be assessed. The first dialogue between the government and the private sector representatives showed the interest and benefits of further exchanges on topics of climate change risks, water efficiency, etc.

And, lastly, it was noted that feedback from the workshop participants (weather in written or anecdotal form) are very helpful to inform the design of the follow-up interventions.

**6. Transfer of Assets or other related matter**

**a) Please state on any past or future transfer of assets made within the project cycle (Attach list of equipment, cooperation frameworks with beneficiaries, etc.)**

N/a

**7. Financial management**

Budget item	Total approved in 2022 (in USD)	Expenses + commitments	Budget utilization in % to planned
Component 1	104,210.00	93,390.00	89.62%
Component 2	148,872.00	18,094.00	12.15%
Component 3	202,739.00	28,343.00	13.98%

<b>Project management</b>	36,841.00	30,862.00	84%
<b>Total delivery in 2022</b>	492,622.00	170,688.00	35%
<b>In % to total project budget</b>	TOTAL: 1,672,596.00 <b>29,5%</b>		

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**Date: 15/12/2022**

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**Date: 15/12/2022**