



Minutes of the Virtual Project Board Meeting

Project Name: Enhancing Access to Climate Finance in the ECIS region

Project ID: 104887

Date: 3 June 2018 (conducted virtually)

1. List of Participants

Board Members	Title
Gerd Trogemann	Istanbul Regional Hub Manager, Project Board Chair
Dmitry Mariassin	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Armenia
Alessandro Fracassetti	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Azerbaijan
Berdi Berdiyev	Deputy Resident Representative a.i., UNDP in Kazakhstan
Aliona Niculita	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Kyrgyzstan
Stefan Liller	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Moldova
Steliana Nedera	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Serbia
Vitalie Vremis	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Turkmenistan
Farid Garakhanov	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP in Uzbekistan
Sanja Bojanic	Deputy Country Director, UNDP in Tajikistan
Alexander Averchenkov	Manager of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development
IRH Participants	Title
Armen Grigoryan	Team Leader, Climate and Disaster Team
Ekaterina Paniklova	Senior Programme Coordinator, (Quality Assurance)
Natalia Olofinskaya	CCA Programme Specialist, Project Manager, Ex-Officio

2. Agenda and discussion

- (i) The project "Enhancing access to climate finance in the ECIS region" was approved and launched in September 2017. The project strengthens access to climate finance to the eligible countries in the ECIS region and supports knowledge exchange across the countries on leveraging and management of the climate finance. It is expected that at least four new funding proposals on climate change adaptation and mitigation will be developed by the end of the project. Countries supported through this project: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

The first narrative and financial progress report for 2017 was submitted for the Project Board review and approval. It was recommended by the Board members during discussion that future progress reports reflect the amount of actual co-financing leveraged by the project, including from the UNDP COs and recipient governments, in the "Financial management" section.

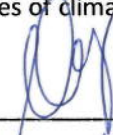
- (ii) Three funding requests have been received in 2018 from the COs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia to support development of their GCF projects. The requests are supported with the NDA requests, COs co-financing and project Idea Notes endorsed by UNDP-GEF team. COs requests have been shared with the Board Members for review and approval. It was recommended by the Board members that CO funding requests and other project materials duly reflect the source of project funds, i.e. the contribution of the Russia-UNDP TFD.
- (iii) Based on the analysis of GCF and other climate finance opportunities in the eligible countries and based on the consultations with the beneficiary COs, it was suggested to extend the scope of the project development facility (Component 1 of the project) to support project development for the other sources of climate finance beyond GCF, such as the Adaptation Fund. This would allow the beneficiary COs to outreach a broader range of climate finance sources and effectively assist countries leveraging climate finance in the near future. This decision will not require any change to the project objectives, outputs or activities, but will require expansion of the project output indicators and will clarify the scope of the project support to the countries.
- (iv) Project Annual Work Plans (AWPs) for 2017 and 2018 were submitted for the approval by the Project Board.


The recommendations made by the Board members have been addressed in the course of the consultations. A detailed comments log is attached in the Annex 1 to this document.

3. Decision of the Project Board

Following the review of the project documentations and virtual discussion, the Project Board approved the following:

- Project progress report 1 September-31 December 2017 (Annex 2);
- AWP for 2017 and 2018 (Annex 3);
- Allocation of project development funds to the COs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia against their requests;
- Extension of the project development facility under the Component 1 of the project to the other sources of climate finance beyond GCF, including the Adaptation Fund.

Prepared by :  Natalia Olofinskaya, CCA Programme Specialist, IRH CDT

Cleared by :  Armen Grigoryan, Team Leader, DRR and Climate Change Team

Approved by :  Gerd Trogemann, Istanbul Regional Hub Manager

Annex 1. Comments Log during Virtual Project Board Consultations for Enhancing Access to Climate Finance in the ECIS region, 3 June 2018


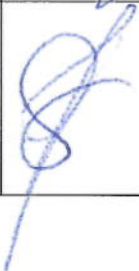

Comments from Board Members	Response from the Presenter
<p><i>Dmitry Mariassin, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Armenia:</i> <u>Comment:</u> Thank you very much for sharing the documents. We support the project overall and endorse the AWP, with the following two comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) While the progress report of 2017 reflects that Armenia CO expressed interest in getting assistance for development of Adaptation Fund proposals there is no respective budget line for 2018, and we would like to ask that it is included. We will need certain assistance for development of the AF Proposal(s). Some budgetary support for hiring local experts is required now, 2) Also, Armenia CO would like to express interest in accessing GCF simplified approval process up to \$10 million – we are negotiating with government on this subject, and would appreciate it if the project could budget for respective assistance to Armenia CO in 2019. <p><u>Final comment:</u> Thank you, this clarifies, and is acceptable. With this clarification, we fully endorse the package.</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> All countries according to the project document are eligible for up to \$100,000 from the regional project. Development of the projects for Adaptation Fund (AF) was not explicitly mentioned in the project document, this is why Project Management applied for the Board approval. Once this Board approves extension of this project support to the development of the AF proposals, your CO will be able to submit budget request. According to the project document the funding request will need to be accompanied with (i) government request, (ii) an idea note cleared/pipelined by the UNDP-GEF team, (iii) CO co-financing, and (iv) project development plan. IRH will then be able making a budget revision to the regional project and including a new activity for Armenia CO for a specific amount requested by the CO. The budget revision can be done any time during the year.</p>
<p><i>Alessandro Fracassetti, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Azerbaijan:</i> All endorsed and no further comments.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>Berdi Berdiyev, Deputy Resident Representative a.i., UNDP Kazakhstan:</i> I would like to express appreciation for the technical and financial support provided to UNDP Kazakhstan. We count on the continued cooperation in developing a fully-fledged GCF proposal, within the framework of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund project. We endorse the documents and proposed plan, in line with the discussion that you have started with Irina on the final allocation amount for Kazakhstan.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated and well noted. CO comments on the AWP have been addressed.</p>
<p><i>Aliona Niculita, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Kyrgyzstan:</i> I have reviewed the documents and I do not have any comments. Kindly consider the report, AWP, allocation and extension endorsed from my side.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>Stefan Liller, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova:</i> I have reviewed the documentation and I do not have any comments. Please consider the progress report, AWP, allocation and extension of the facility endorsed from my end.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>Steliana Nedera, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Serbia:</i> I have reviewed the progress report and the proposed plans and I do not have comments or objections – therefore I endorse the documents.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>Sanja Bojanic, Deputy Country Director, UNDP Tajikistan:</i> <u>Comment:</u> Since no specific activities are envisaged in Tajikistan under this project no country specific inputs from my side. It would be great though if you could provide more information on the regional capacity building interventions planned: topics, timeframes, etc.</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> Thank you very much for your feedback. The following regional capacity building activities are envisaged by the project according to the project document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate finance workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan on the week of 17 September. A

<p><u>Final comment:</u> Thank you for additional info. No further comments, inputs from our side.</p>	<p>pre-workshop survey has recently been shared with the beneficiary COs.</p> <p>2. A series of study tours for NDAs. Recently we have asked the beneficiary COs to express their interest in such activity.</p> <p>We look forward to hearing from your Office on these initiatives.</p>
<p><i>Vitalie Vremis, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Turkmenistan:</i> We fully endorse and welcome support to project development for the other sources of climate finance beyond GCF, such as the Adaptation Fund.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated and well noted.</p>
<p><i>Farid Garakhanov, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Uzbekistan:</i> From our side the documents are also endorsed.</p>	<p>The feedback is highly appreciated and well noted. No response is required.</p>
<p><i>Alexander Averchenkov, Manager of the Russia-UNDP TFD:</i> <u>Comment:</u> I could support proposed decisions. However, please take into account the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on annual 2017 project report: it would be wise to indicate the whole amount of funding, including inputs from UNDP COs and recipient governments in the "Financial management" chapter in all following project progress reports; • on project AWP for 2018: the planned project's funds utilization will be less than 50%. I would recommend to ensure allocation of the remaining project's funds by the end of 2018. This target and respective actions of COs and of the project team should be indicated in AWP 2018 or in the minutes of the current virtual PB; • on allocation of project development funds to the COs against their requests: agreed with allocations to COs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan. The allocation to the request from UNDP Serbia could be agreed under the condition that the PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY PLAN is revised. It should clearly indicate the Russia-UNDP TFD as a source of requested funding in all chapters, starting from the cover page. The project team make consider a format standardization of COs' requests for funding from the project development facility. <p><u>Final comment:</u> Thank you very much for prompt reaction. With suggested action points we endorse the package.</p>	<p><u>Response:</u> Thank you very much for your comments and recommendations. Project Management suggests the following action points to address your comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All future progress reports will reflect the amount of actual co-financing leveraged by the project, including from the UNDP COs and recipient governments, in the "Financial management" section; • In order to improve the level of utilization of the project funds given the relatively short project timeline, we proposed for the consideration of the Project Board to extend the project assistance to the development of the proposals to the other climate finance sources beyond GCF (including the Adaptation Fund). If the Board adopts this decision, we will be able to improve the level of utilization of the regional project funds already in 2018; • The funding request from Serbia has been revised reflecting the role of the Russia-UNDP TFD. The revised version has been shared with the Project Board for approval. Project Management will provide corresponding guidance to the UNDP COs for their future funding requests.

4 July 2018

Name of the Document: Virtual Project Board Meeting Minutes

"Enhancing Access to Climate Finance in the ECIS region"

	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Nataly Olofinskaya <i>CCA Programme Specialist</i>		<i>04.07.2018</i>
Cleared by:	Ekaterina Paniklova Ekaterina Paniklova Senior Programme Coordinator UNEP ECLAC Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS		<i>04.07.2018</i>
Comments (if applicable)	<p>Dear Gerd,</p> <p>Please kindly find the Virtual Project Board minutes of the following project for your signature.</p> <p>"Enhancing Access to Climate Finance in the ECIS region"</p> <p>Virtual Project Board Meeting was held between 3-18 June.</p> <p><i>List of Enclosed Documents:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Virtual Project Board Meeting Minutes2. Annex 1. Comments Log3. Armen's Clearance via email <p>Best Regards Gulgun Sahin </p>		