

UNDP

Terminal Evaluation

Project: EU4Climate

Project countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Giacomo Morelli

Evaluation carried out from June to October 2023

Acknowledgements

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Disclaimer:

This report is product of an independent external evaluation. The content of the report does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the United Nations Development Programme, or any other project stakeholders.

Project Information Table

Project Information		
Project title	EU4Climate	
Atlas ID	00115652	
Corporate outcome and output	<p>Outcome 1: Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems.</p> <p>Output 1.1: Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies and plans through regional initiatives promoting economic diversification and green growth.</p>	
Region	EU Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)	
Date project document signed	25.01.2019	
Project dates	Start	Planned end
	01.01.2019	31.12.2023
Total committed budget	USD 10,302,160 (EUR 8,800,000)	
Project expenditure at the time of evaluation	USD 8'124'612.69 [as of 01.09.2023]	
Funding source	European Commission	
Implementing party	United Nations Development Programme	

Evaluation Information Table

Evaluation information		
Evaluation type	Project	
Final/midterm review/ other	Terminal	
Period under evaluation	Start	End
	January 2019	June 2023
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Evaluation dates	Start	Completion
	15 June 2023	19 October 2023

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

CEER	Council of European Energy Regulators
DG-NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission
DG-Clima	Directorate-General for Climate Actions of the European Commission
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
EU	European Union
IRH	Istanbul Regional Hub
LULUCF	<i>Land use, land-use change and forestry</i>
MENR-Azerbaijan	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan
MoE-Armenia	Ministry of Environment of Armenia
MoE-Moldova	Ministry of Environment of Moldova
MoEPA-Georgia	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
MEPNR-Ukraine	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
MRV	Monitoring Reporting and Verification
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TE	Terminal Evaluation
ToR	Terms Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive summary

Brief project description

EU4Climate assisted the governments of the five EU Eastern Partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine) in taking actions to combat climate change and transition towards a low-emission and climate-resilient economy. This initiative, funded by the European Union (EU) and executed by UNDP, aimed at aiding these countries in fulfilling their commitments under the Paris Agreement, enhancing climate-related policies and legislation, and ultimately reducing the adverse effects of climate change on their citizens while enhancing their resilience. Expected results were:

- Implementation and update of nationally determined contributions (NDC);
- Development of national mid-century low-emission development strategies (LEDS);
- Introducing or strengthening of robust emissions measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks;
- Alignment with the EU Acquis;
- Mainstreaming climate in other sectors, interinstitutional awareness and sectoral guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement (PA);
- Climate investment;
- Adaptation planning;
- Addressing the immediate war-related needs of the Ukrainian central and local authorities, and reducing the impact of the war on the distressed population of Ukraine; and
- Contributing to the green reconstruction of Ukraine.

Evaluation scope and objective

The objective of the Terminal Evaluation is to assess to what extent the project objectives and outcomes were achieved as specified in the Project Document and identify best practices and lessons learned. Its scope of the TE includes the entirety of EU4Climate activities from January 2019 to June 2023. The TE was expected to answer the following broad questions:

- What did EU4Climate intend to achieve during the project's implementation period?
- To what extent has the project achieved its intended objectives at the output level, and what contribution has it made at the outcome level?
- What factors contributed to or hindered the project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?
- Which project areas are the most relevant and strategic for UNDP to scale up or consider going forward for the future projects?

The TE was based on 28 evaluation questions pertaining to the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability, visibility and gender equality.

Evaluation methods

The research design of the evaluation exercise used the following primary and secondary data collection methods: on-line individual; and desk review or project documents and reports. Triangulation was the method applied for data analysis.

Summary of findings

The project primarily targeted Ministries of Environment within Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, while also serving the broader interests of their respective governments.

The project aligns comprehensively with the specific priorities and requirements of the beneficiary countries. These aligned closely with each country's obligations under international agreements, including the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Additionally, these efforts are in line with regional accords such as the Eastern Partnership, bilateral agreements with the EU, and the Energy Community Treaty.

The project had a clear implementation path, with UNDP employing expert consultants who engaged all stakeholders in a collaborative way. This approach ensured stakeholder input and ownership of project outcomes. UNDP's role as coordinator aligned with its mission to enhance policy development, leadership, and institutional resilience in governance, sustainable development, and climate resilience.

The project went above and beyond in its delivery. One of the most noteworthy examples supporting this statement is the project's assistance in formulating three draft climate laws in Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The project exceeded its expectations, notably by contributing to the development of three draft climate laws in Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Technical cooperation, a key aspect of UNDP's work in the countries, aligns with international obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, crucial for Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. Additionally, adherence to the EU Acquis in bilateral agreements and the Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action is a priority for national governments. Consequently, the project's components are strategically significant for UNDP's future work in the region, aligning closely with the technical assistance expected from the EU in the coming years, as outlined in bilateral agreements.

Given the project's nature, strong partnerships with recipient institutions, especially Ministries of Environment, were essential for success. The Project Steering Committee, including high-ranking officials from major stakeholders, ensured a shared vision and strong country ownership due to the project's political significance.

The project adapted to countries' needs and interests, including handling ad hoc requests. Though at times a bit slow due to approvals, all requests were accommodated. The project understood that climate decisions are sovereign, and it aimed to support this, emphasizing country ownership.

The project counted on UNDP for high-quality, reliable procurement while maintaining fairness, integrity, transparency, and accountability principles. National stakeholders praised the competence of UNDP-hired experts for project delivery. By circulating each deliverable to the relevant national stakeholders, UNDP technical officers at both the country and regional levels, and EU institutions (as needed), the project ensured a thorough quality assurance process of project deliverables.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the escalation of the territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the recurrent institutional reforms and frequent turnovers in personnel within national governments across project countries were the main external factors that hindered the project implementation. The request of the no-cost extension represented a key element for the project to be able to deliver satisfactorily its outputs.

The project prioritized country involvement and ownership to enhance technical and institutional capabilities. This is key for long-term sustainability. The EU4Climate project directly and indirectly contributed to sustainability by supporting national regulatory and planning tools, promoting zero-

carbon development and improved adaptation planning. These objectives are linked to strengthening national institutional capacity, integrating climate policies into development strategies, and improving access to climate finance.

Fostering national ownership, seen as crucial for the project's long-term effectiveness with recipient governments and other national partners, was a fundamental aspect of project implementation.

The project's sustainability mainly depends on national budget availability for implementing planned measures outlined in various project-supported planning documents. Interviews highlight that implementation of these actions rely on political will. The evaluation cannot gauge long-term sustainability, but project deliverables are significant for EaP countries' commitment to international obligations. The countries have demonstrated consistent dedication to climate action in recent years, boding well for sustaining project achievements.

Regional aspects were primarily seen in regional workshops and Project Steering Committee meetings. Stakeholders stressed the importance of highlighting the region's significance for the European Union and collectively advancing climate action in all countries. This approach aimed to ensure consistent progress across the region while addressing each country's climate sector needs.

Conclusions

EU4Climate effectively achieved its objectives. Notably, the development of three Draft Climate Laws signifies that the project surpassed its original goals and exceeded expectations. However, while the project's efforts proved to be effective, capacities in the field of environment and climate change are not yet fully developed.

High political and institutional relevance, the mutual respect among stakeholders, along with acknowledgment of their respective roles, the Project Steering Committee's willingness to accommodate specific country requests and the UNDP capacity to bring in relevant capacities to conduct project activities resulted to be the key factors that contributed to the good performances of the project.

From an operational standpoint, the decision to request and approve a no-cost extension proved to be a strategic element for the success of the project. Without this extension, the project's performance would have been less efficient.

The project's approach to promoting gender equality was in line with its classification as GEN 1, as per UNDP's gender scales: Gender related considerations were mainstreamed in relevant project outputs, such as Updated NDC and Draft Climate Laws. This occurrence is regarded as a significant contribution of the project and UNDP engagement.

The project's approach to promoting gender equality has demonstrated effectiveness and aligns well with its classification as GEN 1 according to UNDP's gender scales. Gender-related considerations were integrated into relevant project outputs, such as the Updated NDC and Draft Climate Laws and others. This is viewed as a significant achievement resulting from the project and UNDP's engagement.

The project primarily aimed to provide technical support for reinforcing the institutional and policy goals of Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. UNDP's coordination and capacity-building efforts played a key role in assisting these countries in fulfilling their international and bilateral commitments while advancing toward sustainable development. Climate action is recognized as

integral to sustainable development, and capacity development activities provide a key platform for UNDP's role as the implementing agency. The Terminal Evaluation sees this as a strategic area for UNDP's ongoing engagement in the region.

Recommendations

Recommendation #1: <i>Emphasis on capacity development</i>	Keeping the focus on capacity development for climate action to support to the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.
Rationale:	Capacity at national level in the sphere of Climate Action are not yet fully developed in the beneficiary countries. The recommendations acquires more relevance for Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia. In fact, in June 2022, the European Council decided to grant the status of candidate country. Whereas it stated its readiness to grant the status of candidate country to Georgia.
Responsibility:	EU DG Clima, EU DG NEAR, UNDP, Ministries of Environment of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
Time-frame for implementation:	Successor projects that may be funded in the future both at national and regional level.
Recommendation #2: <i>Piloting</i>	Piloting implementation of delivered planning documents in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine
Rationale:	The project delivered a vast array of planning documents. Utilizing these for piloting activities focused on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation represents an ideal ground to assess and enhance existing capacities in climate action at both the national and local levels.
Responsibility:	UNDP and Ministries of Environment of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.
Time-frame for implementation:	Successor projects that may be funded in the future.

Lessons learned

Lesson Learned #1: <i>Political and institutional support throughout all project phases.</i>	Political and institutional support plays a key role in the success of a project aimed at assisting in the development of planning documents, such as strategies, action plans, reporting systems, and more. These projects operate within the institutional space of the recipient country. Political will to align with the project's objectives is reflected in the acceptance of project activities by all government institutions. Consequently, these institutions are inclined to actively engage in project implementation. At the project management level, it is evident that the primary implementing agency, such as UNDP, should foster the country ownership of project activities and consequently of project results. This can be achieved by facilitating open dialogue and offering relevant expertise that aligns with the specific needs and interests expressed by the institutional beneficiaries of the project.
Context of application	The successful and efficient collaboration among project stakeholders during project implementation was contingent upon political and institutional support. This fundamental lesson learned has broader implications that extend beyond the specific project and could be applicable to UNDP projects worldwide. Furthermore, it extends its relevance to various types of technical

	assistance initiatives, not limited solely to those associated with climate action.
Lesson Learned #2: <i>Managerial competencies, dedication, and commitment</i>	The success of a technical assistance initiative undeniably hinges on its political and thematic relevance. However, those responsible for project management must also possess the ability to capture the attention and involvement of stakeholders. Essential managerial competencies, dedication and commitment, and the capacity to actively listen and comprehend diverse interests, coupled with a willingness to engage in dialogue, are key factors for fostering effective stakeholder engagement and ownership of project results.
Context of application	Indeed, this lesson may appear self-evident and too general, yet it remains crucial to emphasize that projects in the international cooperation sector are not consistently managed in accordance with these principles. Recognizing and reinforcing these fundamental principles can greatly enhance the outcomes and impact of international development initiatives.

1. Introduction and overview

1.1. Evaluand (Object of the evaluation)

The project “EU4Climate” is the object of the Terminal Evaluation, which covers the entirety of its implementation period from January 2019 to June 2023.

1.2. Audience of the evaluation

The audience for the evaluation findings is composed by UNDP, EU and executing partners in the five project countries:

- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan (MENR-Azerbaijan);
- Ministry of Environment of Armenia (MoE-Armenia);
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEPA-Georgia);
- Ministry of Environment of Moldova (MoE-Moldova); and
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine (MEPNR-Ukraine)

1.3. Structure of the terminal evaluation report

The terminal evaluation report consists of the following core sections:

Description of the project

It acquaints the reader with the project by outlining the project's background and the intervention's context. It also provides a concise overview of the project's objectives, outcomes, and outputs.

Evaluation scope and objective

It delineates the scope and objective of the terminal evaluation, outlining the evaluation's objectives, and presents a list of evaluation questions grouped according to evaluation criteria.

Evaluation approach and methods

This section described the approach and the methodology applied. It also includes the calendar related to the implementation of evaluation activities.

Data analysis: description of the procedure

It offers a concise overview of the data analysis procedure.

Findings

This section provides answers to the evaluation questions. It is organized in sections in accordance with the evaluation criteria.

Conclusions, Recommendations, and Lessons Learned

These sections include the main findings, evidence-based conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned.

Annexes

2. Description of the project

2.1. Background

The six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus¹, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine) face water and energy shortages, climate-related disasters, and high reliance on fossil fuels. Climate change is expected to exacerbate current pressure on natural resources and ecosystem. Transitioning to a low-carbon economy presents opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and environmental sustainability. The EU can provide support for this transition, fostering collaboration to address challenges and seize opportunities for a sustainable future. Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine have signed Association Agreements with EU and Armenia a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the EU.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change was agreed upon during the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015 and officially came into effect on November 4, 2016. It marked a significant milestone as the first global and legally binding agreement aimed at combatting climate change. Its primary objective was to limit global warming to "well below 2°C" and avoid catastrophic consequences. The Paris Agreement, along with Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, presents an unprecedented opportunity to adopt an integrated approach to inclusive and resilient economies with zero carbon emissions by the year 2100. Countries submitted their individual climate commitments known as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). These commitments, reflecting each country's ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, become binding Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) upon ratification of the agreement. Most NDCs also incorporate adaptation goals, considering a country's specific circumstances and capabilities. The swift entry into force of the Paris Agreement, merely 11 months after its adoption, highlights the significance placed on NDCs for addressing climate change. However, the current commitments fall short of the target of limiting global warming to 2°C.

According to the provisions of the Paris Agreement, countries are expected to submit updated and more ambitious NDCs every five years. NDCs are envisioned as the central framework through which national, subnational, and sectoral climate change policies and actions align with national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The EU, UNDP and other partners supported countries in preparation of INDCs in the lead-up to the Paris Agreement that included direct technical and financial support to countries through the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme and the project Support to Developing Countries on INDCs.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative represents the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the EU and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The European Parliament resolution on women, gender equality and climate justice recognizes that men and women experience the impacts of climate change differently and calls on the EU to make the financing of both adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects gender-responsive.

¹ The project component executed in Belarus, which was suspended in 2022, will not be taken into account in the current evaluation. In 2022, all project activities in Belarus were halted indefinitely. Additionally, it's noteworthy that Belarus suspended its participation in the EaP (Eastern Partnership) at the end of June 2021.

The '20 Deliverables for 2020', adopted at the Eastern Partnership Summit in 2017, asks under its priority III (connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change) for enhanced climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts to help Partner Countries to develop more efficient economies, while becoming less vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change. In particular, it foresees decisive steps to be taken to improve energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, and to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Deliverable 15) and states that adaptation to climate change will be supported by improving water resources management and trans-boundary cooperation and promoting climate change resilience (Deliverable 16).

Multi-lateral Cooperation on climate change and related issues with EAP countries is carried out through a Platform focusing on connectivity, energy efficiency, environment, and climate change. Within this Platform, a thematic Panel specifically addresses environmental and climate change matters. Other thematic panels, such as the energy panel, tackle climate change concerns within specific sectors. These panels facilitate the exchange of information and best practices in the development and implementation of climate change policies, while also promoting alignment with EU legislation where relevant.

In November 2015, a Joint Communication from the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission highlighted the importance of energy security and climate action for both the EU and its partners in the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy. The communication emphasized "energy security and climate action" as a shared priority for cooperation and stressed the need for the full implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and its future developments. The EU also commits to sharing best practices, including robust emissions monitoring, reporting, and verification frameworks, and in the longer term, the potential linkage of emission trading systems to the EU emissions trading system when these systems are ready.

2.2. Context

The six beneficiary countries have the common ambition and the on-going regulatory reform towards the alignment with the EU policies and the need to build national capacities for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In this context, this proposed regional action is highly relevant to all six countries as it will allow knowledge transfer, learning and cross fertilization of ideas between the countries as each of them will be strengthening their climate policies and EU alignment agendas. These countries already have experience of interaction and knowledge exchange in the framework of the earlier EU-supported ClimaEast programme.

The EU4Climate project was expected to offer focus on sub regional cooperation, learning and knowledge transfer through regional training and information exchange workshops, study tours, joint knowledge and communication products.

The project was expected to facilitate transfer of the best practices across the EaP countries and encourage more focussed and ambitious climate strategies through sub-regional dialogues and exchanges. This included facilitating access of the EaP countries to the global climate policy initiatives and existing EU platforms. In view of the above, there was a strong value added of the regional approach in this project.

All countries also confirmed the strong relevance of this project to their national climate policy and EU alignment agendas. The beneficiary countries have limitations in institutional, technical and financial capacities to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement and under the EU cooperation agreements, and to proactively promote national climate action. In order to address these gaps, the project was designed to support: (i) the development of the strategic documents and monitoring frameworks for inclusive and participatory climate action; (ii) strengthening institutional capacities and knowledge through institutional capacity reviews, recommendations for structural changes as needed; and (iii) enhancing national expertise and knowledge exchange opportunities through workshops, trainings, study tours and improved stakeholder participation. The project was supposed to do so in close coordination with the other on-going activities supported by the countries themselves and their development partners (e.g. past and on-going EU projects, other bilateral donors' support, GEF and GCF support). The action was aligned with the work of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia under the Energy Community and with the work under the Covenant of Mayors initiative. Thus, the proposed project strategy was based on the analysis of baseline activities and on-going projects to secure complementarity and efficiency of the technical assistance.

Gender mainstreaming is an important priority for all the EaP countries. Moreover, the UNDP country offices in Moldova, Armenia and Georgia are in the Gender Equality Seal certification programme which prioritizes gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations. Each component of the project was expected to involve a tailored activity to mainstream gender into climate policy.

The EU4Climate falls under UNDP Regional Programme Document 2022-2025 and its outcomes and output:

Outcome1 - Structural Transformation Accelerated, Particularly Green, Inclusive and Digital Transitions.

Output 1.1 - The 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other intergovernmentally-agreed frameworks integrated in national and local development plans, measures to accelerate progress put in place, and budgets and progress assessed using data-driven solutions. The project builds on UNDP's strong foundation and \$2.8 billion portfolio, expertise, and lessons learned from climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes and projects, as well as UNDP work on National Communications, transparency, REDD+, gender, health, and climate change governance.

The project also falls under the EU Eastern Partnership initiative and the "20 Deliverables for 2020" as endorsed by the 2017 Eastern Partnership Summit Declaration as well as under the EU Global Strategy and the reviewed European Neighborhood Policy.

Finally, in 2022, the Steering Committee of EU4Climate approved a decision to repurpose a part of the project's resources towards emergency response created by the Russian military aggression to Ukraine. Specifically, the revised workplan for activities in Ukraine includes three additional activities contributing to addressing humanitarian needs: a) the procurement of medical equipment; b) providing support to internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine; and c) assisting war-impacted municipalities in Ukraine.

2.3. Logical Framework²³

In the Logical Framework of the project, an objective and 7 outputs are defined.

Project objective

Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies/plans in 5 Eastern Partnership countries through improved and consolidated climate policies and legislative alignment.

EC Output 1 / Atlas activity 1

Implementation and update of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.

EC Output 2 / Atlas activity 2

Development of mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies

EC Output 3 / Atlas activity 3

Introduction of robust domestic emissions monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks

EC Output 4 / Atlas activity 4

Alignment with EU Acquis included in Bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action

EC Output 5 / Atlas activity 5

Mainstreaming climate in policy sector

EC Output 6 / Atlas activity 6

Climate investment

EC Output 7 / Atlas activity 7

Adaptation planning

EC Output 10 / Atlas activity 10

To address the immediate war-related needs of the Ukrainian central and local authorities, and reduce the impact of the war on the distressed population of Ukraine

EC Output 11 / Atlas activity 11

Contribute to the green reconstruction of Ukraine

² The project was originally designed for and carried out in six Eastern Partnership countries. However, the TE specifically focuses on five of these countries, as Belarus' participation in the project was put on hold in 2022. In this report, the component of the project implemented in Belarus is not taken into consideration.

³ The Logical Framework refers to the amended version adopted by the Project Steering Committee on May 2022.

3. Evaluation scope and objective

3.1. Objective

The objective of the TE is to assess to what extent the project objectives and outcomes were achieved as specified in the Project Document and identify best practices and lessons learned.

3.2. Scope

The scope of the TE includes the entirety of EU4Climate activities covering the project implementation period from January 2019 to June 2023.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference (annex 1), virtual visits were undertaken by the consultant to the five countries participating in the project (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine). The virtual visits included videoconference discussions with the project's key stakeholders: representatives of the focal ministries in each of the countries, EU Delegation representatives, and project staff.

The TE summarizes lessons from the project implementation and propose recommendations for the future activities based on the project's experience.

3.3. Evaluation criteria and questions

The TE answered the following broad questions:

1. What did EU4Climate intend to achieve during the project's implementation period?
2. To what extent has the project achieved its intended objectives at the output level, and what contribution has it made at the outcome level?
3. What factors contributed to or hindered the project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?
4. Which project areas are the most relevant and strategic for UNDP to scale up or consider going forward for the future projects?

In addition to the above questions, the TE was expected to produce answers surrounding the evaluation questions related to criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and sustainability. The impact of the project on cross-cutting issues was as well to be evaluated, including gender equality, visibility, and communications.

Relevance

1. *To what extent was the initiative in line with the UNDP mandate and national priorities?*
2. *To what extent was UNDP support relevant to the achievement of the SDGs in the country?*
3. *To what extent did UNDP adopt gender-sensitive, human rights-based and conflict-sensitive approaches?*
4. *To what extent was UNDP engagement a reflection of strategic considerations, including the role of UNDP in a particular development context and its comparative advantage?*
5. *To what extent was the method of delivery selected by UNDP appropriate to the development context?*
6. *To what extent was the theory of change presented in the outcome model a relevant and appropriate vision on which to base the initiatives?*

7. *To what extent has the project been adaptable to the outside changes, mainly in view of redirecting the budget savings toward humanitarian purposes to support war-impacted population of Ukraine.*

Effectiveness

1. *To what extent has progress been made towards outcome achievement? What has been the UNDP contribution to the observed change?*
2. *How has delivery of country programme outputs led to outcome-level progress?*
3. *Have there been any unexpected outcome-level results achieved beyond the planned outcome?*
4. *To what extent have the results at the outcome and output levels generated results for gender equality and the empowerment of women?*
5. *Which programme areas are the most relevant and strategic for UNDP to scale up or consider going forward?*
6. *Has the project been effective in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, both in terms of effective implementation of the planned actions, and in assisting the partner governments with readiness to post-COVID recovery?*

Efficiency

1. *To what extent have the programme or project outputs resulted from economic use of resources?*
2. *To what extent were quality country programme outputs delivered on time?*
3. *To what extent were partnership modalities conducive to the delivery of country programme outputs?*
4. *To what extent have UNDP practices, policies, processes and decision-making capabilities affected the achievement of the country programme outcomes?*
5. *To what extent did UNDP engage or coordinate with EU and national counterparts to achieve outcome-level results?*

Sustainability

1. *To what extent do national partners have the institutional capacities, including sustainability strategies, in place to sustain the outcome-level results?*
2. *To what extent have partners committed to providing continuing support?*
3. *To what extent do partnerships exist with other national institutions, NGOs, United Nations agencies, the private sector and development partners to sustain the attained results?*
4. *What is the possible impact of Covid-19 on project's sustainability?*

Coherence

1. *To what extent was the project in line with national development priorities, country programme outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan, and the SDGs?*
2. *To what extent does the project contribute to the theory of change for the relevant country programme outcome?*
3. *To what extent were lessons learned from other relevant projects considered in the design?*
4. *To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to political, legal, economic, institutional, etc., changes in the country?*

Visibility and communication

1. *Was communication regular and effective? What feedback mechanisms are in place?*
2. *Were proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence? Did the project implement appropriate communication tools?) and ensuring donors' visibility?*

Gender equality:

1. *To what extent has gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the project?*
2. *To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?*

4. Evaluation approach and methods

4.1. Approach

The evaluation applied a theory-based and utilization-focused approach.⁴

Theory-based evaluations focus on analysing a project's underlying logic and causal linkages. Indeed, projects are built on assumptions on how and why they are supposed to achieve the agreed results through the selected strategy. This set of assumptions constitutes the "program theory" or "theory of change", which, in UNDP projects is visualized in the Results Framework. The TE was based on the theory of change analysing the strategy underpinning the project, including objectives and assumptions, and assessing its robustness and realism.

A utilization-focused approach⁵ is based on the principle that evaluations and reviews should be judged on their usefulness to their intended users. Therefore, they should be planned and conducted in ways that enhance the likely utilization of both the findings and of the process itself to inform decisions.

4.2. Methods: data collection tools

The research design of the evaluation exercise used the following primary and secondary data collection methods: on-line interview with project stakeholders; and desk review of project documents, reports and deliverables. Also three non-project related documents were consulted.

4.3. Methods: sampling

The sampling has been designed by the Evaluator in consultation with UNDP Regional Manager. The consequent schedule of meetings for interviews took necessarily into account the willingness and availability of stakeholders to meet the Evaluator.

4.4. Methods: data analysis

Data analysis was conducted by utilizing the evaluation matrix (Annex 2) as the foundational framework. The method employed for data analysis involved triangulation, which combined information from various sources, including interviews with project stakeholders and desk reviews. The selection of triangulation as the data analysis method was well-suited to meet the evaluation's requirements, particularly in addressing a substantial number of evaluation questions (28).

4.5. Ethics

The Evaluator conducted the whole exercise in accordance with the principles outlined in the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) "Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations".

⁴ Rossi, P., Freeman, H. & Hofmann, G., 1999. *Evaluation. A Systematic Approach*. 6th ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

⁵ Patton, M. Q., 2008. *Utilization-focused evaluation* 4th ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

4.6. Calendar and limitations of the evaluation

4.6.1. Calendar

The Terminal Evaluation was conducted in the months of June, July, August, September, and October 2023. It foresaw three phases: 1) Inception phase; 2) Data collection phase; and 3) Reporting phase.

Inception phase

From 15 June to 14 July 2023.

The Evaluator reviewed project related documents and organized, in consultation and collaboration with the UNDP Project Manager at the UNDP IRH the schedule of meetings to be held during the next phase of the evaluation, i.e. the data collection phase. A calendar of meetings was established with the support of the UNDP EU4Climate National Coordinators in each country. Their involvement was crucial to reach out to the national stakeholders. Instead, the UNDP Project Manager and the Evaluator focused on the coordination with stakeholders that are not based in the project countries.

At the end of the inception phase, an inception report was delivered by the Evaluator to UNDP IRH.

Data collection phase

From 17 July to 8 September 2023.

The evaluator held remote interviews, via ZOOM, with project stakeholders. He interviewed 33 project stakeholders (19 women and 14 men). In annex 3, the full list of people interviewed during the data collection phase.

Reporting phase

From 11 September to 19 October 2023⁶.

The reporting phase comprised two deliverables: the Draft TE Report, submitted on September 29, 2023, and the Final TE Report, provided on October 19, 2023. Within the Final TE Report, the Evaluator incorporated feedback received from UNDP on the Draft Report, which was received on October 17, 2023. Additionally, the Evaluator furnished a TE audit trail form on October 19, 2023, outlining the specific actions taken to address the comments provided on the Draft TE Report in the Final TE Report. On September 26, 2023 the Evaluator held a presentation of the TE findings with UNDP IRH.

4.6.2. Limitations

The evaluation's design did not exhibit any significant limitations in terms of its theoretical construction; it was designed in accordance with the and aligned with the requirements of the Terminal Evaluation. The methodology, including the Evaluation Matrix (Annex 2) and the individuals to be interviewed were included in the TE Inception Report, approved by UNDP IHR, which guided the successive evaluation process, i.e., the data collection and reporting phases.

The Evaluator proposed a design primarily based on qualitative methods because there was limited available quantitative baseline data for indicators relevant to the stated outcomes. The choice of a qualitative approach was also methodologically justified due to the evaluation's focus on

⁶ Original deadline for submission of the TE draft report was moved from 15 to 29 October by IRH in the course of the data collection phase following a request of the Evaluator.

comprehending how and why the project achieved its results. Quantitative methods, in contrast, do not provide insights into the underlying reasons and mechanisms behind events or outcomes⁷.

The "purposeful sampling" met the needs for the evaluation. In fact, it involves identifying and selecting individuals or groups of individuals who are especially knowledgeable or experienced with a phenomenon of interest. Studying information-rich cases, that is, interviewing people who are well informed about the project and who have a link with it, generates knowledge and deep understanding instead of empirical generalizations, which are typical of statistically representative probability sampling. The present evaluation, in fact, must deal with 28 evaluation question.

During the implementation of the data collection phase, the Evaluator has the chance to interview almost all of the stakeholders identified during the inception phase.

⁷ Patton, M. Q., 2008. Utilization-focused evaluation. 4th ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

5. Data analysis: description of the procedure

Data triangulation was the method employed for data analysis. Triangulation was applied to data collected from the desk review (secondary data) and the interviews (primary data).

It's worth highlighting that the evaluation relied on project records to inform the effectiveness section of the report, specifically in assessing the achievement of targets.

The process of data collection and analysis was directed towards addressing each evaluation question as outlined in the terms of reference and the evaluation matrix included in the Inception Report, which is presented as Annex 2 in this report.

The TE recognized that certain evaluation questions were not relevant to its analysis. In fact, the EU4Climate project was defined GEN 1 within UNDP's gender scales, indicating that the project was anticipated to have limited relevance to gender related issues. Consequently, during the data collection phase, the Terminal Evaluation did not applied any gender-responsive tools and made modifications in agreement with UNDP IHR to the following evaluation questions:

Relevance

The original evaluation question (as per ToR) To what extent was the initiative in line with the UNDP mandate, national priorities and the requirements of targeting women, men and vulnerable groups? is changed into To what extent was the initiative in line with the UNDP mandate and national priorities?

Effectiveness

The original evaluation question (as per ToR) What have been the key results and changes attained for men, women and vulnerable groups? is not considered in the report.

Efficiency

The original evaluation questions (as per ToR) To what extent were resources used to address inequalities and gender issues? and To what extent did UNDP promote gender equality, the empowerment of women, human rights and human development in the delivery of country programme outputs? are not considered in the report.

The original evaluation question (as per ToR) To what extent did UNDP engage or coordinate with different beneficiaries (men and women), implementing partners, other United Nations agencies and national counterparts to achieve outcome-level results? Is changed into To what extent did UNDP engage or coordinate with EU and the national counterparts to achieve outcome-level results?

Sustainability

The original evaluation questions (as per ToR) To what extent did UNDP establish mechanisms to ensure the sustainability for female and male beneficiaries of the country programme outcomes? and To what extent do mechanisms, procedures and policies exist to carry forward the results attained on gender equality, empowerment of women, human rights, and human development by primary stakeholders? are not considered in the report.

Coherence

The original evaluation questions (as per ToR) To what extent were perspectives of men and women who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other

resources to the attainment of stated results, taken into account during project design processes? And, To what extent does the project contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights-based approach? are not considered in the report.

6. Findings

6.1. Relevance

The target group of the project were Ministries of Environment, and broadly the Government of each country, i.e., Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The intervention represents an adequate response to the needs and interests of its primary institutional beneficiaries, i.e., the Ministries of Environment of the five countries, in relation to their national climate policy and EU alignment agendas.

All stakeholders interviewed affirmed the significant importance of this project in accordance with their commitments in terms of climate policies and alignment with European Union climate agenda. The project aligned comprehensively with the specific priorities and requirements of the beneficiary countries. These aligned closely with each country's obligations under international agreements, including the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Additionally, these efforts are in line with regional accords such as the Eastern Partnership, bilateral agreements with the EU, and the Energy Community Treaty. Both aspects hold relevance concerning the countries' efforts to harmonize their regulatory frameworks with EU policies in the context of political association and economic integration.

The initiative was explicitly designed and implemented with the aim of contributing to the efforts to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal n. 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact" of Agenda 2030 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The project implementation for delivering its main outputs followed a clear and direct path. UNDP facilitated this by enlisting the expertise and competences of sector specialists through the hiring of both national and international consultants. These consultants later assumed the technical lead in producing project deliverables, actively involving all stakeholders in a collaborative and participatory approach. During the evaluation, it was confirmed by all individuals interviewed that project stakeholders had the opportunity to contribute to the entire process, ensuring that their interests and concerns were adequately addressed. Consequently, this approach guaranteed country ownership of project deliverables in the opinion of all stakeholders interviewed on the matter.

UNDP acted as a catalyst for nationally significant processes in its capacity as the project coordinator. It assumed responsibility for both administrative and strategic leadership, working closely with national partners and in consultation with the donor. This role was entirely in line with UNDP's institutional mission, which is to foster the development of policies, enhance leadership skills and institutional capacities, and bolster resilience in the areas of governance, sustainable development, and climate resilience.

During the implementation of the project, UNDP could display its comparative advantage in terms of technical expertise, impartiality, which enables the organization to facilitate dialogue in politically sensitive context, capacity development, and policy and advocacy.

Gender equality was not actively emphasized during activity implementation. The project primarily focused on engaging public institutions in the five countries. Public officers from these institutions took part in project activities regardless of their gender.

At the corporate level, the project is aligned with UNDP's Regional Programme for Europe and the CIS and with the individual countries' UNDP developmental frameworks:

- UNDP Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: Outcome 1: Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems.
- Outcome indicators as stated in the Regional Programme Document 2022-2025, including baseline and targets:
- Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan output 11: The 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other intergovernmental-agreed frameworks integrated in national and local development plans, measures to accelerate progress put in place, and budgets and progress assessed using data-driven solutions.

Lastly, the Terminal Evaluation acknowledges the project's flexibility in reallocating budget savings to provide humanitarian assistance to the war-affected population of Ukraine. It was reported to the Evaluator that similar fund reallocations were implemented in other regional projects funded by the European Union.

6.2. Effectiveness

	Indicators	Target values	Achievement (as per March 2023)
<p>Project Goal: Enhanced resilient and low carbon development in the six EU Eastern Partnership Countries.</p>	Levels of GHG emissions reported to UNFCCC.	Six EaP countries are on track with the implementation of their NDCs and with their reporting commitments under the Paris Agreement.	Not available. Emissions levels are expected to be available in the national reporting in 2024-2027
<p>Project Objective: Low- emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies / plans in six EaP countries through improved and consolidated climate policies and legislative alignment.</p>	Enhanced capacities of six EaP countries to plan, implement, monitor, and report on the climate change adaptation action.	Six EaP countries are on track with the implementation of their NDCs and with their reporting commitments under the Paris Agreement.	Not available.
<p>Project outcomes: An enhanced capacity of countries to develop and implement climate policy and to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement. An enhanced transparency of emissions and climate action. Mainstreaming climate in sectoral policies, such as energy, transport, and Agriculture. Advanced implementation of climate-related provisions of bilateral agreements with EU and in the framework of the Energy Community Treaty.</p>	<p>i) Number of EaP supported countries and cities with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies: (a) developed, (b) under implementation. (ii) Status of nationally Determined contributions, national mid-century strategies and NAPs communicated to the UNFCCC in 5 EaP Countries. (iii) Level of institutional capacities in the 5 EaP countries for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. (iv) Increase in institutional capacity for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. v) Level of alignment with EU acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the</p>	<p>(i) Five countries are supported with development of climate change strategies (including NDCs, LEDS, NAPs). (ii) Finalized nationally Determined contributions, national mid-century strategies and NAPs communicated to the UNFCCC. (iii) At least 4 EaP countries have established national systems for implementing the Paris Agreement. Transparency Regime in line with UNFCCC requirements. iv) 50% increase in institutional capacity for the implementation of the Paris Agreement measured through an institutional capacity scorecard to be developed in Year 1. v) Countries are on track with the regulatory reform to align with EU acquis as provided by bilateral</p>	<p>i) 5 countries supported (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) ii) 2nd NDCs for Armenia was submitted to UNFCCC in 2021. Draft 2nd NDC of Azerbaijan was submitted to the government in 2021. Submission to UNFCCC expected in 2023. The 2nd NDC of Belarus was developed by EU4Climate and submitted to UNFCCC in October 2021. A significant achievement of the EU4Climate project is considered to be Moldova second developed and improved NDC (NDC2) which was submitted to the UNFCCC on 04 March 2020, with Moldova being the fourth country in the world to submit it. Draft LT-LEDS for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were developed in 2021- 2022 and are undergoing national consultations with the key stakeholders. iii) EAA reviewed and improved roadmaps for enhancing national MRV systems in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova in 2022. iv) 14.93% in relation to the baseline. v) Energy Community Secretariat provide Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine with updating the legal alignment roadmaps based on the revision of the respective Association Agreements; assistance with implementing elements of the Green Deal in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; implementing the Monitoring Mechanism and EU Governance Regulations for Ukraine. Support was provided for the alignment with F-gases regulation, in Moldova, which has been approved by the Government in 2022. The Law of Moldova on fluorinated greenhouse gases was adopted by the Parliament on 03 March 2023.</p>

	<p>framework of Energy Community Treaty.</p> <p>vi) Level of mobilization of new climate finance resources by countries (including under NIF/NIP) since the start of the project</p>	<p>agreements with EU and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action.</p> <p>vi) New climate finance resources mobilized by countries (including under NIF/NIP)</p>	<p>Concepts for development of climate law have been prepared for Armenia, Ukraine, and Moldova.</p> <p>UNDP Ukraine presented the Recommendations on the implementation of the EU 525/2013 Regulation and the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action on 22 February. Almost 100 participants from governmental bodies, expert societies, NGOs, and other stakeholders joined the workshop.</p> <p>Communication and consultation support to approve the by-laws on ODS and F-gases was postnoted till further notice from the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>vi) No investment projects related to NDC implementation were developed</p> <p>A guidance for developing local energy and climate action plans, including a section on developing investment proposals as part of SECAPs was developed and presented in June 2023, see https://eu4climate.eu/2023/06/14/eu4climate-stands-supporting-implementation-ndc-leds-locally/ for details.</p>
<p>Output 1: Implementation and update of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Ind.1.1. Availability of NDC implementation plan / roadmaps</p>	<p>Target 1.1. NDC implementation plans / roadmaps developed for at least 2 beneficiary countries with the direct support of the project</p>	<p>Armenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Armenia submitted its 2nd NDCs to the UNFCCC in 2021 - The draft NDC Implementation Plan, Financing Strategy and Investment Plan for Armenia was developed in 2022 and submitted to the government. It is under official circulation among the line ministries. According to the national legislation, the document will be reviewed based on the received comments, finalized, and submitted to the Government for its approval. <p>Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft 2nd NDC of Azerbaijan was developed by EU4Climate and submitted to the government in October 2021. Submission to UNFCCC is expected in 2023. <p>Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Georgia submitted its 2nd NDCs to the UNFCCC in 2021 - Georgia's NDC Financial Strategy and Investment Plan was submitted to the Government. All documents are currently being consulted with the stakeholders and adoption is expected in 2023. <p>Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moldova submitted its 2nd NDCs to the UNFCCC in 2020. - EU4Climate has updated the LEDS-2030, which is considered the implementation plan for the NDC. The updated LEDS-2030 was approved by a government decision on 6 September 2023. <p>Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDC Financial Strategy and Investment Plan was submitted to the Government for a review (based on the Ukraine's updated NDC approved in 2021).

	<p>Ind.1.2. Level of knowledge and institutional capacities for sectoral implementation of NDCs (measured through capacity scorecard)</p>	<p>50% increase over baseline</p>	<p>Regional - Institutional capacity assessment were conducted annually, with the last assessment taken in 2022: the baseline level of institutional capacity for the sectoral implementation of the NDCs mean value for the six EaP countries was 55.73% and after the third year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries was 70.99%. The mean value should have been 83.59% (i.e., 50% increase over baseline) to match the target value. A final assessment will be done in September 2023 (not available for the evaluation exercise).</p>
	<p>Ind.1.3. Level of awareness and buy in of the targeted national private sector and other stakeholders in the NDC implementation</p>	<p>50% increase over baseline</p>	<p>Regional - An institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2022: the baseline level of awareness and buy in of the targeted national private sector and other stakeholders in the NDCs implementation was identified, mean value for the six EaP countries was 47.41% and after the third year of project implementation, mean value for the six EaP countries was 60.59%. The mean value should have been 71.11 % (i.e., 50% increase over baseline) to match the target value.</p>
	<p>Ind. 1.4. Number of training and awareness events directly supported by the project / number of decision makers and practitioners benefiting from capacity building</p>	<p>At least 6 events in each country / 50 national decision-makers / stakeholders benefitted from training and awareness events in each country</p>	<p>Regional - Two regional workshops implemented in 2019 and 2021. - As for national events, some 165 stakeholders from EaP countries participated during various NDC awareness events.</p>
<p>Output 2: Development of mid-century, long- term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (long-term LEDS)</p>	<p>Ind. 2.1. Status of LEDSDs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia</p>	<p>3 LEDSDs developed and submitted for government approval (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)</p>	<p>Armenia - The project supported the development of LT-LEDS that was submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister. According to national legal procedures it has to be endorsed by the sectoral Ministerial Committee and then, adopted at a government session. Expected date for its adoption is by mid-September 2023. - Program on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for 2022-2030 was developed and adopted by the Government in 2022. Azerbaijan - The project supported the development of the LT-LEDS of Azerbaijan, which is under review by the government. The Project Team conducted public consultations for the government representatives on the scope and objective of LEDSDs and the need for LEDSD implementation in Azerbaijan. According to the "Socio-economic development strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2022-2026" adopted by the Presidential decree in July 2023, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in</p>

			<p>close cooperation with different organisations and institutions must prepare the "State Program on low-carbon development".</p> <p>Georgia</p> <p>- The project supported the development of LT-LEDS that was adopted by the Government in April 2023.</p>
	<p>Ind. 2.2. Number of national government officials and planning practitioners trained in the development of LEDS</p>	<p>60 government officials and planning practitioners trained</p>	<p>Regional</p> <p>- A Regional Workshop on Long-term, Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategies and the Mainstreaming of Climate Policies took in October 2019 in Moldova. 60 participants attended including 27 Governmental officials.</p> <p>- Regional Workshop on Long-term, Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategies and the Mainstreaming of Climate Policies took place in October 2020 as a webinar. It had 87 participants, including: EaP government officials, representatives of International organizations, experts and civil society representatives attended.</p> <p>- Two regional events focused on LEDS were delivered by the project in 2022: 1) A side event during UNFCCC COP27 in November 2022, presenting the progress in the EaP countries with developing LEDS; 2) Joint workshop with the Covenant of Mayors in November 2022, focused on the local implementation of LEDS' and NDCs.</p>
<p>Output 3. Introduction of robust domestic emissions monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks</p>	<p>Ind. 3.1. State of the domestic emissions MRV frameworks in EaP countries</p>	<p>Robust domestic emissions MRV frameworks (GHG inventories) developed in 5 beneficiary countries</p>	<p>Armenia</p> <p>- A Roadmap for the Development of a Functional National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory System for Armenia was finalised and shared with the national stakeholders. The Roadmap to MRV of GHG Emissions at the Installations Level was developed and shared with the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Azerbaijan</p> <p>- MRV gap analysis and roadmap was reviewed and consulted with stakeholders and finalized.</p> <p>Georgia</p> <p>- MRV gap analysis and roadmap was reviewed and consulted with stakeholders and finalized.</p> <p>- Cooperation and partnerships were established with the EU institutions and programmes in support of the robust national MRV system (Environment Agency Austria). MRV for LULUCF sector was prepared.</p> <p>Moldova</p> <p>- MRV gap analysis and roadmap was reviewed and consulted with stakeholders and finalized.</p>
	<p>Ind. 3.2. Guidance/training materials for private sector on incorporation of GHG emission</p>	<p>Guidance/training materials for private sector on MRV developed and presented in 6 EaP countries.</p>	<p>Regional</p> <p>The guidance and training materials were developed as the roadmaps for national MRV improvement were reviewed and consulted with national stakeholders in 2022.</p>

	reporting requirements into corporate reporting.		A regional workshop with 90 participants was organized in May 2022, followed by a series of national events in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.
	#Ind. 3.3. Number of government officers/practitioners trained / Number of training events on MRV	At least 100 sectoral government officers/practitioners trained / 5 trainings conducted on MRV for sectoral government agencies, e.g., energy, transport, agriculture, forestry	<p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24 practitioners, including 18 government officials, attended the Regional MRV workshop and study tour in February 2020 organized by the European Environment Agency (EEA, Copenhagen) and the Environment Agency Austria (Vienna). <p>Armenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In June, 2022 a national online workshop themed “Roadmap for the Development of a Functional National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory System - Problems Encountered” was organized with participation of about 50 Government representatives, field specialists from the Ministry of Environment and line ministries, RA Statistical Committee and Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center, as well as practitioners from specialized and international organizations, GHG inventory national and regional experts. <p>Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meetings on improvement of MRV system in August 2021, with 36 representatives of national stakeholders <p>Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national consultative workshop conducted with the purpose to outline the legislative gaps against the Coverage Expansion of the Current MRV System to Meet the Requirements of the ETF of PA in December 2019; 35 participants attended. - 41 participants (governmental officers, private and academia sectors, CSO) attended a national consultative workshop on establishment and functioning of the national GHG emission monitoring and reporting system - UNDP Moldova organized an interactive training course on a GHG Inventory for the waste sector, delivered in may 2023 for more than 35 stakeholders
Output 4. Alignment with EU <i>acquis</i> included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action	Ind. 4.1. Level of alignment with EU <i>acquis</i> and Energy Community Treaty. Number of laws, legislative/regulatory acts drafted, adopted and implemented in line with the country commitments in the Association Agreements with Georgia,	Not given	<p>Armenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft Concept on Climate Law was developed in 2022 and is currently under internal discussion by the government; approval of the Law is expected in 2024. - The “General Concept for improving air quality monitoring in Armenia” was developed and submitted to the government in 2022 in cooperation with the Environment Agency Austria. - The report on Carbon Pricing Opportunities for Armenia was developed and shared with the Ministry of Environment. - Drafted legal acts for Alignment with EU Climate Acquis on F-gases was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment in 2021.

	<p>Moldova and Ukraine, Energy Community Decisions and/or Recommendations, Strategic Partnership agreement with Armenia, as well as Partnership priorities between EU and Azerbaijan.</p>		<p>- Assessment of the Roadmap implementation was conducted in 2023, recommendations to amend the Roadmap are transferred to the Ministry of Environment in September 2023.</p> <p>Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on improvement of MRV system for the GHG inventory finalized. -The current legislative base and implementing actions of the MRV system in the country to improve the GHG inventory are currently being discussed. <p>Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of Georgia’s readiness to align with the EU Green Deal was developed in 2022. <p>Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft Law on F-gases of Moldova was prepared and adopted by the parliament in the first reading in 2022. The Law was finally approved by the parliament in March 2023. A concept of the Climate law of was developed in 2022. Based on the elaborated Concept, in 2023 was drafted legal act itself for Alignment with EU Climate Acquis. The draft law was consulted with the Ministry of Environment and other stakeholders on 24 September. Climate Law is to be approved by the government In Q4 2023.. <p>Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations on the development of the framework climate law of Ukraine were developed in 2022, to be followed by developing a draft Climate law in 2023. - Recommendations on the implementation of the EU 525/2013 Regulation and the Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action in Ukraine were developed in 2022.
	<p>Ind. 4.2. Number of stakeholder meetings organized on the process of policies and legislation development</p>	<p>Not given</p>	<p>Armenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National consultations were held on June 30, 2021 with 40 participants. <p>Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public consultations with 30 participants were on July 2021 with representatives of the line ministries to discuss the implementation of the MRV system <p>Georgia</p> <p>UNDP Georgia organized a National Stakeholder Workshop on discussion of the main findings of the EUAcquis Strategic Roadmap in May 2020.</p> <p>Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national consultative workshop presenting gap analysis against the EU acquis took place in December 2019. 28 participants attended the event.

			<p>-UNDP Moldova organized a National Workshop on EU Acquis Strategic Roadmap in a videoconference format in May 2020.</p> <p>Ukraine In September 2020 UNDP Ukraine, in cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat, conducted the virtual workshop “EU Acquis Alignment Strategic Roadmap for EU4Climate in Ukraine”</p>
	<p>Ind. 4.3. Number of workshops conducted by the project/number of people trained</p>	<p>Not given</p>	<p>Azerbaijan - 27 people trained through the national workshop in Azerbaijan on the national policy framework, legislation and institutional capacity in the field of climate change. - A workshop was organised to discuss the results and decide on the legal basis for MRV in December 2022 with 62 participants.</p> <p>Georgia - A workshop on the EU Green Deal alignment was in June 2022 with 50 relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Moldova - Public consultations held online regarding the draft F-gas legislation and draft Governmental decision on amending the MRV system in December 2020, with the participation of 41 representatives from governmental, private, academia and civil society sectors. - The draft law on ETS including the supporting legal package, was presented on December 16, 2021 to 35 participants, including installation operators. - the Draft law on F-gases was presented on June 30, 2021 to 12 relevant stakeholders.</p>
<p>Output 5. Mainstreaming climate in policy sectors</p>	<p>Ind. 5.1. Number of sectoral climate change mainstreaming policy papers / recommendations developed</p>	<p>At least 10 sectoral climate change mainstreaming policy papers / recommendations developed / sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>Armenia - a Comprehensive Analytical Note “On Policy Instruments in Energy and Agriculture towards the Low Emission Development Strategy” was formulated. - Reports on mainstreaming climate policies for 4 sectors: energy, agriculture, transport, LULUCF were formulated.</p> <p>Azerbaijan - Guidelines on mainstreaming climate change into the priority sectors of energy and agriculture were developed by analysing the national circumstances in line with strategic documents/roadmaps of the country. - A report “Analysis of problems in the agricultural sector in Azerbaijan related to climate change” developed and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture. - A report “Gender and Climate Change integration into the energy</p>

			<p>policy” was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Energy</p> <p>Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft report on climate mainstreaming recommendations for the Energy, Agriculture and Health Sectors was developed. <p>Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report and recommendations on mainstreaming the climate change consideration into the waste sector’s policies were formulated. - Guidelines on mainstreaming climate change into waste management. - Recommendations on mainstreaming climate change into the energy policy sector were formulated <p>Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Policy recommendations for the roll-out of micromobility solutions was formulated.
	Ind. 5.2. Level of institutional capacities for CC mainstreaming (institutional capacity scorecard / baseline, mid-term and completion surveys)	50% improvement against baseline	<p>Regional</p> <p>Institutional capacity assessment was conducted in 2022. The baseline level of institutional capacities for CC mainstreaming identified that the mean value for the six EaP countries was 54.25% and after the third year of project implementation, the mean value for the six EaP countries was 63.8%% or +17.6% in relation to baseline.</p>
Output 6. Climate Investment	Ind. 6.1. Status of investment pipelines of bankable projects contributing the implementation of NDCs	Each country has developed national / sectoral pipelines of investment projects linked to the NDC implementation plans NDC implementation plans, LEDS, NAPs supported with financial frameworks	<p>Armenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft NDC implementation package was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment. It includes implementation program, financing strategy, and investment plan. The investment plan presents the indicative framework of investment projects consisting of 9 investment proposals with estimated investment cost, indicated financing sources, identified actions, expected outcomes and deadlines. - Draft SECAP for Alaverdi city is being finalized. As per CoM methodology it will include mitigation and adaptation measures, including investments proposals to be initiated to contribute to achievement of at least 30% emission reduction till 2030. developed - Financial Strategy Implementation Plan prepared in 2022. <p>Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of September 2023, the Finance strategy for implementation of NDC-2 and LEDS-2050 are under development and expected to be finalized in 2023. Specific investment plans are being developed by EU4Climate for three cities in Azerbaijan (Ganja, Khirdalan, Sheki). These local finance plans could be considered as part of NDC Finance strategy. The activity is in progress <p>Georgia</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two municipal climate action plans (SECAPs) are under development in Georgia as of September 2023; both are accompanied by investment proposals. - Financial Strategy Implementation Plan prepared in 2022. <p>Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three municipal climate action plans (SECAPs) are under development in Moldova as of September 2023; each is expected to include an investment proposal. <p>Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No investment pipelines of bankable projects contributing to implementation of NDCs have been developed. The training on SECAPs is planned by the EU4Climate team in Ukraine and Covenant of Mayors in September 2023. - Financial Strategy Implementation Plan prepared in 2022.
	Ind. 6.2. Number of national officials from the finance and planning ministries trained on climate finance leveraging and management, climate change finance frameworks and budgeting	At least 18 government officials from the finance and planning ministries trained	<p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDP IRH organized a two-day online regional workshop on climate finance frameworks and climate budgeting on June 29-30, 2021. It was attended by over 100 participants, including 38 representatives from EaP countries, the EC and international experts. - A regional climate finance forum on financing the NDCs and ensuring technology transfer in the EaP Region was delivered online in September 2021 with 130 participants, including 44 EaP government representatives as well as officials and representatives of development banks and multilateral funds and the private sector
	Ind. 6.3. Implementation of pilots on climate budget tagging	3 national pilots implemented	<p>Armenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A pilot study on climate finance budgeting and expenditure tracking was developed in 2021. <p>Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The exercise of developing of consolidated report on Climate Budget Tagging and integrating Climate Change indicators into National Budget Planning and reporting systems is on-going. <p>Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A pilot study on climate finance budgeting and expenditure tracking was developed in 2022.
Output 7. Adaptation planning	Ind. 7.1. Number of NAPs adopted	At least 2 NAPs are adopted	<p>Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ukraine adopted the Environmental Security and Climate Adaptation Strategy by 2030, which is considered the country's NAP, and work on National Adaptation Communication is planned for 2023.
	Ind. 7.2. Number of regional knowledge transfer events on NAPs / number of people trained	5 workshops / at least 18 people trained during each event	<p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Regional NAP workshop conducted in Moldova in 2019, during which 69 Participants were trained, including 40 EaP Governmental officials.

			<p>- A Regional Adaptation Planning workshop was conducted online in November 2020. It was attended by over 100 government officials and climate change experts.</p> <p>-A regional workshop was conducted on-line on March 2021 with the participation of government officials from all EaP countries. Over 130 participants attended, including 36 Governmental officials, UNFCCC, EU Covenant of Mayors.</p> <p>- A regional workshop on adaptation planning was conducted in April 2023 in Poland. 43 representatives (in person and online) of governments of the Eastern Partners, the EU and UNDP, experts in the field and partner organizations took part in the event.</p>
	Ind. 7.3. Transboundary NAPs	1 transboundary NAP	<p>Regional</p> <p>Discussions on a transboundary adaptation plan for the region, which would cover relevant Upper Prut River basin territories in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania have been suspended due to the war in Ukraine.</p>
	Ind. 7.4. Status of NAP roadmaps, institutional and coordination frameworks and NAP processes	NAP roadmaps, institutional and Coordination frameworks and NAP processes established at least in 2 countries	<p>- NAP roadmaps were not established.</p> <p>- A training on local adaptation planning is planned by the EU4Climate team in Ukraine and Covenant of Mayors in September 2023</p>

To respond to the humanitarian emergency caused by the war, the EU4Climate has been repurposing part of the project’s budget towards emergency response and addressing the immediate needs of the war-distressed population, complementing EU humanitarian assistance:

- procurement of medical supplies to address the immediate needs of the Ukrainian population;
- provision of basic needs for internally displaced people staying in Ukraine’s national parks and other protected areas (with the engagement of the Frankfurt Zoological Society);
- assisting in needs assessment of the impacted municipalities, purchasing and delivering equipment such as power generators for critical infrastructure, and providing training on the safe use of the generators for selected municipalities (in cooperation with the Association "Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine”).

This response corresponded to the Output 10: To address the immediate war-related needs of the Ukrainian central and local authorities, and reduce the impact of the war on the distressed population of Ukraine.

At the same time, it was understood the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine should take into account the principles of building back better and green reconstruction from the outset. Ukraine applied for EU membership in February 2022 and was granted EU candidate Status in June 2022. Green Reconstruction and Ukraine's path to EU membership will be mutually reinforcing processes. On the basis of this assumption a new output, i.e. output 11, was included "Contribute to the green reconstruction of Ukraine".

Since the start of the large-scale Russian aggression in February 2022, the EU4Climate project' contributing to humanitarian needs over USD 800,000.00 for the procurement of medical equipment; providing support to internally displaced people in Ukraine and assisting war-impacted municipalities in Ukraine. The project partner Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), has been conducting activities related to emergency support for IDPs located in or near protected areas. Most of this IDP support is focused on the Carpathian region where 13 target protected areas of the FZS are located.

The other partner "Association Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine" has finalized the transfer of thirteen generators for the territorial communities of Pokrovsk, Novopokrovska, Blyzniukivska, Chuguyivska, Mykolaivska, Druzhkivska, Kramatorsk, Mykolaiv and two for villages in Kharkiv oblast.

The Ministry of Healthcare agreed on supply of the negative pressure wound therapy systems.

Specific target indicators for the two new outputs were not developed, therefore the TE cannot assess the actual level of delivery for both of them.

The successful delivery of outputs led to the achievement of project outcomes. This can be attributed to the observation, already included in the MTR report, that there was limited differentiation within the vertical logic or results chain of the project. In simpler terms, the delivery of outputs closely aligned with the achievement of outcomes. It is important to highlight that all stakeholders interviewed on the matter, expressed high level of satisfaction with the delivery of project outputs and their quality.

The project went beyond in its expected delivery. One of the most noteworthy examples supporting this statement is the project's assistance in formulating three draft climate laws in Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Technical cooperation constitutes a key element of UNDP's engagement in the project countries, and the pursuit to fulfilling their international obligations concerning the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement holds importance for all Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. Furthermore, the alignment with the EU Acquis included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action is a priority for national governments. Consequently, the evaluation exercise deems all components of the project as strategically significant for UNDP's future considerations. These components also align closely with the technical assistance anticipated from the EU in the upcoming years, as stipulated by bilateral agreements.

The project's effectiveness in addressing COVID-19 is evident in its ability to adapt and continue its activities through online modalities. However, according to some stakeholders who were

interviewed, there are concerns about the impact of shifting to online workshops on certain key indicators, specifically:

- **Indicator 1.2:** The shift to online workshops may have potentially negatively affected the development of knowledge and institutional capacities for implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) within specific sectors. In-person workshops might have been seen as more effective in this regard.
- **Indicator 5.2:** Similarly, the move to online workshops might have had a detrimental influence on the development of institutional capacities for mainstreaming climate change. Stakeholders may feel that in-person workshops could have been more impactful in this context.

The project significant results in terms of gender equality and empowerment of women. The finding should be considered as aligned with the focus of the project itself. In fact, it is important to highlight that a specific attention to gender issues is mentioned in some of the project products (for details refer to Section 6.7 “Gender equality”).

Finally, the evaluation exercise was requested to answer to the evaluation questions “*To what extent has UNDP partnered with civil society and local communities to promote environmental and disaster risk awareness in the country? And, To what extent have marginalized groups benefited?*” Marginalized groups were not identified in the course of the project, because the project did not implement activities at field level. It was about delivery planning and normative documents. In addition, the project did not partner with civil society and local communities. This evaluation findings should not be considered negative; the project simply did not necessitate to engage with any partnership with civil society and communities.

6.3. Efficiency

	Budget (Project document) 2019	1 st amendment (2021)	Budget 1 st Amendment	2 nd amendment (2022)	Budget 2 nd amendment	Spent 2019/2022	Spent 2023 (up to Sep. 1)	Total spent	Balance
IRH	3'020'500.00	(123'050.00)	2'897'450.00	(111'510.00)	2'785'940.00	1'872'231.56	566'121.31	2'438'352.87	347'587.13
Armenia	930'365.00	-	930'365.00	70'719.00	1'001'084.00	781'923.97	104'261.46	886'185.43	114'898.57
Azerbaijan	930'365.00	-	930'365.00	138'639.00	1'069'004.00	908'518.68	86'012.16	994'530.84	74'473.16
Belarus	1'299'515.00	(336'116.00)	963'399.00	(364'179.00)	599'220.00	599'220.00	-	599'220.00	(0.00)
Georgia	1'063'045.00	-	1'063'045.00	74'900.00	1'137'945.00	868'131.23	170'134.31	1'038'265.53	99'679.47
Moldova	966'210.00	-	966'210.00	116'627.00	1'082'837.00	893'567.82	106'231.12	999'798.94	83'038.06
Ukraine	1'155'600.00	459'166.00	1'614'766.00	74'804.00	1'689'570.00	516'419.10	651'839.97	1'168'259.07	521'310.93
Total	9'365'600.00	-	9'365'600.00		9'365'600.00	6'440'012.37	1'684'600.32	8'124'612.69	1'240'987.31

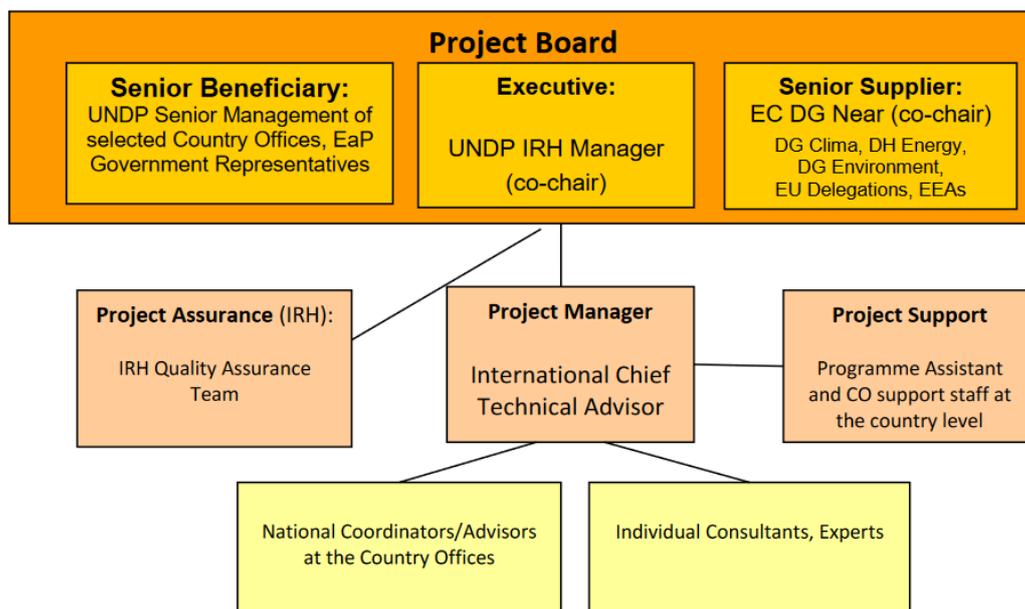
The project utilized the funds at disposal for its activities efficiently. As a matter of fact, the achievements were beyond its expected results with the formulation of three draft Climate Laws. In addition, it also redirected some funds to supports humanitarian needs in Ukraine.

252'423 USD out of 521'310 USD relate to the humanitarian component of the project. The underspending is mainly to the partner, i.e. Frankfurt Zoological Society, have received funds and donation from many different organizations. Therefore, its spending capacity cannot be assessed in isolation. Data on the overall amount of money spent by that organization for the activities was not available for the present evaluation exercise.

The project will be implemented by the UNDP IRH under the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) in line with UNDP’s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures and IRH Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Programme Management. The choice is deemed as appropriated by the evaluation exercise.

Given the nature of the intervention, forging strong partnerships with the recipient institutions, specifically with the Ministries of Environment in each project country, was the only viable and pragmatic approach to effectively achieve the project's intended outcomes. To establish a shared vision for project activities, the Project Steering Committee, responsible for decision-making, included high level officials from the major project stakeholders. This composition underscores the project's substantial political nature, ultimately resulting in a substantial level of country ownership over the project's accomplishments.

Project Structure



The project relied on UNDP's capabilities to ensure the procurement of consulting services that meet high-quality standards in a reliable manner, all while upholding principles of fairness, integrity, transparency, and accountability. In fact, every national stakeholder interviewed regarding this matter expressed their satisfaction with the competencies and expertise demonstrated by the national and international experts hired by UNDP to lead the development of project deliverables.

Finally, by circulating each deliverable to the relevant national stakeholders, UNDP technical officers at both the country and regional levels, and EU institutions (as needed), the project ensured a thorough quality assurance process.

The proactive engagement of UNDP with EU officials and national counterparts played a catalysing role in facilitating the achievement of project outcomes. Throughout the data collection phase of the evaluation, feedback from various stakeholders consistently and positively recognized UNDP's contributions and commitment, both at the country and regional levels.

As already noted in the MTR report, the project accommodated requests from the countries based on their evolving needs and shifting policies. This also encompassed responding to ad hoc requests

made by the countries. While this adjustment process was occasionally slow, as some requests required approval from the Steering Committee and the donor, these requests have been duly accommodated. Furthermore, the project recognized that decisions pertaining to many climate change-related matters fall within the sovereign responsibilities of the beneficiary countries, and its role was to provide support in this regard. This inclusive approach highlights that the project was focusing on the promotion of country ownership.

Some factors hindered the implementation of the project:

- The COVID-19 pandemic had an operational impact on project effectiveness. Indeed, the project had to adapt to travel and gathering restrictions, necessitating the adoption of virtual approaches or, in some cases, the cancellation of planned activities. These constraints are linked to international experts facing travel limitations and the prohibition of large gatherings, which, in turn, led to the cancellation of study trips and a transition to online and virtual processes. The transition to an online modality has received mixed reviews. While it is recognized as the only viable option for engaging in training, seminars, and stakeholder interactions during the present circumstances and in the immediate future, there are doubts among many stakeholders about the effectiveness of these virtual processes in achieving their intended goals. It is also recognized that on-line activities resulted cheaper as those that would have occurred under normal circumstances: the expenses related to travel and renting venues for workshops were no longer necessary. This element contributed to the over-delivery of the project.
- The war in Ukraine significantly impacted project implementation.
- The escalation of the territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which began in 2020, has also posed challenges to project implementation. Consequently, it has affected the interactions between all countries involved in the project when they collaborate within the project's framework. Additionally, it has strained the bilateral relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan within the context of EU4Climate project.
- Recurrent institutional reforms and frequent turnovers in personnel within national governments have been a common challenge across all project countries, albeit to varying degrees. These reforms and personnel changes had adverse effects on the institutional and absorption capacities within government departments responsible for climate change. Often, these changes coincided with reductions in the workforce responsible for climate change issues within already understaffed ministries. Consequently, at the country level, national coordinators, country offices, EUDs, and other associated partners have undergone the process of re-establishing relationships with new staff members and recovering institutional memory concerning EU4Climate project due to these dynamics.

The request of the no-cost extension, which was also recommended by the Mid Term Review, represented a key element for the project to be able to deliver satisfactorily its outputs.

The evaluation exercise was requested to answer to the evaluation question *“To what extent did monitoring systems provide management with a stream of data, disaggregated by sex, that allowed it to learn and adjust implementation accordingly?”* The question is not relevant in the context of a project that dealt mainly with the delivery of normative and planning documents. The monitoring of the project was activities and delivery-based. This kind of approach to project monitoring is deemed appropriate to the needs of the project. It is important to note that the

stream of data coming from the monitoring activity did not necessitate to have data disaggregated by sex. In fact, the project primarily focused on engaging public institutions in the five countries. Public officers from these institutions took part in project activities regardless of their gender.

Taking into account the information provided in this section, the Terminal Evaluation considers that the project was executed efficiently, with funds being allocated in alignment with the needs of the project recipients and in full accordance with the project's objectives.

6.4. Sustainability

The current situation in the region is affected by the Russian attack and invasion of Ukraine. This has resulted in a considerable degree of geo-political instability in the region. The consequences of this instability on the assessment of the project's sustainability clearly fall outside the scope of this assessment. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the changing geopolitical landscape may have substantial implications for the future political decisions of national governments. Hence, it is recognized that these repercussions fall beyond the purview of the project sustainability analysis.

The project was intentionally designed to prioritize the involvement and ownership of the countries it serves, with a focus on improving their technical and institutional capabilities. Country ownership is crucial for sustaining the capacities of the beneficiary governments and other national partners over the long term. The achievements of the EU4Climate project targets directly and indirectly contribute to sustainability. As a matter of fact, it aimed at supporting the development of national regulatory and planning tools and increase the mobilization of climate funding to expand and sustain efforts aimed at achieving zero-carbon development and enhancing adaptation planning. These objectives are interconnected with efforts to bolster institutional capacity at the national level, integrate climate policies and planning into the broader national development strategies, and facilitate improved access to climate finance.

Capacity-building efforts have been undertaken in the five Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, although the outcomes were not as extensive as initially anticipated (refer to section 6.2 "Effectiveness").

The intervention was structured and executed with a primary focus on engaging and committing individual countries to enhance their technical and institutional capabilities. The importance of fostering national ownership, considered essential for ensuring the project's long-term effectiveness within the recipient governments and other national partners, was a fundamental feature of project implementation. All stakeholders interviewed on this matter confirmed that the national counterparts of the project played a significant role in shaping the process of hiring consultants led by UNDP. The ToR for the consultants were developed through consultation with the Ministries of Environment in the respective countries. Subsequently, the work of the consultants was characterized by a consultative approach, ensuring that the interests and needs of the recipient countries were continuously addressed throughout the implementation process.

The Terminal Evaluation was asked to identify the extent to which national governments are committed to providing continuing support. The exercise could not completely address this question because many of the project's outputs have not received approval from the national governments yet. Nevertheless, there's no doubt that climate change-related matters have been mainstreamed into various sectors at the national level. Environmental concerns have now become

part of the ministries within ministries that traditionally had limited awareness of these issues. This is a positive and significant step in the right direction.

The primary concerns primarily revolve around the availability of financial resources within national budgets to implement the measures included in the extensive array of planning documents delivered with the support of the project.

As per the opinions of those interviewed on the matter, the execution of these actions depends on political determination. The Terminal Evaluation is unable to gauge the long-term sustainability of the project's accomplishments. However, the project deliverables are viewed as significant for the ongoing commitment of EaP countries to their international obligations. Notably, there has been a consistent commitment to climate action in all these countries over recent years, which augurs positively for the continued sustainability of the project's achievements.

It's important to highlight that while sustainability concerns may not be significant, moving towards effective climate action in partner countries demanded additional efforts in terms of capacity development, building on the achievements of the project. Climate action in these countries, like in many other countries elsewhere worldwide, is a relatively recent effort, and there remains a necessity to strengthen both institutional and technical capabilities.

As already noted in the Mid Term Review report, when considering future integration, partner countries express their commitment to "increased trade and further regional and bilateral integration of the economies of partner countries and the EU, together with cooperation for progressive decarbonisation towards climate neutrality." Simultaneously, they pledge to cooperate in progressively reducing carbon emissions toward climate neutrality. Furthermore, their vision includes transforming the region into equitable and prosperous societies with modern, resource-efficient, clean, circular, and competitive economies, all while bolstering their environmental and climate resilience. Consequently, the partners have clearly articulated their aspirations for sustainability.

Finally, the Terminal Evaluation report considers that the global COVID-19 pandemic did not exert any significant influence on the project's sustainability. Its impact was primarily related to the project's effectiveness and efficiency, which are covered in the corresponding sections of the report.

6.5. Coherence

The project was aligned with and contributed to the UNDP country programmes of the project countries.

Country	Alignment with and contribution to the UNDP Country Programme
Armenia	CPD Outcome 2 – Accelerate structural transformation for sustainable development. Output 2.1 Low-emission and climate-resilient objectives addressed in development plans/policies on economic diversification and green growth. Reference: UNDP Country Programme Document for Armenia 2021/2025.
Azerbaijan	CPD Outcome 3 – Strengthen resilience to shocks and crises.

	<p>Output 3.1 Climate change measures integrated into national policies, strategies and planning frameworks.</p> <p>Reference document: UNDP Country Programme Document for Azerbaijan 2021/2025.</p>
Georgia	<p>CPD Outcome 3 - Strengthen resilience to shocks and crises.</p> <p>Output 2.1. Environmental governance and institutional capacity enhanced to enable rational, equitable and sustainable use of natural/land resources, to ensure conservation of ecosystems, use of innovative and climate-friendly technologies for inclusive green economy, energy efficiency and clean energy production, and make communities more resilient to environmental shocks.</p> <p>Reference: UNDP Country Programme Document for Georgia 2021/2025.</p>
Moldova	<p>CPD Outcome 3: Resilience built to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk.</p> <p>Output 4.1. National and local public authorities have enhanced environment governance capacity to ensure inclusive, effective transition to climate and disaster resilient, low emission and green development in line with the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other inter-governmentally agreed frameworks.</p> <p>Reference: UNDP Country Programme Document for Moldova 2023/2027.</p>
Ukraine	<p>CPD Outcome 1: Growth is inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded</p>

The project stemmed from institutional needs and interests of the EaP Countries and was implemented within its governmental institutions.

As already mentioned in the report (section “6.1. Relevance”), the project was explicitly designed and implemented with the aim of contributing to the efforts to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal n. 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact” of the Agenda 2030 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

According to the project document, the design benefited from lessons learned previous EU initiatives and leveraged a wealth of insights and experiences derived from various EU projects, including but not limited to the Clima East Programme, EU4Energy, EU4Environment, and Covenant of Mayors East (CoMO East).

UNDP, with its well-established history, drew upon its extensive expertise both at the regional and target country levels in addressing climate change, encompassing both mitigation and adaptation efforts. During the project's design phase, it was noted that the target countries had received substantial support for capacity building and technical assistance from UNDP in establishing UNFCCC monitoring and reporting frameworks through the ongoing Global Support Programme on National Communications and Biannual Update Reports.

The project implementation demonstrated a high degree of adaptability to shifts in political conditions, particularly those stemming from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In response to this situation, activities were halted in Belarus and accordingly, restructured its activities in Ukraine utilizing funds that would not have been spent in Belarus.

Furthermore, the project's proactive handling of ad hoc requests from the countries indicates its flexibility and responsiveness in aligning project implementation with the specific institutional

requirements of the recipient countries. This responsive approach also facilitated the project's ability to exceed expectations in terms of project delivery (refer to section 6.2 "Effectiveness" for details).

6.6. Visibility and communication

Communication among project partners, including UNDP, the Ministries of Environment, and the EU, was consistently both regular and effective. UNDP also communicated and made sure that other relevant national stakeholders were involved in relevant project processes in accordance with the relevant sectors for each given process related to the delivery of pertinent project outputs.

The Ministries of Environment in the five countries, which are the primary beneficiary institutions of the project, as well as the National Governments, were fully aware of the project's significance to the European Union. The visibility of the donors was also guaranteed through the active involvement of EU officials in specific project activities. EU Delegation officers took part in national events, and representatives from DG NEAR and DG Clima were present on the Project Steering Committee.

The project's regional nature aspect is not reflected in any of the project indicators, and the primary activities were carried out sequentially at the national level. The regional dimension of the project primarily revolved around regional workshops and meetings of the Project Steering Committee. Stakeholders interviewed on this matter emphasized that the regional character of the project was essential to highlight the region's significance for the European Union and to facilitate support for all countries in advancing their climate action collectively. According to some stakeholders interviewed on the matter, this approach aimed at ensuring that the entire region could progress at a relatively consistent pace while ensuring to cover the countries' needs in the Climate sector.

6.7. Gender equality

Gender equality was not promoted during the implementation of activities. In fact, the project targets mainly public institutions in the five countries. Relevant public officers of the targeted institutions participated in project activities irrespective of their own gender. In other words, the project could not promote a gender-balanced participation of public officers. Their participation was based on the position they occupied within their own organization and the role they played in it. The Terminal Evaluation does not consider the lack of gender targeting as a flaw in the implementation of the project.

According to the planning documents, EU4Climate has a clear aim of making a positive impact on the integration of gender perspectives into both development and climate policies. This involved ensuring that gender considerations were systematically incorporated into various deliverables of the project: a project Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan was developed in 2020 developed so that gender considerations could be incorporated as a cross-cutting issue.

The present exercise made a quick analysis of the deliverables of the project that were available for the Evaluator in English. The project had significant results in terms of gender equality and empowerment of women. The finding should be considered as aligned with the focus of the project itself. In fact, it is important to highlight that a specific attention to gender issues is mentioned in a few of the project products.

Country	Gender related issues are taken into consideration in the following deliverables:
Armenia	- Draft Climate Law - Updated NDC
Azerbaijan	- Gender and Climate Change: Integration into the Energy Policy, a guideline for Decision Makers in Formulating Energy Policy
Georgia	- Georgia's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy - Final NDC Financing Strategy and Investment Plan
Moldova	- Draft Climate Law - Updated NDC - Development of Recommendations for Mainstreaming Climate Change Issues into Energy Sector's Policies, Strategies and Programmes of the Republic of Moldova - National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030"
Ukraine	- Draft NDC finance and implementation plan

The project's approach to gender equality has proven to be highly effective and aligns well with its classification as GEN 1, according to UNDP's gender scales.

7. Conclusions

EU4Climate successfully accomplished its objectives within its implementation period. In fact, the formulation of three Draft Climate Laws demonstrates that the project exceeded its initial goals and expectations.

The project's results chain exhibited limited differentiation, as the delivery of outputs closely corresponded with the achievement of outcomes.

Although the efforts of the project are judged to have been effective, capacities in the field of environment and climate change are not yet completely developed. The statement is coherent with the results of the assessments of applications of the 3 countries (Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) for EU membership released early in 2023.

...Georgia is at an early stage of preparation in the field of environment and climate change. Implementation and enforcement represent a challenge. The challenges relate mainly to administrative and financial aspects but also to overall capacity to assume obligations associated with EU membership in the sectors covered under Chapter 27. In addition, the gaps in the level of legislative alignment have widened with the expansion and deepening of EU acquis following the European Green Deal. Considerable efforts are still needed to strengthen institutions in terms of administrative, financial and organisational capacity. Additional expertise and further capacity-building activities are needed, as well as equipment to fully implement the requirements of the legislation⁸...

...Moldova is at an early stage of preparation on the area of environment and climate change. Gaps in the level of legislative alignment have grown with the expansion and deepening of EU acquis following the European Green Deal. In general, challenges remain concerning capacities for mainstreaming the environmental and climate acquis and the European Green Deal in all policy areas, as well as for effective implementation and enforcement of legislation⁹...

...Ukraine is at an early stage of preparation in the area of environment and climate change. Ukraine has made important steps in recent years in building its environmental regulatory framework and some steps to reform of its institutional framework and climate acquis. Gaps in the level of legislative alignment have increased with the expansion and deepening of the EU acquis in these areas following the European Green Deal. In general, remaining challenges concerning the capacities for adopting the relevant EU acquis, the mainstreaming of the EU Green Deal in all policy areas as well as the effective implementation and enforcement of legislation need to be addressed¹⁰...

Several factors played a crucial role in achieving a highly satisfactory performance, including:

- High Political and Institutional Relevance: The project's significant political and institutional relevance contributed to its success.
- Mutual Respect Amongst Stakeholders: The presence of mutual respect among stakeholders and the recognition of their respective roles fostered a positive atmosphere.

⁸ Commission Staff Working Document - Analytical Report following the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council Commission Opinion on Georgia's application for membership of the European Union – 1.2.2023

⁹ Commission Staff Working Document - Analytical Report following the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council Commission Opinion on Moldova's application for membership of the European Union – 1.2.2023

¹⁰ Commission Staff Working Document - Analytical Report following the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council Commission Opinion on Ukraine's application for membership of the European Union – 1.2.2023

- Openness of Project Steering Committee: The Project Steering Committee's willingness to accommodate specific country requests added to the project's effectiveness, country ownership and sustainability.
- UNDP's Consultant Selection Expertise: UNDP's ability to identify and recruit skilled consultants, both nationally and internationally, was a key factor in the project's success.
- Management capacities, dedication, and commitment from UNDP staff.

On an operational level, the decision to request and approve a no-cost extension proved to be a strategic move. Without this extension, the project's performance would have been less effective.

The project's approach to promoting gender equality was in line with its classification as GEN 1, as per UNDP's gender scales: Gender related considerations were mainstreamed in relevant project outputs, such as Updated NDC and Draft Climate Laws. This occurrence is regarded as a significant contribution of the project and UNDP engagement.

The project's central focus was on providing technical support to reinforce the institutional and policy objectives of Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. UNDP's coordination and capacity development initiatives proved to play a crucial role in helping these countries meet their international and bilateral commitments and prepare their path towards a more sustainable development. In fact, climate action is widely acknowledged as a fundamental element for realizing sustainable development. In this sector technical assistance and capacity development activities create a suitable platform for UNDP to offer its services as the implementing agency in which the organization can unfold its comparative advantage as impartial development actor able to work and deliver in sensitive political contexts. The Terminal Evaluation considers that this represents a strategic area for the UNDP's continuous engagement in the next future in the region.

In fact, UNDP demonstrated its proficient ability to act as a catalyst for processes within the field of technical assistance. According to feedback from all the national stakeholders interviewed, UNDP's work was characterized as highly professional, technically robust, and tailored to the specific needs and interests of the countries involved. Furthermore, UNDP's capacity to foster collaborative and participatory approaches throughout the implementation phase resulted in a strong sense of ownership among the countries regarding all project deliverables. It is evident that in projects with the goal of advancing alignment with international commitments, securing country ownership constitutes a key element in ensuring the sustainability of project accomplishments.

All the interviews conducted with national stakeholders affirmed a widespread recognition and appreciation for UNDP's role as the project coordinator, both at the regional and national levels.

8. Recommendations

The exercise does not identify many recommendations. In fact, the consensus among those interviewed during the data collection phase is that the project performances are widely regarded as satisfactory.

The Terminal Evaluation proposes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1: <i>Emphasis on capacity development</i>	Keeping the focus on capacity development for climate action to support to the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.
Rationale:	Capacity at national level in the sphere of Climate Action are not yet fully developed in the beneficiary countries. The recommendation acquires more relevance for Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia. In fact, in June 2022, the European Council decided to grant the status of candidate country. Whereas it stated its readiness to grant the status of candidate country to Georgia
Reference in conclusions:	Third paragraph of the section on conclusions “...capacities in the field of environment and climate change are not yet completely developed...” Tenth paragraph of the section on conclusions “...climate action is widely acknowledged as a fundamental element for realizing sustainable development. In this sector technical assistance and capacity development activities create a suitable platform for UNDP to offer its services as the implementing agency in which the organization can unfold its comparative advantage as impartial development actor able to work and deliver in sensitive political contexts. The Terminal Evaluation considers that this represents a strategic area for the UNDP’s continuous engagement in the next future in the region...”
Responsibility:	EU DG Clima, EU DG NEAR, UNDP, Ministries of Environment of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
Time-frame for implementation:	Successor projects that may be funded in the future both at national and regional level.

Recommendation #2: <i>Piloting</i>	Piloting implementation of delivered planning documents in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine
Rationale:	The project delivered a vast array of planning documents. Utilizing these for piloting activities focused on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation represents an ideal ground to assess and enhance existing capacities in action at both the national and local levels.

Reference in conclusions:	<p>Third paragraph of the section on conclusions “...<i>capacities in the field of environment and climate change are not yet completely developed...</i>”</p> <p>Tenth paragraph of the section on conclusions “...<i>climate action is widely acknowledged as a fundamental element for realizing sustainable development. In this sector technical assistance and capacity development activities create a suitable platform for UNDP to offer its services as the implementing agency in which the organization can unfold its comparative advantage as impartial development actor able to work and deliver in sensitive political contexts. The Terminal Evaluation considers that this represents a strategic area for the UNDP’s continuous engagement in the next future in the region...</i>”</p>
Responsibility:	<p>UNDP and Ministries of Environment of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.</p>
Time-frame for implementation:	<p>Successor projects that may be funded in the future.</p>

9. Lessons learned

<p>Lesson Learned #1: <i>Political and institutional support throughout all project phases.</i></p>	<p>Political and institutional support plays a key role in the success of a project aimed at assisting in the development of planning documents, such as strategies, action plans, reporting systems, and more. These projects operate within the institutional space of the recipient country. Political will to align with the project's objectives is reflected in the acceptance of project activities by all government institutions. Consequently, these institutions are inclined to actively engage in project implementation.</p> <p>At the project management level, it is evident that the primary implementing agency, such as UNDP, should foster the country ownership of project activities and consequently of project results. This can be achieved by facilitating open dialogue and offering relevant expertise that aligns with the specific needs and interests expressed by the institutional beneficiaries of the project.</p>
<p>Context of application</p>	<p>The successful and efficient collaboration among project stakeholders during project implementation was contingent upon political and institutional support. This fundamental lesson learned has broader implications that extend beyond the specific project and could be applicable to UNDP projects worldwide. Furthermore, it extends its relevance to various types of technical assistance initiatives, not limited solely to those associated with climate action.</p>

<p>Lesson Learned #2: <i>Managerial competencies, dedication, and commitment</i></p>	<p>The success of a technical assistance initiative undeniably hinges on its political and thematic relevance. However, those responsible for project management must also possess the ability to capture the attention and involvement of stakeholders. Essential managerial competencies, dedication and commitment, and the capacity to actively listen and comprehend diverse interests, coupled with a willingness to engage in dialogue, are key factors for fostering effective stakeholder engagement and ownership of project results.</p>
<p>Context of application</p>	<p>Indeed, this lesson may appear self-evident and too general, yet it remains crucial to emphasize that projects in the international cooperation sector are not consistently managed in accordance with these principles. Recognizing and reinforcing these fundamental principles can greatly enhance the outcomes and impact of international development initiatives.</p>

Annexes

Annex 1 – Terms of reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project name:	EU4Climate
Assignment title:	International Consultant for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) of full-sized EU-UNDP project
Type of contract:	Individual Contract (IC)
Assignment type:	International Consultant
Country / Duty Station:	Home Based
Languages required:	English
Starting date of assignment:	estimated 01 May 2023
Duration of Assignment:	3 months (app. 50 working days)
Payment arrangements:	Lump-sum contract (payments linked to satisfactory performance and delivery of results)
Administrative arrangements:	The contractor will have to arrange his/her workplace, logistics and equipment. In case of unforeseen travel, UNDP IRH will arrange the Consultant's travel according to UNDP's procedures.
Evaluation method:	Desk review with interview

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Project information	
Project title:	EU4Climate
Project ID:	00115652
Corporate outcome and output:	Outcome 1: <i>Accelerating structural transformations through more effective governance systems.</i> Output 1.1: <i>Low-emissions and climate resilience objectives are integrated into development policies and plans through regional initiatives promoting economic diversification and green growth.</i>
Region:	EU Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus ¹ , Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)
Date Project Document signed:	25.01.2019
Project start date:	01.01.2019
Project planned end date:	31.12.2023
Project budget:	USD 10,302,160 (EUR 8,800,000)

¹ All project activities in Belarus have been suspended as of February 2022 until further notice.

Project expenditure at the time of evaluation	USD 6,967,640 [as of 21.11.2022]
Funding source:	European Commission
Implementing party:	UNDP

This is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the 'EU4Climate' project implemented by UNDP and funded by EU; Project number 00115652; implemented through the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality in the six EU Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus¹, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine². The project's budget is EUR 8,800,000; including EUR 8,000,000 contribution by the EU and EUR 800,000 cofinance by UNDP. The TE is to be undertaken over a three months period in 2023. The project started on 14 December 2018 and is in its fifth and final year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this TE.

The EU4Climate Project helps governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus¹, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to take action against climate change. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. Its ambition is to limit climate change impact on citizens lives and make them more resilient to it. EU4Climate is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The objective of the project is to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the Eastern Partnership countries that contribute to their low emission and climate resilient development and their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It identifies key actions and results in line with the Paris Agreement, the "20 Deliverables for 2020", and the key global policy goals set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project will also translate into action priorities outlined in the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change of October 2016.

The following results are expected to be achieved by the project: (i) Finalized/up-dated nationally determined contributions and national mid-century strategies and communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), (ii) Improved inter-institutional awareness and coordination at political and technical level of the Paris Agreement and the corresponding national commitments, (iii) Established or strengthened measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, with countries getting on track with Paris Agreement transparency requirements, (iv) Establishment of concrete sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in each of the Eastern Partners, especially in the field of energy (v) Advanced alignment with EU acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the context of the Energy Community Treaty, (vi) Increased mobilization of climate finance, and (vii) Enhanced adaptation planning. The project was designed to operate on both regional and country level; the fact that it was designed to promote ownership and promote learning, knowledge, dialogue with a view to maximise capacity building effect; importance of coordination and synergies with a view to leverage partnerships. See also the project's logical framework in Annex 1. Since the start of the large-scale Russian aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, the Steering Committee of EU4Climate approved a decision to repurpose a part of the project's resources towards emergency

² A detailed description of the project and its key stakeholders is provided in the project's Description of the Action, and will be provided to the Consultant upon signing the service agreement with UNDP

response, under the new activity (viii) 8. Addressing the immediate war-related needs of the Ukrainian central and local authorities.

A result-oriented monitoring (ROM) has been conducted for EU4Climate in 2020 (Annex 9); and the Mid-Term Review (MTR) conducted in 2021 (Annex 8). The results of both ROM and MTR are to be taken into account during the FE.

2. EVALUATION PURPOSE, SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the TE is to assess to what extent the project objectives and outcomes were achieved as specified in the Project Document and identify best practices and lessons learned. Virtual visits are expected to be undertaken by the consultant to the five countries participating in the project (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine). The virtual visits shall include videoconference discussion with the project's key stakeholders: representatives of the focal ministries in each of the countries, EU Delegation representatives, project staff.

The scope of the TE includes the entirety of EU4Climate activities covering 01.01.2019-30.06.2023. By reviewing the Logical Framework indicators of the project outputs targets, using a Results Matrix with color code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of results achieved, the TE consultant assigns a rating on results for the project objective and each outcome and summarizes lessons learned from the areas marked as "not achieved" (red)³. The TE will also examine the contribution of EU4Climate toward cross-cutting issues, e.g., gender equality and capacity development of the host countries' governments. The TE should summarize lessons from the project implementation and propose recommendations for the future activities based on the project's experience.

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND KEY GUIDING QUESTIONS

The TE will answer these broad questions as follows:

- 1) What did EU4Climate intend to achieve during the project's implementation period?
- 2) To what extent has the project achieved its intended objectives at the output level, and what contribution has it made at the outcome level?
- 3) What factors contributed to or hindered the project's performance and eventually, the sustainability of results?
- 4) Which project areas are the most relevant and strategic for UNDP to scale up or consider going forward for the future projects?

In addition to the above questions, the TE is expected to produce answers surrounding the evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and sustainability. The impact of the project on cross-cutting issues is to be evaluated, including gender equality, visibility and communications. Below are guiding questions and areas for review:

Relevance

³ Evaluation matrix sample is provided under Annex 3

- To what extent is the initiative in line with the UNDP mandate, national priorities and the requirements of targeting women, men and vulnerable groups?
- To what extent is UNDP support relevant to the achievement of the SDGs in the country?
- To what extent did UNDP adopt gender-sensitive, human rights-based and conflict-sensitive approaches?
- To what extent is UNDP engagement a reflection of strategic considerations, including the role of UNDP in a particular development context and its comparative advantage?
- To what extent was the method of delivery selected by UNDP appropriate to the development context?
- To what extent was the theory of change presented in the outcome model a relevant and appropriate vision on which to base the initiatives?
- To what extent has the project been adaptable to the outside changes, mainly in view of redirecting the budget savings toward humanitarian purposes to support war-impacted population of Ukraine

Effectiveness

- To what extent has progress been made towards outcome achievement? What has been the UNDP contribution to the observed change?
- What have been the key results and changes attained for men, women and vulnerable groups?
- How has delivery of country programme outputs led to outcome-level progress?
- Have there been any unexpected outcome-level results achieved beyond the planned outcome?
- To what extent has UNDP improved the capacities of national implementing partners to advocate on environmental issues, including climate change issues and disaster risk reduction?
- To what extent has UNDP partnered with civil society and local communities to promote environmental and disaster risk awareness in the country?
- To what extent have the results at the outcome and output levels generated results for gender equality and the empowerment of women?
- To what extent have marginalized groups benefited?
- To what extent have triangular and South-South cooperation and knowledge management contributed to the results attained?
- Which programme areas are the most relevant and strategic for UNDP to scale up or consider going forward?
- Has the project been effective in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, both in terms of effective implementation of the planned actions, and in assisting the partner governments with readiness to post-COVID recovery?

Efficiency

- To what extent have the programme or project outputs resulted from economic use of resources?
- To what extent were resources used to address inequalities and gender issues?
- To what extent were quality country programme outputs delivered on time?
- To what extent were partnership modalities conducive to the delivery of country programme outputs?
- To what extent did monitoring systems provide management with a stream of data, disaggregated by sex, that allowed it to learn and adjust implementation accordingly?
- To what extent did UNDP promote gender equality, the empowerment of women, human rights and human development in the delivery of country programme outputs?
- To what extent have UNDP practices, policies, processes and decision-making capabilities affected the achievement of the country programme outcomes?
- To what extent did UNDP engage or coordinate with different beneficiaries (men and women),

implementing partners, other United Nations agencies and national counterparts to achieve outcome-level results?

Sustainability

- To what extent did UNDP establish mechanisms to ensure the sustainability for female and male beneficiaries of the country programme outcomes?
- To what extent do national partners have the institutional capacities, including sustainability strategies, in place to sustain the outcome-level results?
- To what extent are policy and regulatory frameworks in place that will support the continuation of benefits for men and women in the future?
- To what extent have partners committed to providing continuing support (financial, female and male staff, etc.)?
- To what extent do mechanisms, procedures and policies exist to carry forward the results attained on gender equality, empowerment of women, human rights, and human development by primary stakeholders?
- To what extent do partnerships exist with other national institutions, NGOs, United Nations agencies, the private sector and development partners to sustain the attained results?
- What is the possible impact of Covid-19 on project's sustainability?

Coherence

- To what extent was the project in line with national development priorities, country programme outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan, and the SDGs?
- To what extent does the project contribute to the theory of change for the relevant country programme outcome?
- To what extent were lessons learned from other relevant projects considered in the design?
- To what extent were perspectives of men and women who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the attainment of stated results, taken into account during project design processes?
- To what extent does the project contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights-based approach?
- To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to political, legal, economic, institutional, etc., changes in the country?

Visibility and communication

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? What feedback mechanisms are in place?
- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence? Did the project implement appropriate communication tools?) and ensuring donors' visibility.

Gender equality:

- To what extent has gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the project?
- To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?

4. METHODOLOGY

The TE methodology will adhere to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms & Standards. The TE will be carried out by an independent consultant who will adopt an integrated approach involving a combination of data collection and analysis tools, both qualitative and quantitative, to generate concrete evidence to substantiate all findings. Evidence obtained and used to assess the results of project's support should be triangulated from a variety of sources, including verifiable data on indicator achievement, existing reports, evaluations and technical papers, stakeholder interviews, surveys and site visits where/when possible. It is expected that the evaluation methodology will comprise of the following elements:

- **Review documents (Desk Review):** the TE consultant will conduct a desk review of all relevant sources of information i.e., the Project Document, progress reports, inception report, M&E Framework, roles and responsibilities, management arrangements, project budget revisions, internal M&E data, results of the Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM), results of the Mid-Term Review (MTR), legal documents and any other materials that the EU4Climate team considers useful for the evidence-based review. The list of key documents is provided in the Annex 4.
- **Interview with key stakeholders** including videoconference meetings, online surveys interview et al, ensuring close engagement with the project's Steering Committee members (EC Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement; EC Directorate General for Climate Action; Ministry of Environment of Armenia; Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine); implementing partners (the Energy Community Secretariat, Environment Agency Austria), senior officials and national project coordinators, key experts and consultants in the subject area, project stakeholders, academia, CSOs, etc. The list of key project's stakeholders is provided in the Annex 2.
- **Consultations with beneficiaries⁴** through interviews and/ or focus group discussions;
- **Surveys and questionnaires** where appropriate;
- **Triangulation of information** collected from different sources/methods to enhance the validity of the findings.

The evaluation is expected to use a variety of data sources, primary, secondary, qualitative, quantitative, etc. to be extracted through surveys, storytelling, focus group discussions, face to face interviews, participatory methods, desk reviews, etc. conducted with a variety of partners. A transparent and participatory multi stakeholder approach should be followed for data collection from government partners, civil society, private sector etc. Evidence will be provided for every claim generated by the evaluation and data will be triangulated to ensure validity. An evaluation matrix or other methods can be used to map the data and triangulate the available evidence.

In addition to reviewing the documents relating to EU4Climate project, the consultant should visit UNDP Independence Evaluation Office's website <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/index.shtml> to be updated with UNDP's relevant information and documents required.

⁴ The list of the key project stakeholders and beneficiaries is provided under the Annex 2

The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the evaluation should be clearly outlined in the inception report and fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, key stakeholders and the evaluators.

Special note: activities to be carried out remotely using videoconferencing means.

5. EVALUATION PRODUCTS (DELIVERABLES)

- **Deliverable 1: Evaluation Inception Report** (10-15 pages). The inception report should be carried out following and based on preliminary discussions with UNDP after the desk review and should be produced before the evaluation starts (before any formal evaluation interviews, survey distribution or field visits). Description: the inception report will detail the evaluator's understanding of what is being evaluated and why, showing how each evaluation question will be answered by way of scope of the work and intended work plan of the analysis, proposed methodology and evaluation questions, proposed schedule of tasks, proposed data sources and data collection procedures, activities and deliverables. TE consultant clarifies objectives and methods of Terminal Evaluation; Timing: by 30 August 2023
- **Deliverable 2: Immediately following an evaluation, the consultant shall provide a preliminary debriefing of findings for UNDP;** Timing: 15 May 2023;
- **Deliverable 3: Draft Final Report.** Description: Full report with annexes (see Annex 5. UNDP evaluation report template and quality standards; Timing: 30 June 2023;
- **Deliverable 4: Evaluation report audit trail.** UNDP and key stakeholders in the evaluation will review the draft evaluation report and provide an amalgamated set of comments to the evaluator within an agreed period of time. Comments and changes by the evaluator in response to the draft report should be retained by the evaluator to show how they have addressed comments. Timing: 30 July 2023;
- **Deliverable 5: Final Report** (40-60 pages, including executive summary); Description: Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final TE report; Timing: 30 August 2023

Payments:

The international consultant will be paid in 4 instalments as follows:

- 10% of payment upon submission and acceptance by the Project Manager of the Deliverable 1. TE Inception Report;
- 10% of payment upon submission and acceptance by the Project Manager of the Deliverable 2. Debriefing of findings for UNDP;
- 30% upon submission and acceptance by the Project Manager of the Deliverable 3. Draft TE report
- 10% of payment upon submission and acceptance by the Project Manager of the Deliverable 4. Evaluation report audit trail;
- 40% upon submission and acceptance by the Project Manager of the Deliverable 5. Final TE report

Timing and travel: The Consultant will be engaged under the Individual Contract. The engagement will be app. 50 working days.

This is a home-based assignment without travel envisaged. In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and International Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to

travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources. Approval from UNDP is required prior to planning of the trips and relevant logistics.

Reporting language:

Deliverables will be delivered in English.

6. REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

Corporate Competencies:

- Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN's values and ethical standards;
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Treats all people fairly without favoritism;
- Fulfills all obligations to gender sensitivity and zero tolerance for sexual harassment.

Functional Competencies:

- Competence in adaptive management;
- Knowledge of and work experience in the energy efficiency related water and agriculture projects, including those funded by the EU;
- Excellent training, facilitation and communication skills;
- Results driven, ability to work under pressure and to meet required deadlines;
- Good understanding and experience in the field of climate change policies.

Minimum requirements to qualifications and experience:

Education:

- Master's degree in Energy, Environment, Business Administration, Economics, Engineering or related field;

Experience:

- At least 10-year work experience and proven track record with policy advice and/or project development/implementation in climate change or energy efficiency in the developing/transition economies;

- Experience working with at least two project evaluations, including experience with SMART based indicators (Project evaluation/review experiences within United Nations system will be considered an asset);

- Experience working with international technical assistance projects in the EU Neighborhood countries region or EU accession candidate countries

Language requirements:

- English required; knowledge of one of the Eastern Partnership countries' language (Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Romanian, Ukrainian) will be an asset.

7. EVALUATION ETHICS

This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The consultant must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The consultant must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses with the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

8. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Evaluation consultant will report to the UNDP Evaluation Manager who will be assigned by UNDP to oversee and support the overall evaluation process. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the TE consultant to provide all relevant documents and set up stakeholder interviews.

The TE is to be performed by an independent international consultant with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions and globally. The consultant will be supported by the Evaluation Manager and the project team. The consultant cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation, and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document) and should not have a conflict of interest with project's related activities.

9. TIME FRAME FOR THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The total duration of the TE will be approximately 50 days over a period of three months with an estimated start date of **1 May 2023**. Of this total of 50 days, a minimum of 12 working days, not including weekends, should be spent by the international consultant in teleconference meetings with the project stakeholders.

Exact deadlines for each activity of TE will be determined at the time of contract issuance. The tentative TE timeframe is as follows (estimated total number of days - 50):

- Timeframe: 15 March 2023; Activity: Application closes;
- Timeframe: 15 April 2023; Activity: Select and contract TE Consultant;
- Timeframe: 1 May 2023; Activity: Distribution of all documents and reports to the TE Consultant;

- Timeframe: May (6 working days); Activity: TE Inception report and workplan prepared; debriefing to UNDP and key stakeholders regarding the inception report.
- Timeframe: 14 working days in May-June 2023; Activity: Videoconference interviews with the project stakeholders; shall be a minimum of 12 working days, not including weekends;
- Timeframe: 30 June 2023; Activity: Mission wrap-up meeting. Debriefing to UNDP summarizing with initial findings at the end of the TE mission;
- Timeframe: Before 01 August 2023 (26 working days); Activity: Preparation and submission of the draft report by the international consultant;
- Timeframe: August 2023; Activity: Incorporating audit trail from feedback on draft report; Comments and changes by the evaluator in response to the draft report should be retained by the evaluator to show how they have addressed comments.
- Timeframe: Before the end of August 2023; Activity: Preparation & Issue of Management Response; UNDP IRH is responsible for the management response.
- Timeframe: Before the end of August 2023 (6 working days); Activity: Finalization of TE report. Expected date of full TE completion;

Activities:

- Activity: Preparation to the TE: documents review and preparing TE Inception Report; Tentative Timeframe: During the first week after signing a contract;
- Activity: 12 working days - stakeholder meetings in videoconference mode. Tentative Timeframe: Within six weeks of the commencement of the work (May-June 2023);
- Activity: Mission wrap-up meeting & preparation of initial findings; Tentative Timeframe: End of TE videoconference mission (before 30 June 2023);
- Activity: Submission of the draft report; Tentative Timeframe: Within four weeks after end of TE virtual mission, expected to be by the end of July 2023;
- Activity: Final Report; Tentative Timeframe: Within two weeks after receiving feedback from the counterparts on the draft report, expected to be by the end of August 2023.

The list of proposed stakeholders to interview should be provided in the Inception Report.

10. APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Individual consultant will be evaluated based on a cumulative analysis **taking into consideration the combination of the applicants' qualifications and financial proposal.**

The award of the contract should be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical (CV/P11 desk reviews and interviews) and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

Only candidates who receive min 70% of points in desk review (Criteria A-E) will be considered for interviews. Only candidates who receive min 70% of points in technical evaluation (Criteria A-G) will be considered for the financial evaluation.

Technical Criteria - 70% of total evaluation – max. 70 points:

- Criteria A – (desk review) Advanced university degree in the fields related to Energy, Environment, Business Administration, Economics, Engineering – up to 5 points;

-
- Criteria B – (desk review) Experience working with the project evaluations within the past seven years including experience with SMART based indicators – up to 15 points;
 - Criteria C – (desk review) Experience working with international technical assistance projects in the EU Neighborhood countries region – up to 10 points;
 - Criteria D – (desk review) Methodology on the approach to conduct the work – up to 10 points;
 - Criteria E – (desk review) At least two samples of the similar assignments delivered by the applicant – up to 10 points;
 - Criteria F – (interviews) Experience working with the project evaluations – up to 20 points.

Financial Criteria - 30% of total evaluation – max. 30 points

Application procedure:

The application submission is a two-step process. Failing to comply with the submission process may result in disqualifying the applications.

Step 1: Interested candidates must include the following documents when submitting the applications (Please group all your documents into one (1) single PDF attachment as the system only allows upload of one document):

- Cover letter explaining why you are the most suitable candidate for the assignment
- Filled P11 form or CV including past experience in similar projects and contact details of referees (blank form can be downloaded from http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/dam/rbec/docs/P11_modified_for_SCs_and_ICs.doc);
- Brief methodology on how you will approach and conduct the work
- At least two samples of the similar assignments delivered by the applicant. The samples shall be developed no earlier than August 2011.

Step 2: Submission of Financial Proposal - Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and requested to provide a financial offer.

Payments will be made only upon confirmation of UNDP on delivering on the contract obligations in a satisfactory manner.

Individual Consultants are responsible for ensuring they have vaccinations/inoculations when travelling to certain countries, as designated by the UN Medical Director. Consultants are also required to comply with the UN security directives set forth under dss.un.org

General Terms and conditions as well as other related documents can be found under: <http://on.undp.org/t7fjs>.

Qualified women and members of minorities are encouraged to apply.

Due to large number of applications we receive, we are able to inform only the successful candidates about the outcome or status of the selection process.

Annex 2 – Evaluation Matrix

Main Evaluation Criteria / Questions	Evaluation Indicators	Source of Data	Methods
Criterion: Relevance			
1. To what extent was the initiative in line with the UNDP mandate and national priorities?	Extent to which the initiative was in line with the UNDP mandate and national priorities?	UNDP Country Programmes / Project reports	Desk review Data Analysis: Triangulation
2. To what extent was UNDP support relevant to the achievement of the SDGs in the country?	Extent to which UNDP support was relevant to the achievement of the SDGs in the country.	Project reports	Desk review Data Analysis: Triangulation
3. To what extent did UNDP adopt gender-sensitive, human rights-based and conflict-sensitive approaches?	Extent to which UNDP adopted gender-sensitive, human rights-based and conflict-sensitive approaches.	Project reports / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
4. To what extent was UNDP engagement a reflection of strategic considerations, including the role of UNDP in a particular development context and its comparative advantage?	Extent to which UNDP engagement was a reflection of strategic considerations, including the role of UNDP in a particular development context and its comparative advantage.	Project reports / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
5. To what extent was the method of delivery selected by UNDP appropriate to the development context?	Extent to which the method of delivery selected by UNDP was appropriate to the development context.	Project reports / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
6. To what extent was the theory of change presented in the outcome model a relevant and appropriate vision on which to base the initiatives?	Extent to which the theory of change presented in the outcome model was a relevant and appropriate vision on which to base the initiatives.	Project reports / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
7. To what extent has the project been adaptable to the outside changes, mainly in view of redirecting the budget savings toward humanitarian purposes to support war-impacted population of Ukraine.	Extent to which the project has been adaptable to the outside changes, mainly in view of redirecting the budget savings toward humanitarian purposes to support war-impacted population of Ukraine.	Project reports / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
Criterion: Effectiveness			
1. To what extent has progress been made towards outcome achievement? What has been the UNDP contribution to the observed change?	Extent to which progress has been made towards outcome achievement (Logical Framework indicators). Identification of UNDP contribution to project achievements	Project reports / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
2. How has delivery of country programme outputs led to outcome-level progress?	Identification of causal links between programme outputs and outcome-level progress (Theory of Change)	UNDP Country Programmes / Project reports	Desk review Data Analysis: Triangulation

Main Evaluation Criteria / Questions	Evaluation Indicators	Source of Data	Methods
3. Have there been any unexpected outcome-level results achieved beyond the planned outcome?	Identification of unexpected outcome-level results.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
4. To what extent have the results at the outcome and output levels generated results for gender equality and the empowerment of women?	Extent to which the results at the outcome and output levels have generated results for gender equality and the empowerment of women.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
5. Which programme areas are the most relevant and strategic for UNDP to scale up or consider going forward?	Identification of programme areas that are most relevant and strategic for UNDP to scale up or consider going forward.	Project reports / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
6. Has the project been effective in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, both in terms of effective implementation of the planned actions, and in assisting the partner governments with readiness to post-COVID recovery?	Identification of actions put in place to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
Criterion: Efficiency			
1. To what extent have the programme or project outputs resulted from economic use of resources?	Extent to which the project outputs have resulted from economic use of resources.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
2. To what extent were quality country programme outputs delivered on time?	Extent to which quality country programme outputs were delivered on time.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
3. To what extent were partnership modalities conducive to the delivery of country programme outputs?	Extent to which partnership modalities were conducive to the delivery of country programme outputs.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
4. To what extent have UNDP practices, policies, processes and decision-making capabilities affected the achievement of the country programme outcomes?	Extent to which UNDP practices, policies, processes and decision-making capabilities have affected the achievement of the country programme outcomes	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
5. To what extent did UNDP engage or coordinate with the EU and national counterparts to achieve outcome-level results?		Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
Criterion: Sustainability			
1. To what extent do national partners have the institutional capacities, including sustainability strategies, in place to sustain the outcome-level results?	Extent to which national partners have the institutional capacities, including sustainability strategies, in place to sustain the outcome-level results.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation

Main Evaluation Criteria / Questions	Evaluation Indicators	Source of Data	Methods
2. To what extent have partners committed to providing continuing support?	Extent to which partners have committed to providing continuing support.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
3. To what extent do partnerships exist with other national institutions, NGOs, United Nations agencies, the private sector and development partners to sustain the attained results?	Extent to which partnerships exist with other national institutions, NGOs, United Nations agencies, the private sector and development partners to sustain the attained results.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
4. What is the possible impact of Covid-19 on project's sustainability?	Identification of the possible impact of Covid-19 on project's sustainability.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
Criterion: Coherence			
1. To what extent was the project in line with national development priorities, country programme outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan, and the SDGs?	Extent to which the project was in line with national development priorities, country programme outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan, and the SDGs.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
2. To what extent does the project contribute to the theory of change for the relevant country programme outcome?	Extent to which the project contributes to the theory of change for the relevant country programme outcome.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
3. To what extent were lessons learned from other relevant projects considered in the design?	Extent to which lessons learned from other relevant projects were considered in the design.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
4. To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to political, legal, economic, institutional, etc., changes in the country?	Extent to which the project has been appropriately responsive to political, legal, economic, institutional, etc., changes in the country.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
Criterion: Visibility and communication			
1. Was communication regular and effective? What feedback mechanisms are in place?	Identification of communication mechanism (regularity and identification of feedback mechanisms).	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
2. Were proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence? Did the project implement appropriate communication tools?) and ensuring donors' visibility?	Identification of established means of communication to ensure donors' visibility.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
Gender equality			

Main Evaluation Criteria / Questions	Evaluation Indicators	Source of Data	Methods
1. To what extent has gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the project?	Extent to which has gender equality and the empowerment of women has been addressed in the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the project.	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation
2. To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?	Identification of promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women (intended and unintended)	Project reports / Project M&E system / Project Stakeholders	Desk review / Interviews Data Analysis: Triangulation

Annex 3 – List of people interviewed

Day	Name	Organization
Monday 17 July	Mr. Fabien Porcher	Policy Officer, Climate Diplomacy (DG CLIMA)
Monday 14 August	Mr. Chingiz Mammadov	Programme Advisor / Energy, environment, climate change and resilience – UNDP (Azerbaijan)
	Mr. Maksym Vereshchak	Key expert – Covenant of Mayors
Tuesday 15 August	Mr. Rashad Huseynov	Individual Consultant (Azerbaijan)
Wednesday 16 August	Mr. Rovshan Abbasov	Representative – Environmental Research Centre (Azerbaijan)
	Ms. Sima Mammadova	Expert – Ministry of Agriculture (Azerbaijan)
	Mr. Mykhailo Chyzhenko	Head of Adaptation Policy and Climate Reporting Division - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (Ukraine)
Thursday 17 August	Ms. Viktoriia Yershova	Project Manager, Energy and Environment Portfolio – UNDP (Ukraine)
	Ms. Olena Hrypych	Officer, Government Office for Coordination on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration (Ukraine)
Friday 18 August	Mr. Yevgen Groza	Regional Project Manager, EU4Climate – UNDP IRH
	Ms. Vitaliya Mudruk	Project Officer - EU Delegation (Ukraine)
Monday 21 August	Ms. Inga Pogoroghin	Environment, Energy and Climate Change Cluster Leader – (Moldova)
	Ms. Stela Drucioc	Head of Air and Climate Change Policy Division - Ministry of Environment (Moldova)
	Ms. Maia Guțu	Main specialist, Air and Climate Change Policy Division - Ministry of Environment (Moldova)
Tuesday 22 August	Ms. Ramila Aslanova	Project Officer - EU Delegation (Azerbaijan)
	Mr. Solomon Yoannou	Project Officer - EU Delegation (Moldova)
Wednesday 23 August	Mr. Kakha Lomashvili	Senior Specialist, Climate Change Division – Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (Georgia)
	Ms. Maia Tskhvaradze	Head of Climate Change Division - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (Georgia)
	Mr. Nicolae Magdil	Head of the Renewable energy sources Directorate, Ministry of Energy (Moldovia)
	Ms. Cristina Nagrineac	Main specialist, Environmental Policy Implementation Division - Environment Agency (Moldova)
	Ms. Cristina Grigoraș	Main specialist, Environmental quality monitoring Division - Environment Agency (Moldova)

Thursday 24 August	Ms. Valentina Tapes	National Coordinator, EU4Climate – UND) (Moldova)
Friday 25 August	Mr. Nazim Mammadov	National Coordinator, EU4Climate – UNDP (Azerbaijan)
	Mr. Yevgen Groza	Regional Project Manager, EU4Climate – UNDP IRH
Monday 28 August	Mr. Yashar Karimov	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (Azerbaijan)
	Mr. Erwann Martin	Programme Assistant, Energy and Climate - DG NEAR
Thursday 31 August	Ms. Anneliese Vanwymelbeke	Project Officer - EU Delegation (Georgia)
	Ms. Ira Panosyan	Head of Agricultura Project Elaboration – Ministry of Economy (Armenia)
	Ms. Anna Cheryshova	Interim Resident Representative – UNDP (Georgia)
Friday 01 September	Ms. Eszter Suele	Head of Regional Office - EU4Energy CEER
Monday 04 September	Ms. Laura Altinger	Regional Environmental Team Lead – UNDP IHR
Tuesday 05 September	Mr. Kostantin Sokulskiy	Deputy Resident Representative – UNDP (Armenia)
Wednesday 06 September	Ms. Svitlana Karpyshyna	Head of Eastern Partnership Assistance Unit - the Energy Community Secretariat
	Ms. Nona Budoyan	Head of Climate Change
Thursday 07 September	Mr. Kri Krzysztof Michalak	Administrator, Environmental Performance and Information – OECD
	Mr. Yevgen Groza	Regional Project Manager, EU4Climate – UNDP IRH
Tuesday 19 September	Mr. Johannes Mayer	Head of Department - Umweltbundesamt

Annex 4 – List of documents/reports consulted

Project-related documents and reports:

- EU4Climate Annual reports (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022).
- EU4Climate Country (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) Annual reports (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022).
- EU4Climate Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (2020).
- Mid-Term Review Report (2021).
- Project Amendments (2021 and 2022).
- Project Document (2019).
- Project deliverables:
 - Armenia
 - Updated NDC
 - LEDS
 - Draft - Concept – on the Law of Republic of Armenia “on Climate Policy”
 - Roadmap for the development of a functional National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory System and MRV system for Armenia
 - Roadmap to MRV of GHF emissions at the installations level in Armenia
 - Carbon Pricing Possibilities in Armenia
 - Concept for Improving Air Quality Monitoring in Armenia
 - Azerbaijan
 - Analysis of problems in the agricultural sector in Azerbaijan related to climate change and preparation of proposals
 - Gender and Climate Change Integration into the Energy Policy
 - LEDS
 - Updated NDC
 - Georgia
 - Final Climate Budget Tagging Methodology
 - LEDS
 - Final NDC Financing Strategy and Investment Plan
 - Moldova
 - Development of a Roadmap for EU4Climate support outlining priority actions for the Republic of Moldova
 - Draft Law on Climate Action
 - Draft Law on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases
 - Updated NDC
 - Development of Recommendations for Mainstreaming Climate Change Issues into Energy Sector’s Policies, Strategies and Programmes of the Republic of Moldova
 - Ukraine
 - Updated NDC

UNDP documents

- UNDP Country Programme Documents for
 - Armenia (2021/2025).
 - Azerbaijan (2021/2025).
 - Georgia (2021/2025).
 - Moldova (2023/2027).
 - Ukraine (2018/2022).

Not project-related reports:

- Commission Staff Working Document - Analytical Report following the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council Commission Opinion on Georgia's application for membership of the European Union – 1.2.2023.
- Commission Staff Working Document - Analytical Report following the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council Commission Opinion on Moldova's application for membership of the European Union – 1.2.2023.
- Commission Staff Working Document - Analytical Report following the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council Commission Opinion on Ukraine's application for membership of the European Union – 1.2.2023.